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eye opener

Éclats de verre, Montreal, Canada

‘Éclats de verre’ was one of three works that made up ‘Luminothérapie 2012’, a ‘Light Therapy’ festival that took place in the Quartier des Spectacles in Montreal. The goal of the event was to beat the winter blues using interactive light-based installations. Performing arts designers Félix Dagenais, Louis-Xavier Gagnon-Lebrun and Eric Gautron founded ATOMIC3 to create the installation that was produced by Michel Granger.

The installation transformed Place Émilie-Gamelin, located in the Latin Quarter, into a field of vibrant hues. Passers by were invited to enter a maze of 60 panes of multicoloured glass that came alive when touched by sunlight.

When night fell, spotlights took over, illuminating the esplanade with shifting multicoloured reflections. Across the square, the massive façade of Hotel des Gouverneurs became the backdrop for video projections, while the three sculptures by Melvin Charney overlooking the square to the north were bathed in light.

The spotlights guided visitors to the centre of the installation, where two glowing cubes awaited on a raised terrace. Set on pivoting bases equipped with sensors, the cubes were designed to affect the site’s lighting, soundscape and video projections. By simply moving them about, visitors could transform their immediate surroundings.

The video projections highlighted the architectural features of Hotel des Gouverneurs, giving visitors a chance to reshape its monolithic structure. In deconstructing the façade of this building overlooking the square, they took their lead from Charney, who used façade elements from the surrounding buildings to create his three sculptures.

www.atomic3.ca

Pic: Martine Doyon