

Control Your Colour Temperature

New lighting technology is ready for a changing world

by LAURIE JONES

Designers and builders of commercial and residential projects alike are always on the lookout for technology that will save the end-users money, be easy to install, and have a wow factor when anyone enters a room. Manufacturers and distributors have a good range of options to put state-of-the-art systems and trends to use and create the perfect lighting environment for clients.

Among the many projects Williams Engineering Canada has worked on in recent years, the Coronation Recreation Centre in Edmonton will be a stand-out to the community. "This is one of the biggest projects we're working on right now because it is going to be one of North America's only indoor velodromes," says Ben Rajewski, engineering manager, electrical. "They can do triathlon training in the facility so all the indoor bike racing you see at the Olympics will have a training facility in Edmonton. They can also hold world-class competitions for that sport."

Lighting for the stadium is critical to broadcast the world-class competition, says Rajewski. "It needs to be extremely bright, yet still comfortable, with minimal shadowing for the riders. We also had to set up emergency battery systems so if the power went out, the lights stay on long enough for the riders to get off the track safely at their extreme speed."

He explains in addition to the indoor cycling there will be an indoor running track connected to the existing pool. "The athletes could do a full triathlon indoors."

As far as trends go, Rajewski says it's all about LED efficiency. "The biggest trend is controls, especially with people coming back to the office after being at home for two years. People are noticing if their lights are too bright or not bright enough. Some people are complaining about headaches due to the brightness, so we're getting requests from clients to add additional dimming controls and zoning for their lighting so that people are more comfortable in the spaces."

He explains that rather than individual lighting selection there will be pods of control. "If you have

a big open office with, for instance, 20 desks, four desks will have their own zone of control. That way people who like a dimmer environment can sit on that side and people who like brighter lighting can sit in a different area."

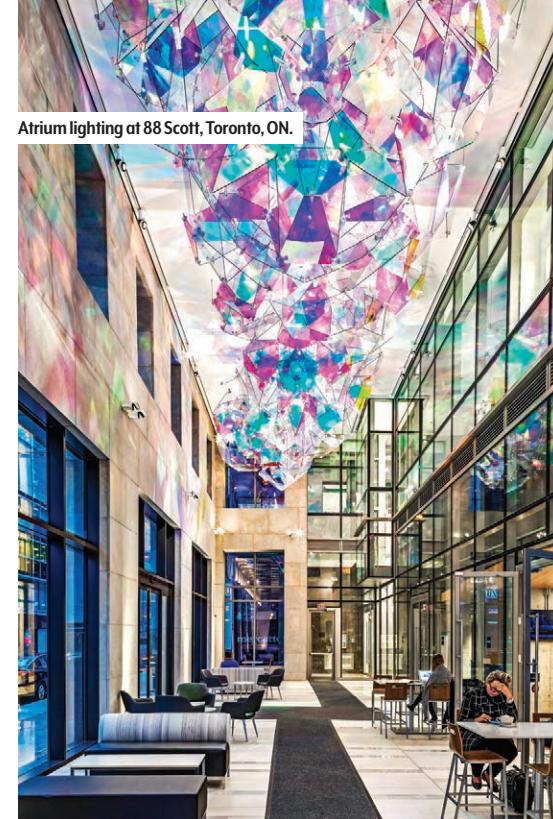
Christine Torralba and Daisy Chan, lighting designers at Nemetz (SA) & Associates are seeing changes in requests from industry specifiers. "One of the trends and a newer technology are downloads where clients can select the different colour temperature," Torralba explains. "It can go from 2,700, 3,000, 3,500, potentially 4,000K within the down-light. And in that same downlight, you can also select the light output or the wattage of that fixture. It could be nine-watt, 12-watt, or 15-watt selectable lumen output – you can control that."

Torralba notes that while this system is currently not really popular, the popularity will grow as consumers and builders are more aware of the option. She says people want to see the effects of lights, but not the light itself. Chan adds: "A lot of people like indirect lighting as well. These days the trend is towards a more minimalist approach to architectural interior lighting."

While the multitude of renovation television shows feature options like pot lights and pendant chandeliers for homeowners, commercial lighting may be more complex and sophisticated than residential applications," Torralba explains. "However, all new construction installations need to meet requirements for ASHRAE. Most new building projects have lighting controls provided as part of the base design."

Mulvey & Banani Lighting Inc. is constantly advancing and creating practices to be ready for new technology in a changing world. One tool they have on hand, Sourcery, is a cloud-based digital platform that is revolutionizing the lighting industry through consulting to improve industry standards.

"As designers we need to have the right products at our fingertips to continually push to exceed and maintain design excellence," says Paul Boken, VP, Mulvey & Banani Lighting. "If our client wants an engaging, healthy, comfortable space lit with a



lighting package composed of sustainably manufactured, local Canadian-made products [where possible] with a prescribed supply cost average per square foot, and power density target to meet sustainability goals, we are compiling the data and intellectual property to accomplish this as we move from project to project in a simple managed process."

Boken adds that having first-hand experience using a resource that was created by and for the lighting industry has improved service tremendously. It has enhanced digital communication practices with clients, peers, suppliers, and internal team members, ultimately reinstating their passion for design and reminding them why they do what they do.

DISTRIBUTORS OFFER OPTIONS

The Profile collection from Landscape Forms was designed in collaboration with award-winning landscape lighting designer Linnaea Tillett and Tillett Lighting Design Associates, that includes an area light, accent light, column light, and performance, wayfinding, and unlit perimeter bollards, making Profile a single lighting family that effectively illuminates an array of spaces, from large, open areas and narrow pathways to landscape beds and building entrances.

While the Profile light's I-beam structure is a familiar element of construction, the form has been refined and presented in a new way, creating a refreshing and versatile light that takes a thoughtful approach to what is—or is not—being lit. "Profile is an architectural statement with a great deal of utility and function," says Kirt Martin, chief creative officer at Landscape Forms. "It's a result of Landscape Forms' high-quality craftsmanship and expertise in lighting technology, engineering, and manufacturing."

A number of options for the area, accent, and column lights provide a canvas on which to create beautiful and exacting lighting schemes. "Public and social spaces are being asked to do more and more," says Tillett. "From playgrounds and food courts to performance spaces, such variety calls for landscape architects to think in more modular ways on how to light environments. Profile responds to that modular thinking with an aesthetically and functionally versatile design."

The area, accent, and column lights are offered in four heights and four colour temperatures. "Profile demonstrates Landscape Forms' leadership position in the outdoor lighting industry," says Jordan Agustin, president—lighting. "In designing Profile, we weren't just thinking about a luminaire; we were thinking about new and interesting ways to light spaces with a beautiful object. The luminaire employs architectural lighting techniques often featured in interior living spaces."

After returning from the 2022 Lightovation trade show in Dallas, Texas, Jim Ormshaw, product specialist, Robinson, a division of B.A. Robinson

Co. Ltd., noted a number of interesting trends, materials, and finishes. "A lot of the products are available in linear designs, with multi-light pendants of three- to 13-light clusters," he explains. "The fixtures are adjustable, or movable, and large, flush mounts are available in 20-inch and 24-inch sizes." He adds another design features Hollywood tiny globes on the fixture, while Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) tunable options come in 3K, 4K, and 5K strengths.



"There were a number of natural materials combined with the lights such as rattan, wicker, and rope," Ormshaw says. "We also saw products done in alabaster and wood." With regard to finishes, Ormshaw notes there was a lot of white, while gold and black are still popular. "We also saw two-tone choices for vanity lights."

The BL areaLinear LN1312 unit from BL Innovative Lighting can light up buildings to an impressive 300 feet with an output of up to 9,000 lumens. From a wide-beam, brilliant, and dramatic floor to a narrow beam with sharply designed edges to highlight architectural details, the sleekly designed, 40-inch-long luminaire incorporates 16 individually addressable Cree LEDs with five unique beam angle options.

Easy to install, the LN1312 unit features IP68 weatherproof line voltage power cables, 100-277VAC input, integral driver and DMX decoder, and two, 180-degree tiltable, on-board mounting brackets that allow for precise light distribution. Compatible with BL controls technology, the unit dynamically illuminates spatial envelopes with wall wash, graze, and area flood effects on facades, canopies, and multi-tiered forms, architectural highlighting of structures such as bridges and monuments, as well as backlighting, accenting, and architainment lighting in urban spaces.

Other features include RGBW or static white CCT options, durable black anodized aluminum housing, shatter resistant tempered glass lens, and energy efficient 150 Watts per unit. The LN1312 unit is fully compatible with wireless Bluetooth and DMX control and can easily link up to 10 fixtures. ■

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