

LIGHTING LANDMARX

The Social Light Movement has reached the milestone of 1,000 members and it's still rising on a daily basis. It is fitting that the movement has reached this landmark on the eve of Light + Building as it was there that the movement was created four years ago.

Since the founders came together and decided there was a need for the group at Light and Building in 2010, the SLM has given numerous lectures around the world and held two major international workshops in Belgium and Sweden. It has just seen the first permanent SLM lighting scheme installed as a result of the Swedish workshop. It has cracked America and has just completed its first US workshop. It narrowly missed out

winning a Professional Lighting Design Recognition Award in the Award at Large Category at PLDC last year. It has also inspired a couple of PhDs and spread a lot of love.

Founders Isabelle Corten, Erik Olsson, Joran Linder, Elettra Bordonaro, Martin Lupton and Sharon Stammers believe that as designers, we need to put 'People before places' and that 'Light is a right, not a privilege'. The main objec-

tive of the SLM is for us to get out of our offices and into the spaces that we are designing for. To put down our laptops and speak to the people that we seek to provide light for. Check out our philosophy, the workshop format and results on our website and join the network on Facebook.

www.sociallightmovement.com

What is the SLM?

The Social Light Movement is a philanthropic movement and has been founded in order to create a network for lighting designers and other interested parties to collaborate on the issue of improving lighting for people: particularly those who are unlikely to have access to good quality illumination within their environment.

The SLM exists:

- To demonstrate and to design well lit environments for social and underprivileged housing areas and people.
- To involve the community in the actual design of their own environment.
- To encourage other designers to work in similar environments and use similar methodologies to educate



housing associations, housing management teams and social housing ownership bodies about the benefits of good lighting.

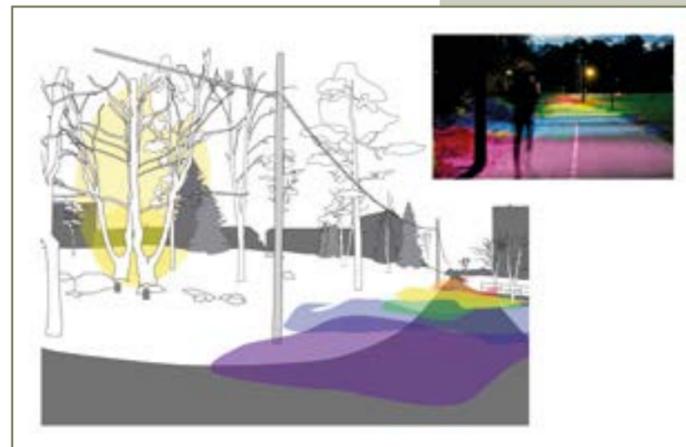
- To gain the support of city administrations, urban planners, architects, landscape designers, electrical engineers, lighting designers and other associated

disciplines.

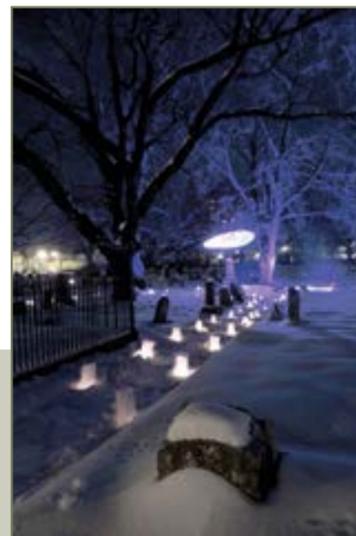
- To create attention, arouse public opinion, influence politicians and decision makers.
- To promote responsible energy use within lighting design.
- To persuade people that they have the right to expect good lighting.
- To never use sodium.

Hjulsta, Sweden

"We don't want any special treatment, we just want to be treated like all other areas."
Bahere Sadeghi, aged 19



Hjulsta is a suburb with a housing stock made for around 3,000 people. Today there are about 6,500 people living there, so overcrowding is a major problem. Immigrants and refugees make up the demographic. Children and young people are therefore forced to use the outdoor environment as a kind of extended living room and because there is no place for youth it often leads to fights and vandalism in the area. Working with lighting in a city centre is never questioned so the SLM aims to draw attention to the neighbourhoods that are in the periphery; physically, socially and economically. The Hjulsta workshop contacted local community groups, schools, housing associations, local council and street lighting departments to ensure they understood the intentions of the SLM and then under guidance, the participants were asked to create a concept for the chosen locations. They spent time developing their ideas, undertook mock-ups, liaised with local residents and finally presented their proposals to the relevant interested groups and to the residents themselves. Along the way the workshop participants spent time talking, dancing and playing football with kids and teenagers in the area to understand how their lives are shaped by the place they live in.



Olsson and Linder have implemented the first permanent design based upon an idea from the Hjulsta workshop by students. *The Forest* is located in the middle of a residential estate and the students design was to add colour and vibrancy to an essentially no-go area. Brightly coloured tree stumps for seating, illuminated bird feeders in the woods, coloured lights washing across the pathway on the ground and coloured trees. The solution was achieved using a catenary system to suspend lighting and negating the huge cost of burying fixtures and cables in the ground. In order to engage the community and advertise the scheme, an unusual opening event was held.

Providence, USA

"I saw the build up of huge interest, enthusiasm and connection people felt for the cemetery, the neighbourhood and each other. You brought Providence a wonderful gift and a vision of what is possible." Polly

Elettra Bordonaro has headed up the first SLM workshop in the US at the Rhode Island School of Design. The 'wintersession' was a five week program on public engagement and light, titled *Light, City and Community*. The school identified an organisation called SWAP (Stop Wasting Abandoned Properties) and Grace Church, the owners of a historical cemetery in South Providence that was in need of much love and attention. Despite being the only green space in the area, it was perceived as a dangerous and unattractive area. Fourteen international students from

the RISD's Industrial Design, Furniture Design and Architecture departments engaged with neighbourhood businesses and residents to find out what ideas and concerns about the cemetery existed. The class then worked in teams to create several ideas for installations, distilling their work into one final concept *Southlight* that was presented to all interested stakeholders. The class then had a race against time to secure donated luminaires, test the ideas, clear rubbish, negotiate deep snow and build the structures required.

The concept was based on 'the Tree' as

the main element of life and to provide a connection for the past, the present and the future of the community. Stories from the families buried in the graveyard were collected and along with stories of the existing community projected to personalise the space. The students also used 300 hundred candles in paper bags to create new paths to encourage to people to wander through the cemetery. The end result was opened to all in order to demonstrate how light can transform a neglected and unloved space.

risdurbaninterventions.wordpress.com