



The *porte cochère* is one of the main features of the hotel. A beautiful laser cut aluminum module framework was added by the architect to have a strong arrival point. There are two facets where light displays itself on this unique canopy. When the sun hits the canopy, random floral patterns appear at different angles and intensity depending on the time of the day. This creates texture and interest. Come evening, the canopy twinkles with 12W compact and high power LED down lights that are discreetly integrated to the canopy. The effect is a welcoming drop off.

LIGHTING RENDEZVOUS

How Pioneering Lighting Design Studio Light Cibles Lit Up Singapore's Rendezvous Grand Hotel

After garnering two major awards from the IALD (Integrated Association of Lighting Designers) and the IES (Illumination Engineering Society) for the lighting master plan of the Beirut Central District with their pioneering image projection for permanent

outdoor installation on heritage building façades (featured in *BluPrint* Vol. 4, 2011), Light Cibles bagged the coveted job for the Kuala Lumpur lighting master plan. As of writing, Light Cibles is on the shortlist for the next re-lighting of the Eiffel Tower.

Light Cibles is a Paris-based lighting design studio founded by my mentor, Louis Clair, in 1983. The company specializes in lighting master plans, and lighting designs for airports, building façades, places of worship and hospitality projects. Clair is one

of the most respected illumination experts in the world, having designed the lighting for such projects as the Notre Dame Cathedral and Charles de Gaulle Bridge in Paris; the Fullerton Hotel in Singapore; and Lake Garden Park in Kuala Lumpur.



When Light Cibles won the bid for the lighting design of Resorts World Sentosa, I was extremely fortunate to work as his apprentice. We currently have offices in major cities like Paris, Madrid, Singapore, Tianjin, Kuala Lumpur, Sao Paulo and Manila.

With the current construction boom in the Philippines, and the government's ambitious goal to attract 10 million tourists by 2016 (from 4.6M in 2012), the need for good lighting designers has never been more apparent. Whether it is to make a grand statement at a hotel *porte cochère* or create a romantic atmosphere in landscaped courtyards, Emanuela Stucchi of Light Cibles can share a thing or two with us about hospitality lighting design as project leader for the renovation of Rendezvous Grand Hotel in Singapore.

For the façade lighting, Light Cibles opted for two different approaches: a more traditional lighting scheme for the low rise conservation building, and gobo image projections of leaf patterns for the high-rise building curved wall seen atop the building. The traditional up and downward emission wall lights are mounted on the center of the column to reinforce architecture, and linear LED washers for the second level to give a gradient wash of light. The lighting system was upgraded to a more advanced technology of LED, keeping in mind the conservation of existing lighting points, so that in this way chipping works and re-wiring would be minimal. This is very crucial especially when working on a historical building. The gobo projection of leaf patterns on the top part of the façade sparks curiosity and invites guests to see more of the hotel interior.



The courtyard of the Rendezvous joins the heritage building with the 11-storey residential wing. In the daytime, it is an impressive indoor garden with a curved wall, filled with natural light and hanging decorative installations that give a feeling of lightness. At night, eleven projectors placed on the rooftop cast natural-looking shadows of leaves, similar to that of the *porte cochère* during daytime. The idea is to create a fresh feeling of moonlight through the trees.



The impressive light column that welcomes guests at the reception lobby is internally illuminated with narrow beam projectors at the top and bottom part. In this way, the effect is more uniform. This modern feature that blends perfectly with the interior is visible from the courtyard.



Corridors do not have to be boring. Here, circulation areas were lit up by T5 seamless covelights. With the proper clearances and quality light fixture, the hotel did not need to add downlights anymore except for the wider corridors. Compact fluorescent downlights were added to have a uniform light.



Above, right: A touch of old world charm enlivens the lounge area, where concrete tiles with backlighting are the main feature. The concrete tile pattern is reminiscent of the ones you can find in typical shop houses (a shop house is a heritage *peranakan* dwelling and is well-preserved in the city of Singapore). This beautiful focal point is illuminated with high output T5 fluorescent lights on the top and bottom frames with acrylic in front. It is important to keep a good distance between the acrylic and the T5 lights to avoid the tubes being visible in the installation. Other types of lights found in this area are accent spotlights and seamless wall washers. Light Cibles completed the ambiance by installing a control system that allows the mixing and balancing of natural and artificial light, thus creating light scenes for various occasions.

Tell us a bit about the project.

Rendezvous Hotel Singapore overlooks Bras Basah Park, is just a block away from the National Museum, and half a mile from Orchard Road, Suntec Convention Center, Chijmes, Little India, and Clarke Quay. The building is a combination of local heritage and contemporary architecture. To enhance the guests' experience, Rendezvous Hotel underwent a major renovation. The Straits Trading Company Limited (STC) commissioned WOW Architects and Light Cibles to create a new concept for the hotel and retail gallery. The main requirement was to re-define the traditional elements and materials and present them in a fresh way.

What is the design concept of the hotel and what was the role of lighting in bringing it about?

The concept is 'Asian Elegance,' with two governing factors: order and hierarchy. Spaces flow in a layered sequence creating an unveiling journey through screens, niches and vestibules. The lighting plays a distinctive role in this 'see through'

game: emphasizing the special features of each zone, creating attraction points to be discovered, framing them to enlarge the view beyond the screens, and creating connectivity between the spaces.

What innovative strategies or new technologies were used for the project?

We created the leaf shadow effects on the courtyard façade by using gobo projectors mounted on the outdoor roof area. It was interesting how the architectural feature turned out to be magnificent for the lighting too. We thoroughly

studied the execution of the lighting here. Glass properties need to blend with artificial light to achieve the nuance of a moonlight blue color perfect for the scene. Then, the configuration of leaves and dome shape was studied to create a special game of reflections. The challenge lay within the glass dome configuration, and the precision required in the aiming of lights to obtain the appropriate reflections on both the wall below and above the glass, and project the shading effect both in the courtyard and on the exterior façade.

Were the lighting specs followed by the client?

Yes. Light Cibles followed the project throughout the tender process, ensuring compliance with our requirements. When the contractor proposed alternative equivalent fixtures, they required our approval. This is very important to ensure a good final effect, and protects the client from poor quality lights that can break down easily.

Light Cibles Manila office is represented by Light Plan, Inc. For lighting design and consultancy services email info@lightplaninc.com or call (632) 576 3556.



Simplicity and bespoke lighting rules the guest rooms. Most of the light fixtures are decorative, which in lighting design terms mean wall lights, table lamps, and floor lamps. This allows the user to fine tune the lighting with ease according to the task at hand. Only a few down lights were added for accent pieces or task lighting. The bespoke quality is carried out through the specification of the lighting using pinhole downlights to eliminate glare. Subtle touches of upscale quality are seen in the wardrobe lighting, where the rod-integrated LED light strips that illuminate the clothing are.