

# BACK TO SCHOOL

Under the umbrella 'Light School' a range of new light-oriented events is to make its debut at the Surface Design Show, at the Business Design Centre in London this month. **Jill Entwistle** reports

Given that without a surface to bounce off light is invisible and that without sufficient light the surface is invisible, it would seem a bit of a no-brainer to involve lighting in a show about surfaces. Be that as it may, this year's will be the first Surface Design Show to have illumination as an integral element.

Taking the form of Light School, organised by Sharon Stammers and Martin Lupton of Light Collective, it will include talks and interactive demonstrations featuring 15 top UK lighting designers. They will present master classes for architects and interior designers with the aim of changing the way they think about light.

A problem frequently discussed in the lighting profession is its tendency to talk to itself rather than reaching out to fellow design professionals for whom lighting should be a priority.

'Light and surface are inseparable partners in the built environment so this show presents a perfect platform for introducing light and lighting design,' says Stammers. 'It will allow us to disseminate our communal love of light and inspire the architecture and interior design communities to work more closely with lighting professionals and manufacturers.'



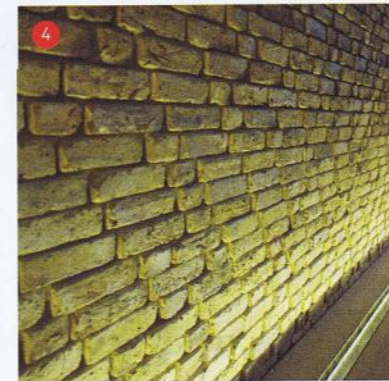
## SURFACE DESIGN AWARDS

### Light and Exterior Surface finalists:

- Glass Lens, London (1), by Luke Lowings and James Carpenter
- Glamp (2) by Cat Martin

### Light and Interior Surface finalists:

- Luminescent Surfaces (3), London, by Alessandro Tosetti
- Tex-Tonic House 2 - Lava Stone (4), London, by Paul McAnearny
- Backlit Wood Walls (5) at National Cancer Institute, USA, by HOK/MCLA



The programme will enable designers and architects to explore topics such as colour, technology, design and media surfaces. There will also be a showcase of innovative technology selected by Light Collective. Manufacturers taking part will each have a stand.

'We have a School Room for lectures, a School Newspaper and a Product School that allows supporters of Light School to each have a space to demonstrate how their products use light to transform spaces and express materials,' says Stammers.

The other important step this year is that for the first time the Surface Design Awards have incorporated a lighting category. In addition to retail, commercial, housing, public building and temporary structure categories, lighting makes its debut with both an interior and exterior award, dedicated to the innovative use of light and the way it is inextricably linked to surfaces.

Will Also from ALL Design chaired the exterior surfaces section, and was joined by Andy MacFee of Scott Brownrigg and Maria Smith from Studio Weave. Vanessa Brady from the Society of British and International Design (SBID) chaired the interiors section. Her fellow judges were Renee

Mascari of Kitchen Bedroom Bathroom National Training Group and Lucy Spencer of Interior ID. Light Collective gave expert guidance.

Given that it was a first outing there were a substantial number of entries encompassing a variety of spheres, including lighting design, products and architecture. Judges were apparently impressed by the new lighting section and the way that many of the stand-out projects had introduced light and colour in a joined-up way.

'Small things that lighting designers assume are common knowledge suddenly made an impact on the group, such as with the right lighting you don't have to paint the walls to change the colour,' says Stammers.

'It was satisfying to find that when it comes to defining good lighting, we all agreed and the chosen winners in both categories represent beautiful and good quality design.'

Renee Mascari of the KBB National Training Group agreed. 'We need to inspire to educate, and the finalists are without doubt inspiring,' she says.

The overall winners will be named on the final day of the Surface Design Show, being held 4-6 February at the Business Design Centre, London.

## PROGRAMME

### 4 February 6pm-9pm

#### Light School

- 18.30 Introduction (Light Collective)
- 18.45 Sun/Moon/Clouds: Aesthetics, Spirit, Culture (Mark Ridler, BDP Lighting)
- 19.45 Inspired by Light (Sally Storey, Lighting Design International)
- 20.00 Film: Light Shorts

### 5 February 11am-9pm

#### Tech School

- 11.15 Light and Surfaces (Douglas James, Mindseye)
- 12.15 Light Years (Iain Ruxton, Speirs + Major)
- 13.15 A practical LED workshop (Joe Vose, Make Some Lights)

#### Design School

- 14.15 Design Process: developing a narrative (Mike Grubb, Mike Grubb Studio)
- 15.15 Creative Resourcefulness: How to do more with less (Paul Traynor, Light Bureau)
- 16.15 Lighting and the Health and Wellbeing of Older People (Carl Gardner, CSG Lighting Consultancy)
- 17.15 Light: The Superhero (Paul Nulty, Paul Nulty Lighting Design)
- 18.15 Wot I don't no 'bout LEDs (Sam Neuman, Neuman Designs)
- 18.30-20.00 Pecha kucha

### 6 February 11am-5pm

#### Media School

- 11.15 Media Facades and Objects: Light with a hidden meaning? (Jonathon Hodges, Jason Bruges Studio)
- 12.15 Media and Light (Jeff Shaw, Arup Lighting)
- 13.00-14.00 Surface Design Awards

#### Colour School

- 14.15 Light, Colour and Texture (Clementine Rodgers, Speirs + Major)
- 15.15 Richard Wheeler, Neon Workshop