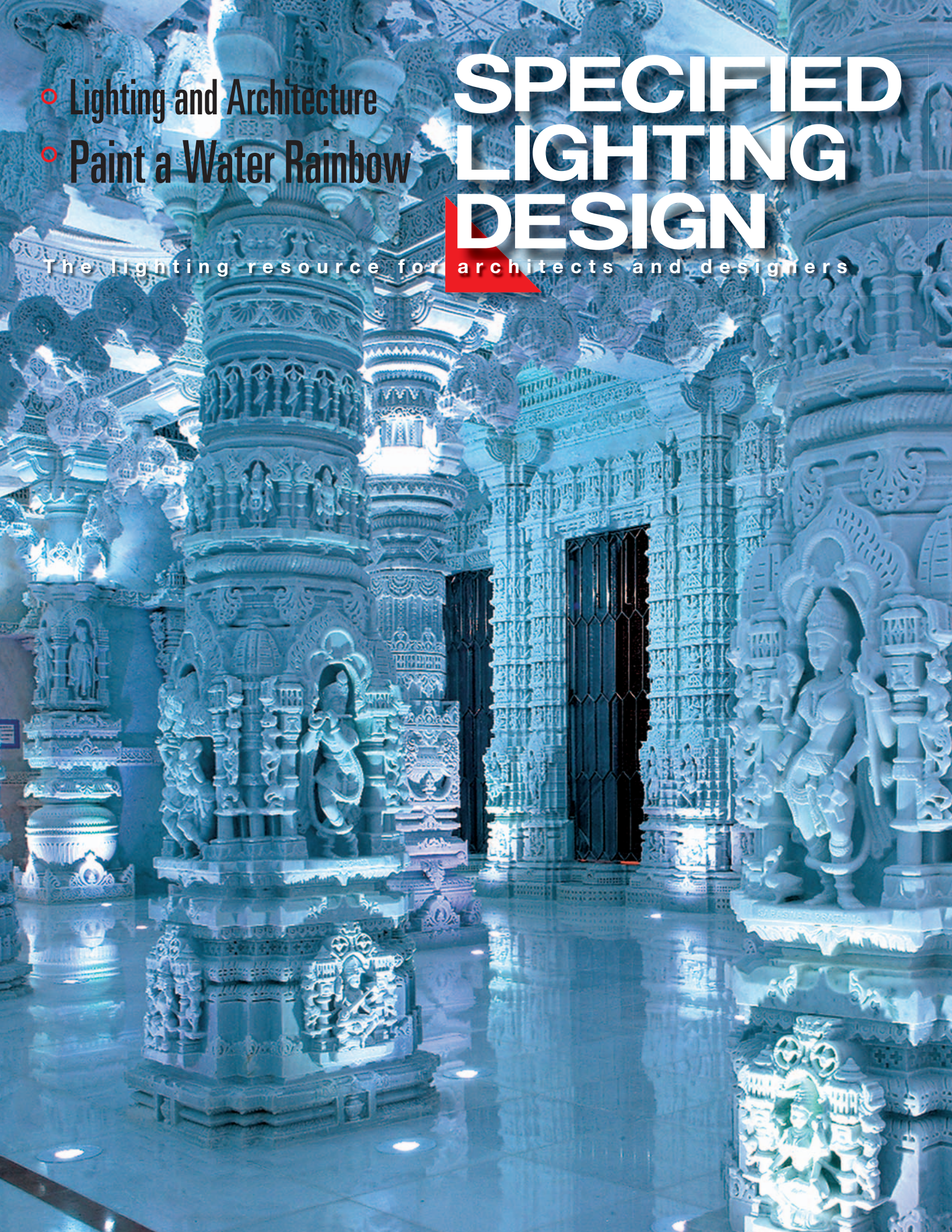


- Lighting and Architecture
- Paint a Water Rainbow

SPECIFIED LIGHTING DESIGN

The lighting resource for architects and designers



The proper display of religious idols and figurines required an extraordinary effort in lighting design.

Combining Tradition and Technology

Lighting a Hindu temple near Atlanta combines religious tradition and modern LED technology.

It's brand new, but centuries old. It's hand-carved from marble and limestone according to religious tradition, and its visual impact is made possible by cutting-edge technology. The Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a temple in Lilburn, GA, is a study in how the combination of ancient custom and modern technical partnership can create unique results.

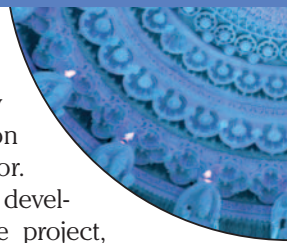
The project is a collaboration between North Star Lighting, Broadview, IL, a lighting solutions design and engineering firm; Lamina Lighting, Westampton, NJ, a developer and manufacturer of state-of-the-art, solid state LED light engines; and the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), a socio-spiritual organization that, to its followers, represents the Hindu religion in its purest form.

Mandirs (temples) are traditionally designed according to instructions for the construction of religious buildings written into scripture thousands of years old. Temple designers Bharat Patel, project engineer, and Sanjay Parikh, architecture and civil engineer, worked with principal architect Smallwoods, Reynolds, Stewart, and Stewart, Atlanta, as well as Mike Patel, director of engineering, North Star, who was responsible for the engineering and manufacturing work done by the company. The team developed the design of the 20,000-sq.-ft. building

that sits on a 25-acre site, as well as the preliminary lighting recommendation for the interior and exterior.

After the design was developed, Lamina joined the project, and the lighting specifications and custom design dictated by the highly ornate and unusual architecture began to fall into place. The building exterior is made of limestone and Italian Carrara marble. The interior is decorated with pink sandstone. The stone for the project was hand-carved in India and shipped piece-by-piece to the Georgia site, where it was reassembled according to ancient dictate.

The intricate, proper display of religious idols and figurines inside and outside the structure required an



Lighting a Hindu temple in suburban Atlanta was a collaborative work involving North Star Lighting and Lamina Lighting.



▼ Built from marble, limestone, and pink sandstone, the temple was shipped piece-by-piece from India.



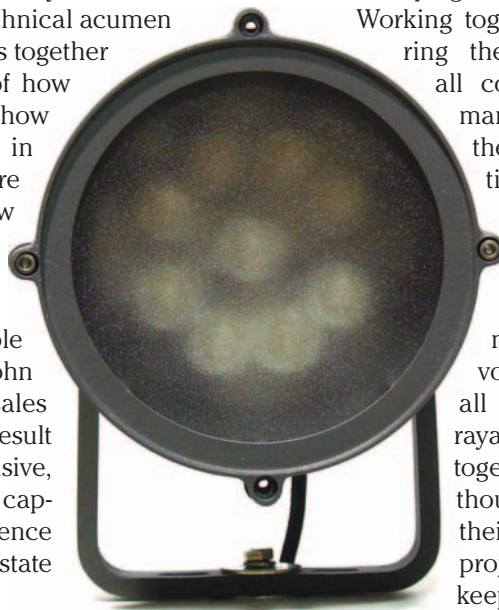
extraordinary effort in lighting design, both technically and logistically. “At one point, there was a section of marble that had already been carved out in India to accept a lighting product that had not even been designed yet,” said Tom Rotkis, vice president of sales and marketing, North Star Lighting. “They said, ‘this is how we want it to look’ and we said, ‘if that’s your concept, North Star will design a product to meet your needs.’ Thanks to Lamina, we were able to do that.” Lamina specializes in super-bright, solid-state LED lighting arrays that allow optimum light output and extraordinary heat management. The products, which also allow for color variability and sleek, compact designs, have introduced LEDs to applications that were, until recently, only possible

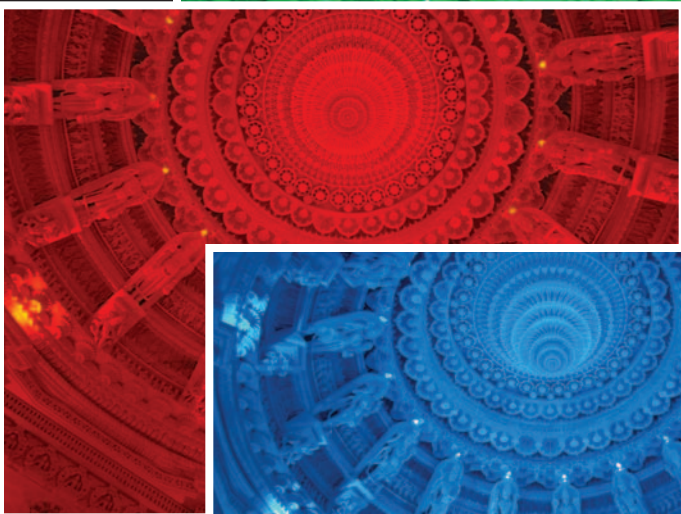
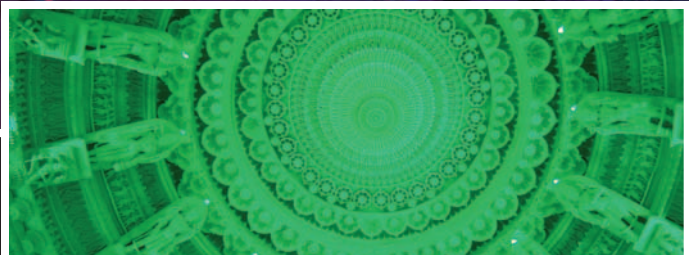
with traditional lighting sources.

The ability of North Star and Lamina to work as a team in response to the highly sensitive and unique needs of the BAPS project is a source of pride at both companies. “The team at North Star was great to work with. They have such insight and unique technical acumen for how to put things together logically in terms of how to drive the LEDs, how to package them in a fixture and, more importantly, how to integrate the whole thing into a unique environment like the temple stonework,” said John Ekis, director of sales for Lamina. “The result is beautiful, unobtrusive, and elegant. It really captures the whole essence of how to use solid-state lighting.”

North Star used more than 2,000 fixtures in its lighting design for the interior and exterior of the mandir. Products included Lamina Titan and Atlas LEDs integrated with North Star’s RAF series floodlights, recessed column lights, and recessed step lights.

Working together was a recurring theme in the overall construction of the mandir. Followers of the BAPS organization believe that spiritual and social activities should go hand in hand. According to custom, more than 10,000 volunteer laborers, all BAPS Swaminayan followers, came together to donate thousands of hours of their time to make the project a success and keep costs down. ▲





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