

eye opener

Lighting Giants, Pula, Croatia

In addition to its plethora of historic monuments ranging from the classical antiquity to the remnants of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Mediterranean city of Pula is known by its shipyard Ujanik, one of the oldest working yards in the world. Ujanik, built in 1856, is again the focal point of the city: its majestic cranes are bathed in lights designed and devised by lighting designer Dean Skira.

The *Lighting Giants* project was originally conceived in 2000 in Skira's architectural lighting design practice and last year was finally supported by the Tourist Board of Pula, shipyard Ujanik and sponsored by several private companies. Apart from this purpose-allotted incentive, the project was fully privately funded.

The eight cranes are functional as well as monumental. The shipyard is active and continues to build ships, which makes this project unique in the world.

The cranes were illuminated with 73 Philips RGB LED spotlights, weighing 40kg each. Each light consists of 64 pieces of LED chips that can be programmed to 16,000 different variations of colour and intensity. Blinds were used to prevent unnecessary dispersion and light pollution and to create additional diffusion effects.

Pula's *Lighting Giants* were lit for the first time during *Vesuvio*, the festival of light in collaboration with the Tourist Board of Pula. The night walk reached its luminous finale in front of thousands of visitors at the Pula waterfront, with cranes being lit dynamically to a music score. The cranes continue to shine for fifteen minutes on every hour from 9pm till midnight, giving the city of Pula a living sculpture to be proud of.

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