

Moorfields Eye Hospital

March 2008



Photos: Joanne Johnston

The brief

To design and supply a creative lighting scheme to complement the building's unique south-facing façade.

The south façade, looking onto the open space across Peerless Street, is protected from solar gain through an unusual arrangement of freely placed folded aluminium louvres, held within a large array of tensioned cables suspended 700mm in front of glass curtain walling.

A projecting bay breaks through the louvres signalling the most populated part of the building - the main out patient waiting area - on the third floor (and which forms the centre of the eye).

This is unlike any hospital scheme seen before. The façade appears to be animated by the filigree of louvres, apparently in free-fall and designed to evoke the feeling of a wheeling flock of birds.

The intervals between the louvre blades was precisely angled and designed to avoid light spill into the flats opposite and also backwards into the windows of the children's areas.

THE CLIENT

Client: Moorfields Eye Hospital Foundation Trust

The Lighting

The Lighting was designed and supplied by Lightscape Projects, part of the Light Projects Group, using a combination of linear Light Projects and Tryka RGB Colour Changing LED Equipment mounted along the inner edge of the maintenance walkway at each floor level.

The colour change LEDs are controlled by a DMX 512 control unit inside the building with a Light Projects' designed programme which creates both gradual and fast effects with random colour and intensity spikes. This creates shifting light scenes to fit all aspects of celebration and to create a living, breathing experience.

The lighting on the building constantly changes, particularly at the weekend producing different textures, pastel colours and intensities.

The scheme is the winner of The Lighting Design Awards 2008 - Exterior Project of the Year. The Judges, unanimous in their decision, described the scheme as "stimulating", "engaging and inviting", "imaginatively designed" and "a visual delight".

THE DETAILS

Architect: Neil Allfrey (Associate and Project Leader), Penoyre & Prasad LLP
Lighting Design: Roger Beckett, Light Projects Group
Technical Assistance: James Duncan, Light Projects Group