

## The Euroluce International Lighting Forum Light for Life. Light for Spaces

*Central to Euroluce 2025 will be two days – Light for Life. Light for Spaces – with twenty international speakers, including Robert Wilson and Marjan van Aubel, reflecting on the impact of lighting design. Hosted in the architect Sou Fujimoto's The Forest of Space Arena.*

Light will take on an increasingly **central role in the integrated and sustainable design of public and private spaces**, putting **the quality of life and the future of our planet at the centre**. From this standpoint, we set out to imagine the first edition of **The Euroluce International Lighting Forum**, a hub of knowledge and innovation for the future of lighting design, conscious that the trade fair must pay attention synergistically to both the commercial offering and to **the educational, informative and visionary demands and needs of professionals within the sector**. This new international event dedicated to **the culture of light** will champion **a broader reflection on the role of lighting in our daily lives and the spaces we inhabit** through a multidisciplinary approach.

**Carlo Urbinati, President Assoluce of FederlegnoArredo, had this to say:** *"Giving depth to spaces, characterising them, transmitting sensations, but also creating wellbeing and contributing to the liveability of spaces, both public and private. Telling the story of light from this perspective is the objective that we at Assoluce, part of FederlegnoArredo, have set ourselves together with the Salone del Mobile.Milano in organising The Euroluce International Lighting Forum, scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April at the Fiera Milano, Rho exhibition centre. This marks a real debut that, thanks to the input of experts within the sector, as well as those of biologists and anthropologists, will explore the meaning of light in a broad sense. Our hope is that by the end of the event, all participants will be more aware of the positive and negative effects that the use of this complex material can have on environments, people and even animals, and feel enriched and amazed by what they have heard, having embraced the idea that it is essential to move on from the sort of design that relegates the lighting project to the final phase, to the sort of design that puts light at the centre. We hope to attract a large audience of planners, architects and lighting designers, who are key players in building the future of the industry, creating direct relationships between exhibiting companies and decision makers, with a view to integrated and multidisciplinary design. Together, we want to build conscious design in which light creates added value, wellbeing and even safety, and is not just a simple commodity."*

Thus, the event marking the first edition of **The Euroluce International Lighting Forum – directed by Annalisa Rosso with the collaboration of APIL - Italian Lighting Designers Association** – will stimulate the exchange of ideas and **promoting innovation in the lighting world**. A two-day event (**April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>**) split into **6 masterclasses, 2 round tables and 2 workshops**, hosted in **The Forest of Space Arena (Pav. 2)**, designed by the Japanese architect **Sou Fujimoto**, one of the most on-trend architects of the last decade, creator of the Grand Ring, a wooden structure with a 2km circumference that will surround the national pavilions of the countries attending the Expo 2025 Osaka. In the same way, **The Forest of Space Arena, a project curated by VIV Arts**, will be built at **Euroluce** using vertically arranged natural pine beams, drawing inspiration from the organic vitality of forests and transforming the space into a fluid, layered experience that will encompass those who enter it, like a forest. An example of the intersection of art and architecture, which, as **Oliva Sartogo**, Co-Founder of **VIV Arts**, has said, conveys a new way of experiencing public space that is fluid, organic and open to transformation. The Arena embraces the principles of **biophilic design**, integrating nature into architecture and promoting a modular and adaptable language capable of rethinking public spaces as more open, inclusive and participatory places.

**Sou Fujimoto said:** *"The forest is one of the oldest sources of inspiration for humankind. It is a primordial space of encounter, exploration and discovery. The Forest of Space reworks this age-old concept, transferring it to a contemporary exhibition context and inviting the audience to reflect on how we want to shape our future. It is conceived in the manner of a mobile amphitheatre, easily assembled and disassembled, allowing people to freely experience movement and interactions, whilst also creating a profound sense of space. My architectural approach comes from chaos and nature, combining artefact and natural environment. It is a transitional space, between inside and outside, between order and organicity."*

Under the heading **Light for Life. Light for Spaces**, there will be masterclasses, panel discussions and workshops, led by **twenty international speakers** including lighting designers, architects, artists, set designers, scientists, biologists, anthropologists, astronomers, and psychologists invited to share visions, insights, and research and design practices geared to stimulating a deeper understanding of the future of lighting. **Light will, thus, be addressed not only in terms of its technological potential, but also through anthropological and philosophical reflection to understand what will guide its design in tomorrow's inhabited space.**

The talks scheduled for **10<sup>th</sup> April** will be organised under the theme **Light for Life**. Starting from the assumption that humans are born to live outdoors, where natural light influences them both biologically and psychologically, but that artificial lighting can also shape biological rhythms, is there a simple, scientific way to design positive lighting for humans and their wellbeing? For their happiness and comfort? What do we mean when we talk about Human Centric Lighting? These and many other questions will be answered by the speakers on the first day. Kicking off with a **masterclass by** Solar Designer **Marjan van Aubel**, who has always observed sunlight and wondered how this form of democratic energy could be used widely, as addressed in the Sunne project; followed by **Stefano Mancuso**, a pioneer in plant neurobiology, who will explore how humans can be inspired by the strategies adopted by plants to capture light and transform it into a source of well-being; and **Robert Wilson**, a renowned American artist, who will discuss his approach to light. In the afternoon, there will be a **Round Table** featuring **Nicholas Belfield**, a partner in **dpa lighting consultants**, an international lighting design firm that has chalked up more than 7,500 completed projects in 80 countries, including The Constellation, The Founder's Memorial, Abu Dhabi; **Rogier van der Heide**, a lighting designer who has lit some of the most iconic collective spaces, from the Olympic Stadium in Beijing to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam; **Shelley James**, a lighting strategy consultant at **Age of Light Innovations** and an international expert on light and wellness; **Manuel Spitschan**, since 2022 a Research Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics who also serves as Professor of Chronobiology & Health at the **Technical University of Munich**; **Piero Benvenuti**, Professor Emeritus of Astrophysics at the **University of Padua**. Finally, the afternoon workshop with **Adrien de Lassence**, dedicated to a selected number of lighting designers, will offer a practical and concrete analysis, bringing together all the themes, concepts and perspectives addressed on this first day.

The talks scheduled for **11<sup>th</sup> April** will be organised under the theme **Light for Spaces**. There is no doubt that artificial lighting has a radical impact on the aesthetics, perception and functionality of architecture. What are the strategies for enhancing spaces inhabited by humans and generating emotion? Will lighting design focus on indoor replication of the infinite variations of natural light or on the design of the object itself? How to balance the need for energy sustainability with the ambition to create culturally meaningful light design? The talks on this second day will discuss innovative solutions, from responsible lighting to smart technologies showing how, in architecture, light can tell stories, speak about cultures, and add meaning and value to the projects we experience, kicking off with a **masterclass by Kaoru Mende**, the Japanese lighting designer – whose best-known projects include the lighting designs for the Tokyo Station Marunouchi Building and the Sendai Mediatheque – who will

explore the present and future of lighting design from three different perspectives: innovation, sustainability and wellbeing; followed by **Patrick Rimoux**, an artist and light sculptor famous for his interventions on urban monuments, collaborations with Wim Wenders, Akira Kurosawa and Bollywood and, most recently, for the new lighting of the Notre-Dame de Paris; and **Lonneke Gordijn**, Artist and Co-Founder of **DRIFT**, a studio specialising in lighting sculptures, installations and performances that underscore the parallels between artificial and natural structures. In the afternoon, there will be another **Round Table discussion**, featuring **Susanna Antico**, Architect and Lighting Designer, and a Member of APIL (Lighting Professionals Association – Italy); **Hervé Descottes**, Lighting Designer, Founder and Owner of **L'Observatoire International**, known for his innovative and artistic approach to light, with projects such as the Qatar National Museum in Doha and the Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi behind him; **Mariel Fuentes**, Lighting Designer and Co-Founder of **MMAS Lighting**, specialising in architectural lighting design, whose projects include Transicions; **Timothy Ingold**, Professor Emeritus of Social Anthropology at the **University of Aberdeen**; **Elisa Orlanski Ours**, Chief Planning and Design Officer of **Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group**, a company that manages the marketing and sales of luxury real estate projects such as 56 Leonard and One High Line in New York; **Carla Wilkins**, President-Elect of IALD (International Association of Lighting Designers) and Senior Partner of **Lichtvision Design**, an international firm specialising in architectural lighting with projects such as Blue Cinema at Chur to its credit. Finally, the workshop with **A.J. Weissbard**, international lighting designer and artist, will offer to a selected number of lighting designers practical and functional insights, bringing together all the themes, concepts and visions covered over the course of the day.

## **The EuroLuce International Lighting Forum Light for Life. Light for Spaces**

10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April

The Forest of Space Arena by Sou Fujimoto

Directed by Annalisa Rosso, in collaboration with APIL

EuroLuce, Pav. 2

Fiera Milano, Rho

**10<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Light for Life**

Moderator: **Ed Stocker**, Europe Editor at Large Monocle

#### **WELCOME**

10.15 am

**Maria Porro**, President Salone del Mobile.Milano

**Carlo Urbinati**, President Assoluce, FederlegnoArredo

#### **MASTERCLASS**

10.30 am, in English

##### **Sunlighted**

**Marjan van Aubel**, Solar Designer

Solar design is more than a discipline, it's a new movement that revolves around designing with the sun. It shifts the narrative from solar being purely technical to a seamlessly integrated and beautiful part of our daily lives. It blends creativity, sustainability, and reverence for the sun and its abundant energy. As the conversation surrounding solar energy is shifting it's no longer solely technocratic, a matter discussed in terms of payback time and efficiency. It is the cheapest and most abundant energy source; solar energy has the potential to shape a post-fossil world. It is now time to use the power of design to integrate this more naturally and beautifully into our daily environment. Solar design, a term started by van Aubel herself, envisions a world where solar integration is essential, not just a technical aspect added later. Instead, it should be the starting point - the foundation of the design process. It is believed that in the future an object or building will be considered broken if it doesn't generate its own energy. How can we seamlessly integrate solar power into daily life while embracing aesthetics, interaction, and cultural values? How can we use this technology to create something beautiful that enriches our environment and the way we live together? Marjan van Aubel will give an historical overview of how we used to live and designed with the sun, what we can learn from this and how to design a post fossil future with the sun. Through example of her work, Sunne a self-powered solar light that mimics the sun, Ra a solar tapestry or the Solar pavilion, a solar mesh on an architectural scale, she will inspire and provoke the audience to see solar energy in a new light.

11.15 am, in Italian (simultaneous translation to English provided)

##### **Nutrirsi di luce (Nourish Oneself with Light)**

**Stefano Mancuso**, Plant Neurobiologist, Director International Laboratory of Plant Neurobiology, University of Florence

12.15 pm, in English

## **Creativity and the Transformative Power of Design**

**Robert Wilson**, Artist

**Maria Porro**, President Salone del Mobile.Milano

Exploring the connections between art and design and redefining creative intersections, Robert Wilson and Maria Porro, President of Salone del Mobile.Milano, will engage in a thought-provoking dialogue on creativity and design's transformative power. Their discussion will explore Wilson's five-decade career, emphasizing the interplay between art and design. At its core, the installation "Mother" reimagines Michelangelo's unfinished Pietà Rondanini, blending music, light, and imagery – Wilson's signature elements – to create an immersive experience. This project exemplifies how design and art intertwine, shaping space and emotion in profound ways. More than an installation, "Mother" is a meditation on the evocative power of space, demonstrating how artistic interventions transform perception. Accompanied by Arvo Pärt's Stabat Mater, it embodies Wilson's collaborative ethos, where visual, spatial, and sonic elements merge seamlessly. This conversation will illuminate how design extends artistic vision, dissolving boundaries and reshaping our experience of the world.

## **ROUND TABLE**

2.00 pm, in English

**Nicholas Belfield**, Partner dpa lighting consultants

**Piero Benvenuti**, Professor Emeritus of Astrophysics at the University of Padua

**Rogier van der Heide**, Lighting Designer

**Shelley James**, Lighting Strategy Consultant, Director Age of Light Innovations

**Manuel Spitschan**, Research Group Leader, Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics & Professor of Chronobiology & Health, Technical University of Munich

Light for Life is a dynamic discussion between experts in the field, exploring the central role of light in our daily lives. From its influence on our physical and mental wellbeing to its ability to improve the quality of life in public and private environments, light is a key element in our equilibrium. The participants will explore the latest research on the effects of lighting on health and human perception, highlighting the link between science and practice in lighting design. Innovative strategies for sustainable lighting combining energy efficiency and visual quality, reducing environmental impact will also be discussed. Through a dialogue covering research, technology and design, the round table will offer a complete overview of the challenges and opportunities for responsible lighting, focused on sustainability and people's wellbeing.

## **WORKSHOP**

3.45 pm, in English

### **Transparency, Flexibility and Sustainability**

**Adrien de Lassence**, Associate Director Sou Fujimoto Atelier Paris

The workshop explores sustainable lighting design that enhances energy efficiency and human-centric spaces. From the Forest of Light installation, which explores interaction and perspective through towering cones of light responding to visitors' movements, to the Learning Centre at the University of St. Gallen, where innovative architectural lighting enhances a future-oriented educational environment with high visual comfort—both designs integrate transparency and flexibility, complementing an architectural vision of openness and dialogue while upholding high sustainability standards. By using targeted lighting only where needed, the design enhances user experience while minimizing energy consumption, setting a benchmark for sustainable architectural practices. This

approach not only improves the ecological footprint but also fosters human-centric spaces that encourage collaboration and dynamic learning environments.

**11<sup>th</sup> April**

## **Light for Spaces**

Moderation: **Ed Stocker**, Europe Editor at Large Monocle

### **WELCOME**

10.15 am

**Maria Porro**, President Salone del Mobile.Milano

**Carlo Urbinati**, President Assoluce, FederlegnoArredo

### **MASTERCLASS**

10.30 am, in English

#### **The Role of Light and Shadow in Architecture**

**Kaoru Mende**, Lighting Designer

The world's greatest architecture is always imbued with the exquisite interplay of light and shadow. A captivating visual environment and a comfortable atmosphere are indispensable elements of architecture. Light has been continuously innovated across areas such as light sources, lighting fixtures, and control technologies, with lighting design evolving alongside the times. This lecture explores the present and future of lighting design through three perspectives: Innovation, Sustainability, and Wellbeing. Innovation is fuelled by advancements in technology. Progress in light source technology, cutting-edge lighting fixtures, and sophisticated control systems has brought unprecedented flexibility and precision to lighting design. However, the future of lighting design extends beyond mere aesthetics. With the growing emphasis on sustainability, there is increasing demand for energy-efficient lighting solutions. These include lighting powered by renewable energy, designs that maximize the use of natural light, and strategies to reduce light pollution. Furthermore, lighting design is evolving to prioritize human health and comfort. Beyond visual beauty, it aims to create spaces that foster harmony and well-being. Proper lighting has been shown to significantly affect health, mood, and productivity. By carefully considering factors such as colour temperature, brightness, and circadian rhythms, lighting design can promote health and enhance quality of life. This lecture will explore how these elements shape architectural environments, enrich experiences, and deepen the connection between people and spaces.

11.15 am, in French (simultaneous translation to English provided)

#### **LIGHT. An Instrument of Life and Revelation**

**Patrick Rimoux**, Light Sculptor

An exclusive masterclass on innovative approach to architectural illumination. Starting from his latest lighting design, the Notre-Dame de Paris project, and expanding to other prominent works by this sculptor of light, this session will explore how dynamic illumination enhances the monumental structure, emphasizing spatial perception and emotional resonance. Rimoux's approach integrates light points and projectors, each individually controlled to create fluid transitions in intensity and colour temperature – from the warm glow of candlelight to crisp daylight tones. The audience will gain insights into how lighting can sculpt architectural elements, highlight focal points, and adapt to different functions, from contemplative atmospheres to grand concert settings. Through this lecture, which explores the fusion of technology and artistic vision in architectural lighting, Rimoux will reveal the process behind creating luminous compositions that transform and elevate historic spaces.

12.15 pm, in English

## **Uniting People through Light and Motion**

**Lonneke Gordijn**, Artist, Co-Founder DRIFT

The presence or absence of light determines the atmosphere in a space. The presence or absence of motion determines the energy in a space. Throughout the last 18 years, artists and designers Ralph Nauta and Lonneke Gordijn, working under the name Studio Drift, have been developing room filling artworks and interactive installations using light and motion as the key factors with the aim to change the behaviour and emotions of people in the space. Working with architects, museums and private clients all over the world, we learned to understand how nature uses the same factors to align species and create strong ecosystems. As artists we actively search for this wisdom in nature and deliberately use these principles in our installations to tune people into the same frequency. Working on bringing people and environments together and uniting energies to create healthy and productive places. Through examples of different projects, Lonneke will elaborate on the creative and innovative processes that fuel their creations and their take on how healthy energetic people that are aligned can be the force to build a sustainable world. The power of communicating on an intuitive level through light and movement. And how technology can help to achieve living environments that activate peoples' brains.

## **ROUND TABLE**

2.00 pm, in English

**Susanna Antico**, Architect, Lighting Designer

**Hervé Descottes**, Lighting Designer, Founder L'Observatoire International

**Mariel Fuentes**, Lighting Designer, Co-Founder MMAS Lighting

**Tim Ingold**, Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Aberdeen

**Elisa Orlanski Ours**, Chief Planning, Design Officer Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group

**Carla Wilkins**, President-Elect IALD, Senior Partner Lichtvision design

Light is not just a functional element, but an essential component of spatial design, capable of influencing perception, emotions and human behaviour. The Light for Spaces round table will explore lighting design through an interdisciplinary approach, analysing the interaction between architecture, anthropology and science for more conscious design. Technological innovation is redefining the expressive possibilities of light, offering new solutions that combine creativity and sustainability. Experts in the field will discuss the role of light in building the identity of spaces, exploring its impact on perception and sensory experience. Lastly, the topic of integrated design will be addressed, highlighting how light can become a key element in the definition of private and public environments, improving wellbeing and quality of life. An open dialogue for imagining the future of lighting design.

## **WORKSHOP**

3.45 pm, in English

## **Temporary Light in Permanent Space: Creative Lighting Solutions for Museums and Exhibitions**

**A.J. Weissbard**, Lighting Designer

The workshop, led by A.J. Weissbard, aims to delve into the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual aspects, of creative lighting design for exhibition and museum spaces through a concrete case study: the lighting design and technical consultancy project created for the Armani/Silos. The teaching approach integrates the theoretical and the practical, offering participants insight into understanding the dynamics of light in different creative contexts, and the choices leading to the success of the project. The main objective is to provide a structured vision of lighting design as a transversal discipline, involving theater, dance, museums, architectural installations, multidisciplinary events, and fashion.

Introduced to and led through numerous examples of Weissbard's design work, participants have the opportunity to acquire a greater awareness of light as a narrative and expressive element, developing skills useful for design and technical consultancy in the artistic and scenographic fields. The workshop also aims to stimulate a critical and experimental approach, enhancing research and innovation in the field of lighting design. Finally, the importance of light in artistic education is emphasized, promoting an interdisciplinary dialogue between design, art and technology.

Architects registered with Italian CNAPPC (National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservationists) can earn 10 CFP by attending The Euroluce International Lighting Forum (5 CFP for Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, and 5 CFP for Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>). Access is free with a Salone del Mobile admission ticket. To ensure credit recognition, pre-registration is recommended on:

[www.salonemilano.it/en/events](http://www.salonemilano.it/en/events)