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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **21st Innovation Award Architecture+ Technology 2020**

For the 21st time, the architecture journals AIT and XIA by AIT, in cooperation with Messe Frankfurt/light + building, awarded the Innovation Award Architecture+ Technology. The award is aimed at designers and manufacturers of innovative materials and products. It is intended to underscore the importance of the architectural quality of luminaires, technical lighting components, electrical engineering and home and building automation, because it is precisely this quality that forms the reliable basis for a promising result. Among the numerous products offered on the market, awards are given to those that meet the needs of interior designers and architects in particular. The award acknowledges conceptual solutions for selected projects and products that are equally convincing in terms of design and functionality. Other important evaluation criteria are the authenticity of the material and the variety of possible applications.

On 1 October 2020, renowned jury members from the fields of architecture and interior design selected the winners from the 39 products submitted. Altogether, one Innovation Award, two Special Mentions and six Distinctions were awarded.

#### The jury:

Catrin Brändle-Wigand, Evangelischer Regionalverband Frankfurt und Offenbach, DE-Frankfurt  
[www.efo-magazin.de](http://www.efo-magazin.de)

Matthias Koch, KSP Jürgen Engel Architekten GmbH, DE-Frankfurt  
[www.ksp-architekten.de](http://www.ksp-architekten.de)

Julian Andreas Schoyerer, SCHOYERER ARCHITEKTEN\_SYRA, DE-Mainz  
[www.schoyerer.de](http://www.schoyerer.de)

Christian Simons, schneider+schumacher Planungsgesellschaft mbH, DE-Frankfurt  
[www.schneider-schumacher.de](http://www.schneider-schumacher.de)

#### The participants:

ALBRECHT JUNG GMBH & CO. KG, DE-Schalksmühle, [www.jung.de](http://www.jung.de)  
Artemide Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, DE-Fröndenbergruhr, [www.artemide.com](http://www.artemide.com)  
Ayuppie.com Italy s.r.l., IT-Conegliano TV, [www.ayuppie.com](http://www.ayuppie.com)  
Bartenbach GmbH, AT-Aldrans, [www.bartenbach.com](http://www.bartenbach.com)  
Bender GmbH & Co. KG, DE-Grünberg, [www.bender.de](http://www.bender.de)  
Bergmeister Leuchten GmbH, DE- Frauenneuharting, [www.bergmeister-leuchten.de](http://www.bergmeister-leuchten.de)  
Derungs Licht AG, CH-Gossau, [www.derungs.swiss](http://www.derungs.swiss)  
ERVENTEC GmbH & Co. KG / müllerundröhrig gmbh / Gerber Architekten GmbH, DE-Lüdenscheid  
ETTLIN Spinnerei und Weberei Produktions GmbH & Co. KG, DE-Ettlingen, [www.ettlin.de](http://www.ettlin.de)  
Bechter Licht GmbH, AT-Hittisau, [www.georgbechterlicht.at](http://www.georgbechterlicht.at)  
GEWISS Deutschland GmbH, DE-Merenberg, [www.gewiss.com](http://www.gewiss.com)

Gira Giersiepen GmbH & Co. KG, DE-Radevormwald, [www.gira.de](http://www.gira.de)  
homeway GmbH, DE-Neustadt bei Coburg, [www.homeway.de](http://www.homeway.de)  
KITEO GmbH & Co. KG, DE-München, [www.kiteo.eu](http://www.kiteo.eu)  
L&L Luce&Light s.r.l., IT-Dueville VI, [www.lucelight.it](http://www.lucelight.it)  
LED Linear GmbH, DE-Neukirchen-Vluyn, [www.led-linear.de](http://www.led-linear.de)  
Licht Raum Funktion GmbH, DE-Hofheim in Unterfranken, [www.lichtraumfunktion.com](http://www.lichtraumfunktion.com)  
Lifa | innovative Lichtsysteme GmbH, DE-Münster, [www.lifa-lichtfabrik.com](http://www.lifa-lichtfabrik.com)  
MACROLUX s.r.l., IT-San Vendemiano TV, [www.macrolux.eu](http://www.macrolux.eu)  
Nichia Chemical Europe GmbH, DE-Kronberg im Taunus, [www.nichia.co.jp](http://www.nichia.co.jp)  
Nimbus Group GmbH, DE-Stuttgart, [www.nimbus-group.com](http://www.nimbus-group.com)  
serien Raumleuchten GmbH, DE-Rodgau, [www.serien.com](http://www.serien.com)  
STR Elektronik Josef Schlechtinger GmbH, DE-Wagenfeld, [www.str-elektronik.de](http://www.str-elektronik.de)  
Top Light GmbH & Co. KG, DE-Spenge, [www.top-light.de](http://www.top-light.de)  
Ulrich Lippert GmbH & Co. KG, DE-Berlin, [www.lippert.berlin.de](http://www.lippert.berlin.de)

The award ceremony will take place in the form of personal meetings with the award winners in autumn 2020.

All submissions will be published in a special section of AIT 12-2020.

The award winners:

### **Innovations Award Architecture+ Technology 2020**

Product: La Linea

Company: Artemide Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG

Design: BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group, DK-Copenhagen

The jury was enchanted by the glowing rope! When La Linea simply lies about — whether stretched or bent — it is hard to believe the haptic properties of the flexible rope light. It is an object like nothing you have ever seen before, you have to take it in your hand, you have to look at it and convince yourself that it is real and exists. The jury liked the variety: you can lay it down, knot it, hang it up, use it in rooms, design it as you please, there are no limits due to its flexibility, creativity is not influenced. It never loses its mysteriousness because the viewer doesn't know where the light comes from. It is completely inexplicable, but it shines. Inside and outside, you can use it as a guidance system, for winding corridors, you can roll it up as an object and put it in a corner. It is really innovative and stimulating, it is magical!

### **Special Mention**

Product: Dot Slim 2020

Company: Bechter Licht GmbH

Design: Georg Bechter Architektur + Design, AT-Hittisau

The fascinating thing about the design of Dot Slim is the lack of clearly visible product design. Only the product of the luminaire is perceived in the room: light. Thus, the focus is not on the luminaire itself, but on the staging of the room by means of innovative heat dissipation through the mounting plate. Due to its minimised mounting height, the luminaire can be used even in the most confined spaces. Dot Slim is sustainable not only because of its minimal use of materials, but also because the LED can be replaced with a 2-euro coin in case of maintenance. What the jury liked about Dot Slim was its maximum reduction to light: less luminaire is not possible.

Product: Lighting Pad Lounge

Company: Nimbus Group GmbH

We have known Nimbus for many years and have also equipped various buildings with their products. Decisive factors were not only the attractive design, the specifically adaptable lighting properties but also the innovative combination with acoustic surfaces. Until now, Nimbus luminaires had something of flying saucers due to their flat design. The LED light points in acrylic elements always seemed a bit futuristic, and we considered the application area to mainly be in modern, elegant commercial buildings. Therefore, the Lightpad Lounge from Nimbus presented here was very surprising for us. The cover panel is designed with bent moulded wood in the style of the Eames Lounge Chair. This is a very beautiful and innovative product, which now also allows very good and smoothly adaptable lighting scenarios in living areas.

### **Distinctions**

Product: Alphabet of Light

Company: Artemide Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG

Design: BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group, DK-Copenhagen

Through formal reduction and apparent absence of details, the modular system of a "luminous tubular profile" succeeds in creating a pure light sculpture, which, in its respective variably selectable form, does not reveal this "modular construction kit". Joints and connecting elements are barely visible and provide only hidden clues that the respective given luminaire is only one of a multitude of possible configurations. Its slender linear clarity is captivating and, thanks to the modules available, it can be used to illuminate almost any room shape and proportion. From playful letters to abstract linear sculptures, (almost) anything is possible; the spectrum of uses ranges from purely functional to decorative lighting. The use of technical possibilities in the service of formal weightlessness with extensive freedom of configuration is considered innovative.

Product: ETTLIN LUX® Lighteffect Mirror

Company: ETTLIN Spinnerei und Weberei Produktions GmbH & Co. KG

For the jury, the focus was less on the frame system, in this particular case the Lighteffect Mirror, and more on the fabric, i.e. the textile material from ETTLIN LUX. As a backlit membrane, this fabric seems to offer a great potential of light and colour effects. It is conceivable to use this material for various types of translucent surfaces in the field of interior design, in the sense of decorative, back-lit wall or ceiling areas, through to translucent façade surfaces, luminous walls or even sound insulation walls.

Product: WLAN Touch ac

Company: homeway GmbH

We all know the BUS: a power supply unit, power cable, LAN cable and before that a more or less attractive modem or access point. The innovation of the WLAN Touch Access Point lies in the reduction of this installation to a single module, which fits into the existing WLAN junction box. In this way it can be integrated into the standard series with its reduced design. Operation is intuitive via the integrated touch field.

Product: Combina D

Company: L&L Luce&Light s.r.l

An insider tip for undecided builders. Even if the solid body of the downlight is already installed, the appearance can be changed very easily. Thanks to magnetic connection points, angular covers can be quickly exchanged for round ones, or small and round becomes large and round. Whether flush with the ceiling or recessed — different lenses can be used to create individual ceiling designs. The magnetic connections certainly also have temporal advantages when renovating or cleaning.

Product: Kombination BRILLIANT FIT, FLUSH R-M, MODUL 625, PURE I80M

Company: Lifa | innovative Lichtsysteme GmbH

Specific technical installation principles are developed for different types of luminaire, which allow the light sources to be serviced with only few tools. This means that, unlike many other products, it is no longer necessary to replace the entire luminaire when a defect occurs, but only the defective lamp. Comparable to the standardised sockets for light bulbs or fluorescent tubes, the aim is to achieve a standard that produces sustainable effects across manufacturers. In our opinion, the cross-system approach of focusing on simple and quick servicing and making a significant contribution to resource conservation by developing non-proprietary connection elements is particularly worthy of recognition.

Product: CURLING Wall  
Company: serien Raumeuchten GmbH  
Design: Jean-Marc da Costa und Manfred Wolf

Thank you very much for this sensual variation! Maybe not quite as innovative, yet anything but boring. Superbly crafted and beautifully proportioned, Curling Wall invites the viewer into exciting, almost vivid circles of light and shadow. Due to the mouth-blown glass casing and invisible light source, it is a real eye-catcher even when switched off, without being obtrusive.

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