

"Kuća svjetla" / The "House of Light"



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*Pulska "Kuća svjetla" predvodnik je zelene gradnje u Hrvatskoj*

*The "House of Light" in Pula is the vanguard of green construction in Croatia*

## SVJETLO PO MJERI ČOVJEKA LIGHT TO THE MEASURE OF MAN

*„Arhitektura je naučena i veličanstvena igra oblika okupljenih u svjetlu“, izjavio je jednom davno legendarni švicarski arhitekt, dizajner i urbanist Le Corbusier. Sigurno nije ni sanjao da će se upravo ovaj njegov citat u budućnosti često spominjati kada se govori o modernoj arhitekturi i korištenju svjetla.*

Svjetlo je samo naizgled sitan i nevažan detalj, a zapravo je temelj za kreiranje doživljaja određenog prostora. Danas arhitekti diljem svijeta u suradnji sa stručnjacima za dizajn i rasvjetu pokušavaju koristiti svjetlo na "pravi" način. Bilo da se radi o dnevnom ili noćnom, prirodnom ili umjetnom, svi se slažu u jednome: svjetlo je osnovni čimbenik koji određuje prostor. Pomoću svjetla prostor možemo učiniti ugodnijim, originalnijim, ljepšim, a samim time i – boljim. Jednostavno, a opet komplicirano, kao i u arhitekturi - dobra rasvjeta osvjetljava, objašnjava, razbristruje, stimulira, a loša rasvjeta, kao i loša arhitektura - zasjenjuje, zbunjuje, destimulira, čak stvara umor i dosadu.

### **"Detalj" koji se pamti**

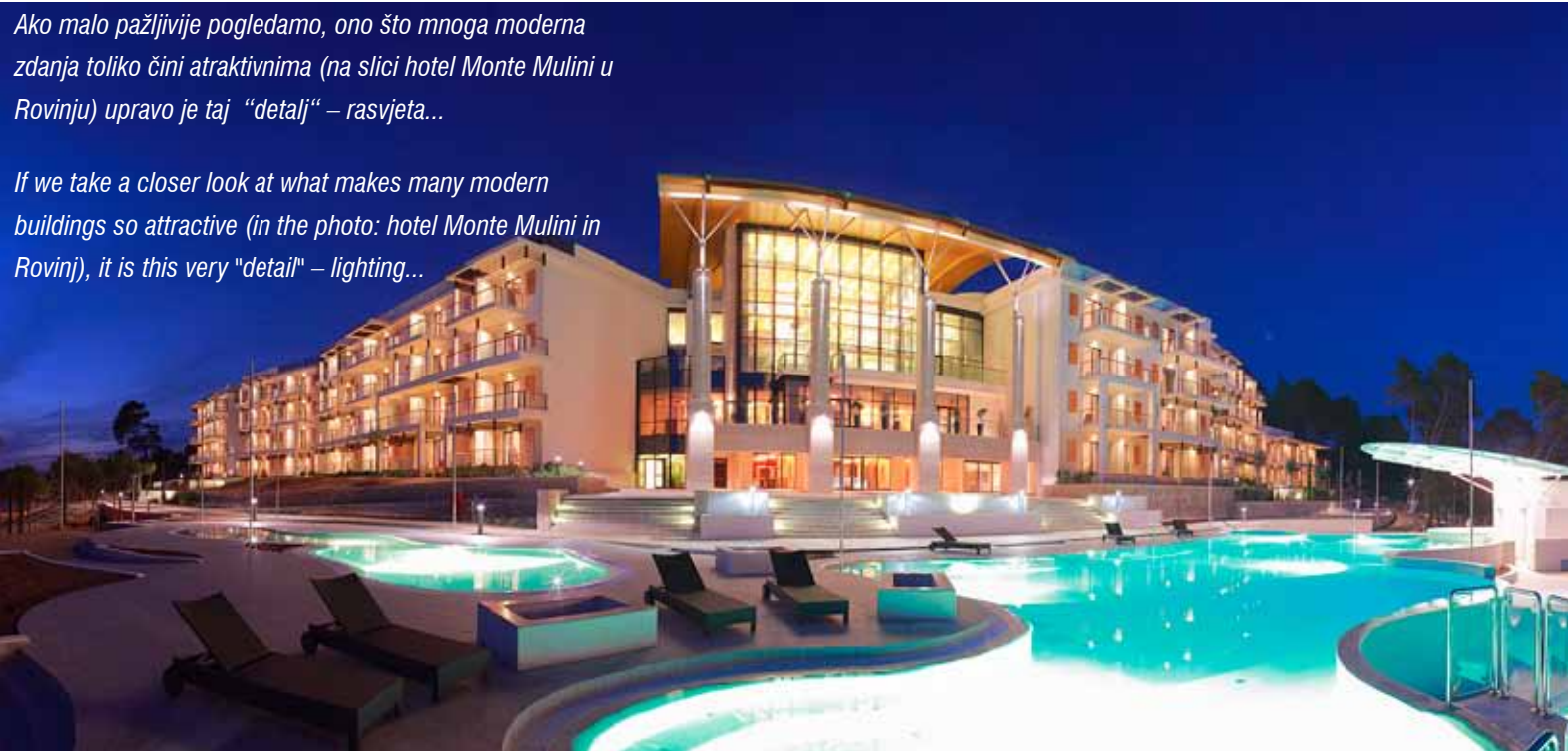
Pomislimo li na samo neka od modernih zdanja – primjerice Spa & Resort u Novom Vinodolskom, hoteli Monte Mulini u Rovinju ili Kempinski Adriatic u Umagu, prvo što nam pada na pamet jesu impresivni interijeri i eksterijeri. No, ako malo pažljivije pogledamo, ono što ih toliko ističe, odnosno razlog zbog kojeg su nam ti prostori urezani u svijest kao atraktivni, upravo je taj "detalj" – rasvjeta. Autori spomenutih uspješnih projekata su Skira d.o.o. i Lumenart d.o.o. iz Pule – vodeće

*"Architecture is the learned game, correct and magnificent, of forms assembled in the light", said the Swiss architect, designer and urbanist Le Corbusier once long ago. He probably couldn't have imagined that this very quote of his would, in modern times, often be mentioned when talking of modern architecture and lighting.*

Light is only seemingly just a small and unimportant detail while, in fact, it is the foundation of how a certain space is experienced. Today, architects all over the world are, in cooperation with experts on design and lighting, trying to utilise light in the "correct" manner. Whether day or night, natural or artificial, they all agree in one thing: lighting is the key factor that defines a space and, with the aid of light, we can make a space more comfortable, original, beautiful and thus – better. Simple but, yet again, complicated because, just like in architecture – good lighting illuminates, elaborates, clarifies and stimulates, while bad lighting, just like bad architecture – stifles, dampens, confuses, or even creates fatigue and boredom.

### **A "Detail" to Remember**

Upon thinking of some modern buildings – for example, the Spa&Resort in Novi Vinodolski, or the hotels Monte Mulini in Rovinj and Kempinski Adriatic in Umag, the first thing that comes to mind are their impressive exteriors and interiors. However, if we take a closer look at what makes them so distinguished, that is, why these spaces are "carved" into our consciousness as "attractive", it is this very "detail" – lighting. The authors of



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*If we take a closer look at what makes many modern buildings so attractive (in the photo: hotel Monte Mulini in Rovinj), it is this very "detail" – lighting...*

hrvatske tvrtke za dizajniranje rasvjete, inženjering i distribuciju rasvjetnih tijela i sustava za upravljanje rasvjetom u arhitekturi.

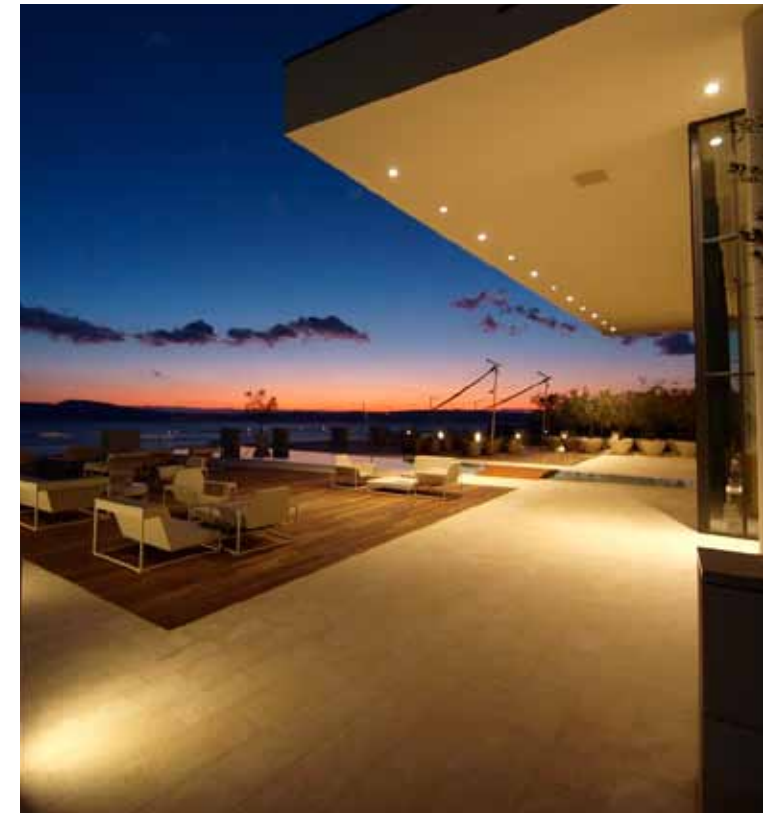
Objekti predvodi Dean Skira, stručnjak za rasvjetu s bogatim međunarodnim iskustvom. Prije 24 godine se uputio u SAD koji je pogotovo tada bio, a i danas je, svjetski lider na području korištenja svjetla u arhitekturi. U New Yorku je Skira usporedno studirao dizajn interijera i dizajn rasvjete. "Uz studije sam i radio u struci tako da je za mene učiti i raditi u državi odakle ta struka i potječe, bilo neprocjenjivo iskustvo. Većina toga što sam tamo naučio kod nas tek dolazi", objašnjava Skira.

Kad govorimo o rasvjeti, uvijek se, pogotovo u posljednje vrijeme, poteže i pitanje štednje energije. Primjerice, u Europi će uskoro na snagu stupiti zakon zbog kojeg će arhitekti koji projektiraju komercijalne objekte morati osigurati određenu količinu prirodnog svjetla. No, Skira i Lumenart mogu se pohvaliti činjenicom da su pioniri uvođenja novih trendova u nas, pa tako i na području uštede energije. "Prilikom realizacije dijela porečke zaobilaznice prvi smo u Hrvatskoj primijenili princip novih optika u javnoj rasvjeti. Nije samo bitno da svjetiljka ne isijava svjetlo prema gore, kako se to često misli, već je važan i broj stupova – dakle, da cesta bude kvalitetno osvijetljena te da se istovremeno pazi na uštedu energije, poštujući istovremeno principe protiv svjetlosnog zagađenja", kaže Skira.

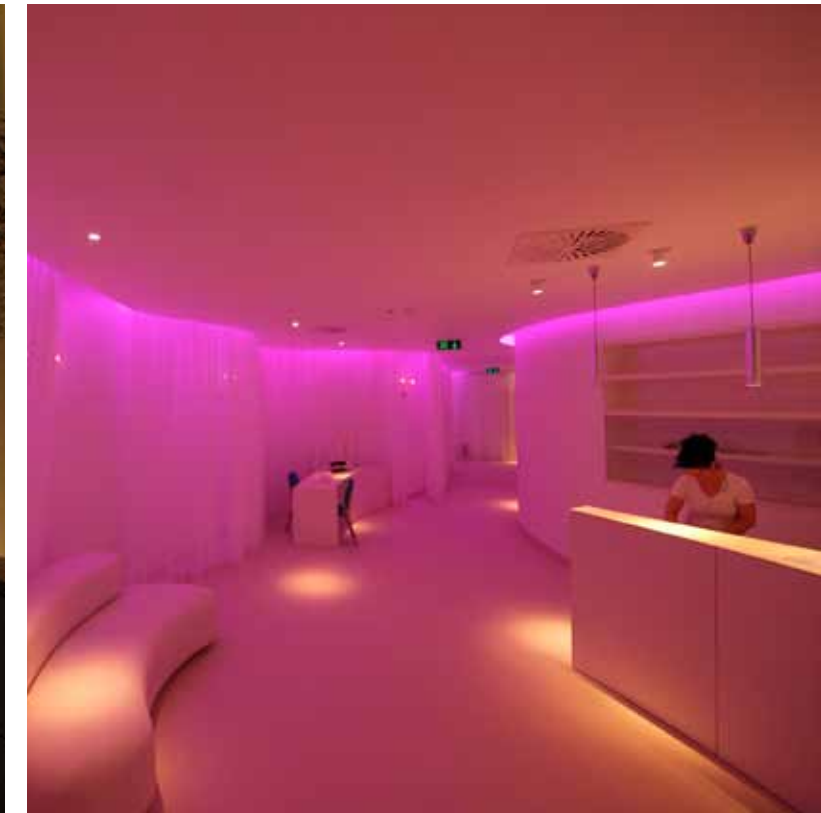
these successful projects are Skira Ltd. and Lumenart Ltd. from Pula – the leading Croatian firms for lighting design, the engineering and distribution of light fixtures and light control systems in architecture.

Both companies are headed by Dean Skira, a lighting expert of ample international experience. Twenty-four years ago, he set out to the USA - which were, and still are, the world leader in architectural lighting design - and simultaneously studied interior design and lighting design in New York. "In addition to my studies I also worked in my profession, thus learning and working in the country this very profession originated from was a priceless experience for me. Most of what I learned there is only arriving to our area now" - Skira explains.

Talk of lighting always, particularly in recent times, also arises the question of energy saving. For example, Europe will soon implement a law that will require of architects designing commercial buildings to ensure a certain amount of natural light. However, Skira and Lumenart can boast the fact that they are the pioneers of introducing new trends to the area, and likewise in the field of energy saving. "In the realisation of the Poreč bypass, we were the first in Croatia to apply new optical principles in public lighting. Not only is it important for the lamp not to emit its light upwards, as it is often thought, the number of columns also matters – the road must be well illuminated in a manner that takes heed of energy saving, and also respects all the principles against light pollution", says Skira.



Novi Spa & Resort, Novi Vinodolski



Wellness centar u hotelu Laguna, Novigrad / Wellness center in Hotel Laguna, Novigrad

*Zgrada Pravnog fakulteta u Splitu bit će prva ekološki osviještena zgrada koja će se od temelja graditi prema svjetskim standardima zelene gradnje...*

*The building of the Faculty of Law in Split will be the first eco-conscious building which will be constructed according to the world standards of green building from its very foundation...*

### Prva eko zgrada u Hrvatskoj

No, kako izgraditi energetski efikasnu građevinu i implementirati vrijednosti održivog razvoja u gradnju? Lumenart se pozabavio tim pitanjem, a kako je ta tvrtka jedan od osnivača Savjeta za zelenu gradnju Hrvatske, krajem prošlog mjeseca u njihovu je sjedištu, "Kući svjetla", organiziran seminar na temu utjecaja kontrole dnevnog i umjetnog svjetla, te o pojedinostima LEED certifikacije (kratica za vodeći svjetski sustav akreditiranja za zelenu gradnju). Naravno, najvažniju kategoriju, što se tiče bodovanja, predstavlja, upravo – rasvjeta. LEED se najviše koristi pri certificiranju javnih ustanova, obrazovnih institucija i zdravstvenih centara, gdje je

### The First Eco Building in Croatia

But, how to construct an energy efficient building and implement the values of sustainable development in construction? Lumenart has been occupying itself with this question and, as the firm is one of the founders of the Green Building Council of Croatia, a seminar on the influence of control over natural and artificial light, and on the specifications of the LEED certification (an abbreviation of the world's leading system of credentials in green building) was held in its headquarters, the "House of Light", in late March. Where, as you can probably guess, the most important category, when it comes to scoring was, naturally – lighting. LEED is mostly used in the certification of public institutions, educational institutions and medical centres, where the consumption of electrical energy and other energy generators is at a high level. "The tendency in energy efficient lighting is to control and manage the artificial and natural light in a working space. An advanced system regulates the drawing of the blinds and turns the lighting on or off according to the building's position in relation to the Sun, and according to the season. This ensures the maximum usage of both natural and artificial light and a high level of energy efficiency is realised – which becomes most obvious when the electric bill comes in", Skira elaborates.

As of yet, no building in Croatia has yet been awarded this certification, however, the building of the Faculty of Law




*Dean Skira održao je predavanje u okviru "Luminalea 2010 – Biennale Lighting Culture", 12. travnja 2010. u Frankfurtu. Luminale se održava u sklopu "Light+Building 2010", vodećeg svjetskog sajma arhitekture i tehnologija.*

*Dean Skira held a lecture within the "Luminale 2010: The Lighting Culture Biennale" on April 12 in Frankfurt. Luminale is held within "Light+Building 2010", the world's leading fair of architecture and technology.*

potrošnja električne energije i ostalih energenata visoka. "Tendencija energetske efikasne rasvjete je da se kontrolira i upravlja umjetnim i dnevnim svjetlom u radnom prostoru. Napredan sustav regulira podizanje i spuštanje prozorskih sjenila te paljenje i gašenje rasvjete ovisno o položaju zgrade u odnosu na sunce i godišnje doba. Na taj način je dnevno i električno svjetlo maksimalno iskorišteno i ostvaruje se visoka razina energetske efikasnosti što se najviše vidi na računu za struju", pojašnjava Skira.

U Hrvatskoj još uvijek ne postoji građevina kojoj je odobren taj certifikat, međutim zgrada Pravnog fakulteta u Splitu bit će prva ekološki osviještena zgrada koja će se od temelja graditi prema svjetskim standardima zelene gradnje. Arhitekt je Hrvoje Njirić, dok mi potpisujemo rasvjetu.

Sigurno se sada pitate kako izgleda zgrada u kojoj radi tim ovih stručnjaka? U najmanju ruku - impresivno, tako da u ovom slučaju, za onu staru "U postolara najgore cipele" ovdje doista nema mjesta. Naime, "Kuća svjetla" pravi je dokaz kako na uspješan način potencijalnim klijentima pokazati koje su sve mogućnosti struke. Izgrađena je od recikliranog stakla, po prvi puta korištenog u Hrvatskoj, tako da je tzv. slomljena fasada, osim što „Kuću“ čini prepoznatljivom, u funkciji optimalnog korištenja dnevnog svjetla uzimajući u obzir mijene godišnjih doba. Unutarnjim uređenjem dominira čistoća linija i minimalizam, dok fasada noću prolazi kroz razigrane svjetlosne scenarije. "Kuća svjetla" nagrađivana je kao idealan primjer integracije arhitekture, interijera i rasvjete.

Htjeli smo završiti sa zaključkom koji se logično nameće - o važnosti rasvjete u arhitekturi. No, Dean Skira nas je ispravio okruživši tekst: "Ljudi često percipiraju rasvjetu kao sredstvo u službi arhitekture, što je netočno. Rasvjeta je važna za čovjeka. Zgrade ne osvjetljavamo radi zgrada, trgovine i ulice ne osvjetljavamo radi njih samih, kao ni slike u muzejima, nego radi onoga tko ih gleda. Prirodno je da dizajneri rasvjete, interijera i arhitekti usko surađuju, dapače, međusobno se inspiriraju. Ipak, u konačnici, sve se to čini radi istog cilja - čovjeka." 

in Split will be the first eco-conscious building which will be constructed according to the world standards of green building from its very foundation. " Hrvoje Njirić is the architect, while the lighting is of our design" .

Now, you're probably wondering what the building which this team of experts works in looks like? Well, to put it mildly - impressive, thus, in this case, the old adage "A shoemaker's son always goes barefoot" is not valid in the least. The "House of Light" is a true testimony of how to show potential clients all the possibilities the profession holds. It is made of recycled glass, which has been utilised in Croatia for the first time, and its so-called broken facade, apart from making the "House" instantly recognisable, also serves to optimise the usage of natural light according to the passing of seasons. The interior is dominated by clean lines and minimalism while, at night, the facade becomes a screen for playful light shows. The "House of Light" has been acclaimed as an ideal example of integrating architecture, interior design and lighting.

We wanted to conclude this text with a conclusion that seems to follow logically - one on the importance of lighting in architecture. But Dean Skira corrected us and rounded up the text himself: " People often perceive lighting as an instrument in the service of architecture, which is incorrect. Lighting is important for people. We do not illuminate buildings for the sake of buildings, squares and streets for their own sake, and the same goes for paintings in museums - we illuminate them for those that gaze upon them. It is natural for lighting designers, interior designers and architects to work closely together, even inspire each other, however, in the end, it is all in service of one common goal - people" . 