

CITATION

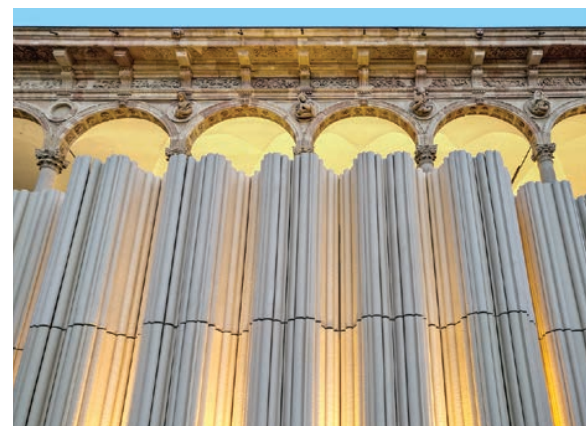
for Art Installation

Wave/Cave

Milan, Italy

PHT Lighting Design

Peiheng Tsai and Mariana Basilio Verdeja



“Wave/Cave: The wave that opens up to the sky. The cave that can only be inhabited in our minds.”

— Peiheng Tsai

SHoP Architects developed this 60 ton outdoor sculpture, fabricated from custom terracotta blocks, for the 2017 Milan Design Week. Designing the terracotta modules, negotiating an ideal location within the exhibition ground, and developing a viable assembly process while maintaining structural integrity challenged the design, fabrication, and installation teams. The sculpture’s final configuration was concluded just 3 months before installation began, leaving a compressed 8 week timeline for lighting design. Lack of information on the surrounding ambient light level – due to concurrent artwork installations – presented additional demands on an already-constrained timeline.

Lighting was strategically focused on the sculpture’s central structure, allowing the perimeter “walls” to act as both filter, blocking the surrounding incidental light, and reflector, dispersing the core lighting. A single, low-wattage spotlight fixture type was used on the entire project, streamlining the tight production and installation process.

As night fell, light emanated from the core and reflected outward, revealing the intricate patterns of the terracotta blocks. Narrow-beam, 2700K LED uplighting enhanced the richness of the clay-based material, then softly dispersed within the groupings. The glowing center invited passersby to pause, reflect, and slow the hectic pace of our contemporary life – just for a moment.

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