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#12 DECORATIVE LIGHTING IN ARCHITECTURE
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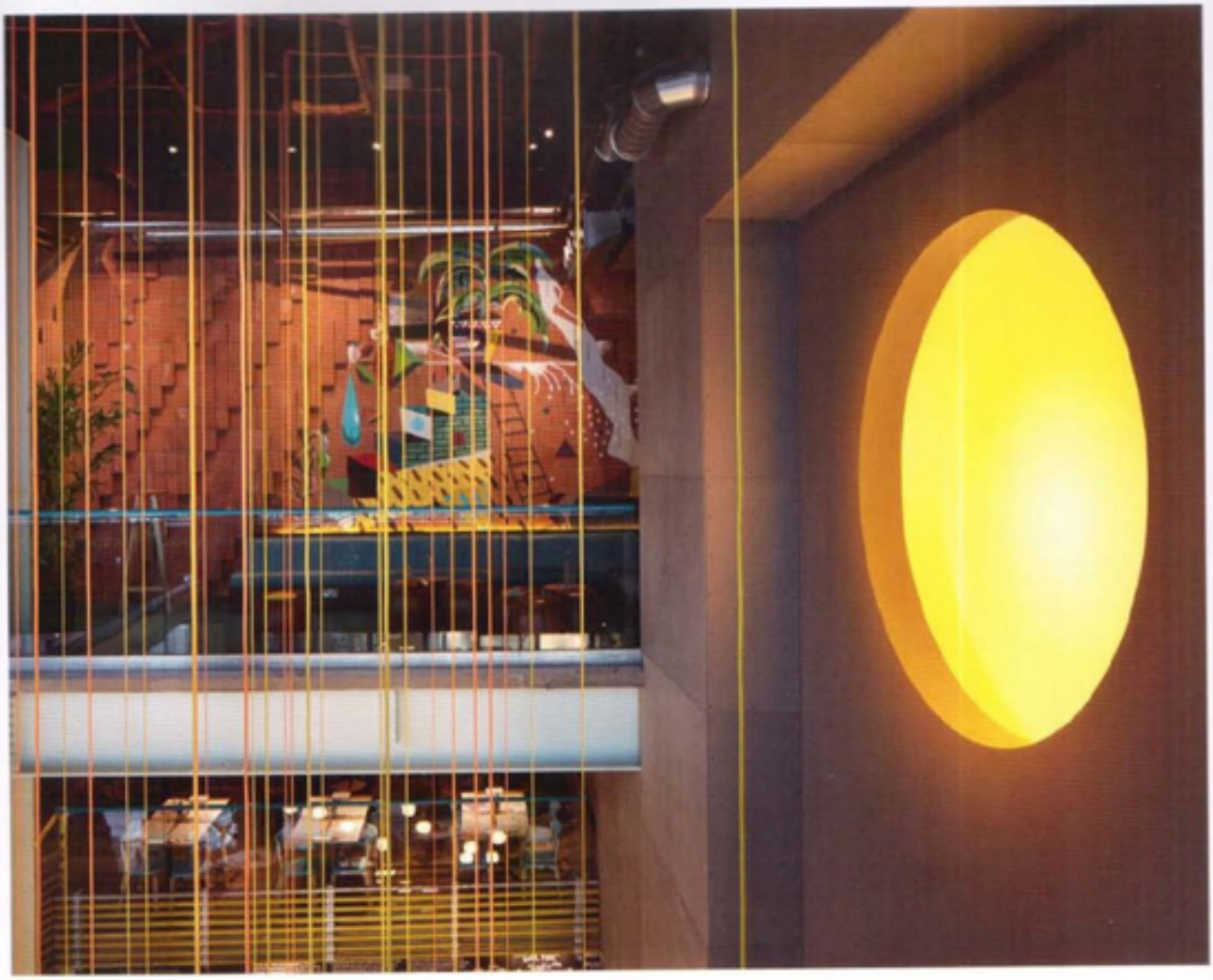


DIMA LOGINOFF

LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

THE BLUE ROOM





Street Life

Lighting designers Kate Wilkins and Sam Neuman come together to reflect the warmth of Mexican street food at the first Wahaca restaurant to hit the streets of Cardiff.

London based lighting designers Kate Wilkins and Sam Neuman have joined forces after years of collaboration to create a portfolio of varied projects using both well-established and cutting-edge lighting techniques.

Under the name Kate & Sam, much of their work is about lighting as a way to effectively bring out the materiality and detail in both architectural interiors and exteriors. They explore the narrative role of lighting in space, and the physical and psychological feel-good factor that is achievable through tactical lighting. Their interests follow lighting as an essential part of a business' identity, with their work for Wahaca restaurant group exploring the notion of brand in the same way.

Most recently, Kate & Sam completed the lighting scheme for Wahaca Cardiff. This marks the first venue in Wales for the restaurant chain, situated on The Hayes in a corner plot of a new site, featuring large double height glazed frontage windows with three different eating levels built into the space.

Kate & Sam's approach maintains the relaxed street lighting style they have built up over the last twelve Wahaca restaurants; very much a response to the more informal street food offered by the Wahaca chain. Kate & Sam opted for a sunny feel evoking natural light in their design, as they see it as important in generating positive emotions indoors.

"In the Wahaca restaurants we like to use warm colours that relax the diners," the designers commented. "We mix 2,700K with warmer tones for a more theatrical feel and hint at the sub conscious feeling of sunshine."

At the Cardiff restaurant the large void



Kate Wilkins' wide-ranging experience in theatrical and architectural lighting has produced designs that range from the playful and intimate to drama on a grand scale. Her best known work includes the award-winning Arsenal Diamond Club, The British Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo and the opening of Tate Modern, which launched the gallery live on national television.

Over the past 15 years Sam Neuman has dedicated his career to architectural lighting design. Working in leading design practices including Imagination, NDYLight and WSP. He has also undertaken a small number of one-off event lighting projects and creative light sculpture commissions including Switched on London and Liverpool City of Culture. In 2009 Sam founded his own lighting design practice, Neuman Lighting Design.

in the middle of the room was made use of with a lighting installation using +Nacho Carbonell soft rubber pendants from manufacturer Booo - each supplied with a 2,700K, 650lm LED with mains dimming down to 10%. To tone in with the colour palette and react to the warmer tone light waves, the pendants were fitted with custom yellow and orange flexes. The Booo pendants help bring the room down to a more friendly scale for dining while keeping the impressive size.

The +Nacho Carbonell fixtures' warm central glow is set against a two-metre diametre wall mounted indirect colour changing disc that is programmed throughout the day and evening in subtle sources: a cold cathode tube and DMX controlled LED colour changing Fresnel key spotlight. The colours are chosen for their uplifting and relaxing qualities, aiming to be felt but not seen. As well as an external focus of the window, "the installation of the pendants, cable and circle are designed to be viewed from all the different levels, designed to be more intense and immersive the higher you are," said the designers. Elsewhere in the restaurant, H2o pendants from Italian manufacturer in-es.artdesign bring additional warmth to the dining space.

The use of LED lamps in projects is becom-



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