

LIGHT LINK 2008

A periodic guide to Light Projects' collaborations with architects, designers, engineers, municipalities, public-art commissions and businesses worldwide

Greetings from the ever-evolving world of Light Projects! With this newsletter, I would like to introduce the studio's dynamic staff-- beginning with a welcome to our Senior Designer, Eric Chenault, who joined us in January, 2008. I am thrilled to report that Eric has fulfilled our expectations in every way. His presence at Light Projects has elevated our expertise in sustainable, human-centered and technological design.

Another staff note falls into the departures department: On behalf of us all at Light Projects, a fond farewell to Junior Designer Stine Christiansen, who returns to Norway.

With my team, this decades-old dream of interdisciplinarianism is firmly based and thriving. Light Projects' designers, artists and administrators collectively embody a vision of lumenizing and humanizing cities-- breathing life into the nighttime environment.



Creative Team



Eric Chenault, Senior Designer

The Senior Designer role at Light Projects is critical. Eric Chenault brings his lifelong passion for light-- as a material having unique qualities and functions. He has contributed his lighting expertise --in theater, exhibition and architecture -- to international and domestic projects for more than a decade. He integrates creative concepts and their technical solutions, articulating ideas in verbal and illustrative forms. Through his work at Light Projects, Eric looks forward to evolving urban environments of light. He is particularly inspired by three Light Projects endeavors currently under way: the New York Department of Sanitation Salt Shed; Port Authority's "Triple Bridge Gateway"; and the East River Jewel Light initiative. "Where else than Light Projects", surmises Eric, "do you find an artistic way of lighting winter roadway salt, of encouraging kids to play in the street on 9th Avenue, and proposing new ways to light all of the city's bridges and waterfronts?" A native of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Eric now lives in Brooklyn.



Courtney Hewitt, Design Manager

Courtney ensures that every Light Projects' client and job meets the highest standards of design quality and project management. From concept to implementation, Courtney's blend of creativity, tenacity and follow-through are integral to the studio's relationship with clients, designers and contractors. "Light Projects is always infused with contagious energy and good humor" observes Courtney. "Leni is an ideal mentor who challenges and motivates her employees with elevated responsibilities and amazing project opportunities." A graduate of Pratt Institute's Master of

Industrial Design Program -- and an award-winning furniture designer with past work experience ranging from exhibition lighting to graphic design -- Courtney looks forward to building Light Projects' line of custom designs, including LED fixtures ranging from bridge lights to pole tops. Courtney, a native of New Hampshire, lives in Little Italy, Manhattan.

Industrial Design



Ute Besenecker, Design Manager

With architectural training and advanced degrees from universities in New York, Milan, Italy and Germany, Ute's broad design and visualization capabilities were shaped through work experience with architects in Europe as well as the United States. As our Design Manager, Ute incorporates all project stages. What Ute likes about working at Light Projects: "Great team work, fantastic co-workers. Leni is very inspirational and has a uniquely open-minded, and creative approach to every condition, situation and project. Everybody here is like minded and we complement each

other, as parts of a worthwhile endeavor to make living environments more livable and more fun." Ute was born in Berlin, and now resides in the northern Manhattan reaches of Washington Heights.

Architecture



Darlene Myrie, Intern

Darlene Myrie, our summer intern, has become part of the support team at Light Projects', assisting with a variety of projects. Darlene -- with a background in landscape architecture, urban geography and fine arts -- is well-suited to Light Projects' interdisciplinary milieu. She is currently studying lighting design at Parsons -- including Leni's "Designing Urban Nighttime Environments" class. Notes Darlene, "LSLP is keeping pace with global changes by strengthening both internal collaboration and external collaboration with diverse and highly skilled consultants from a variety of fields." She is pursuing licensure in landscape architecture. Overall, her

interests are in the research, planning and design of context-sensitive, site-appropriate and pedestrian-friendly environments. Darlene hails from Toronto and presently resides in the borough of Queens.

Landscape Architecture



Stine Christiansen, [Exiting] Junior Designer

Light Projects' Junior Designer is a true multi-disciplinarian with responsibilities as materials librarian, draughtswoman and designer. Stine's road to lighting design includes the study of veterinary medicine, of interior architecture and art. Stine earned a Masters of Fine Art from Parsons School of Design in 2007. During her last year at Parsons, Stine studied with Leni Schwendinger. Stine's thesis project, "Roadway tunnel lighting: Exploring the innovative use of light and art for a safer driving environment", led to her speaking engagement at the 2007 Public Lighting Design Conference in London. Stine, "The LSLP studio is willing to look beyond what is

thought possible to do. First is always what we would *like* to do, and further down the line is *how* it will be done. And it always gets done!" Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Stine grew up primarily in Bergen, Norway. She speaks six languages and currently resides on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Lighting Design

Management



Walter Ramin, Studio Manager

The Studio Manager role at Light Projects is complex and many-faceted. Walter's responsibilities include operations, human resources and financial concerns. His determination and managerial skill ensures that Leni and the Light Projects staff are able to meet in-house and client needs efficiently and effectively. Walter has a long administrative history with varied clients from hedge-fund investment firms to recording studios. He is a member of the Society for Design Administration, and when not endearing himself to LSLP's client accounts- receivable departments, Walter can be found playing guitar onstage at the Bitter End and other venues throughout the region. Brooklyn-born Walter now hangs his hat in Hoboken.

Finance



Kristi Kent, Art & Marketing Coordinator

Kristi's position at Light Projects was created especially for her, in order to fulfill two roles: traditional artist assistant working side-by-side with Leni while simultaneously deploying her communications expertise as LSLP's marketing coordinator. Kristi channels her knowledge of contemporary art and art practices as a means of sharing LSLP's vision with the world. Her technical and creative thinking inform her approach to projects and public outreach. She is currently developing a retrospective of Leni's work. Kristi received her MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2005, where she was awarded the Barry Schactman Prize for Excellence in Painting. Her works have been exhibited in venues including Los Angeles' Carl Berg Gallery and the Santa Monica Museum of Art.

Fine Art

In the News...

MEDIA



Event Design Magazine, February/March 2008:
[The Speed of Light](#)

Metropolis Magazine, June 2008:
[Text Message](#)

AWARDS

SEGD Merit Award for Chroma Streams: Tide and Traffic [Society for Environmental Graphic Designers \(SEGD\)](#)

Light Projects is the recipient of 2008's Society for Environmental Graphic Designers (SEGD) "Award of Merit" for the public artwork CHROMA STREAMS: TIDE AND TRAFFIC. SEGD is an international non-profit organization providing resources for design specialists in the fields of environmental graphic design and architecture, and as well as landscape, interior, and industrial design. SEGD membership includes leading designers of directional and attractational sign systems, destination graphics, identity programs, exhibits and themed environments. Among the jury's comments of Chroma Streams: "A night rainbow. Magic. Glasgow sings a colorful opera from the bridge and it also makes the river dance."

International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWECC) [Manhattan Chamber of Commerce](#)

Leni Schwendinger was one of the three women chosen to represent New York in 2008's International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge. Awardees of the IWECC are selected on the basis of their success in exporting their goods or services to the overseas marketplace. A joint project initiated by the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce -- in association with India's Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and New York's Manhattan Chamber of Commerce -- The International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge promotes global dialogue on women's entrepreneurship to forge partnerships and networks among women's business association, enterprises and entrepreneurs worldwide.

Leni Schwendinger Light Projects, LTD One of New York State's "Top 100 Women Owned Businesses" [Diversity Business](#)

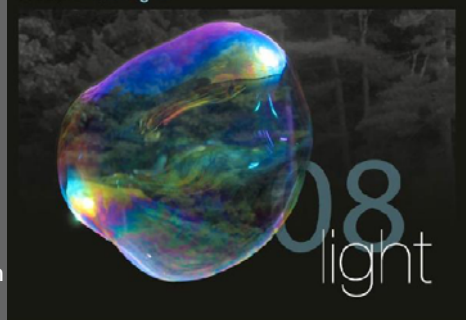
Light Projects has been selected as one of New York State's "Top 100 Women Owned Business List," published by DiversityBusiness.com, the nation's primary resource portal for small businesses and large organizational buyers. A membership-based exchange platform that facilitates contacts and communication by aggregating supplier diversity tools, streamlined business processes and vital business information, DiversityBusiness.com's Div100 is the 8th annual listing of top 100 women-owned businesses. As a continuing challenge to misconceptions and long-held notions about gender and business, Div100 members are sought after by major corporations wishing to invest in diversity.

LECTURES

Leni Schwendinger Speaks at Subtle Technologies Festival [Subtle Technologies](#)

Last month, Leni was a featured speaker at Toronto's Subtle Technologies Conference. This year's topic, Light, brought together creative practitioners from diverse fields for a week long program of symposia, workshops, exhibitions, screenings and performances to examining developments at the intersection of art, science and technology. The topic of Leni's presentation was "Creating Imaginative and Practical Public Lighting Strategies."

subtle technologies



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