



BEST ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING: LUMINII

dSPACE Studio creates an inspirational space to show off the unique LED products available to architects and designers.

For its new lighting lounge, Luminii—a high-end architectural lighting company based in Niles—called on Kevin Toukoumidis and his team at dSPACE Studio to create a demonstration laboratory for designers and architects. Inspired by Luminii’s minimalist aesthetic in its LED options and artful atmospheric spaces, such as those by artists Dan Flavin and James Turrell, Toukoumidis created a series of floating planes and glowing lines that draw the eye in. “Entry to the light lounge is through an angled steel portal with sliding glass and steel doors,” explains Toukoumidis. “The effect is an intriguing and welcoming transition to the [light lounge].” Using the LED options Luminii has on offer, the dSPACE team integrated the various lighting formats to show the product’s versatility by providing plenty of ideas for spaces to work, lounge and entertain. “Their [lighting] is designed for tactile experiences ranging from hard to soft,” says Toukoumidis. “The effect is simultaneously inspirational and calming.” While the product is the top in its category, clearly the showroom design highlights its best qualities and capabilities. 7777 N. Merrimac Ave., Niles, luminii.com; 2920 N. Lincoln Ave., 773.423.2920, dspacestudio.com

BEST INTEGRATED REFRIGERATION: TRUE

An industry leader in the hospitality space celebrates a new showroom in the Merchandise Mart with a unique offering.

Known in the hospitality industry for more than 70 years, True recently opened the True Residential Design Showroom in LuxeHome at the Merchandise Mart, bringing its professional-quality products to designers and homeowners in an inspirational setting. One particular standout in its offerings is the 30-inch integrated column with a glass-door option. “Our new 30-inch columns redefine what’s possible in a luxury kitchen, offering designers and homeowners a new level of flexibility in space, design and functionality,” says Steve Proctor, True’s director of sales and marketing. Handcrafted in the United States, they feature 120-degree stay-open doors and True’s signature hinges and ergonomic tubular handles. “You can flank your range with two columns for a symmetrical design or stack them side by side to create a high-end, customized French-door aesthetic,” says Proctor. We love that the commercial heritage and quality of True is now available in a wine column format, with plenty of custom finishes and options to suit any space.

222 W. Merchandise Mart Plaza, Ste. 163, true-residential.com



Best Renovation: Randy Heller

A home surrounded by nature in Fort Sheridan is reimaged as a cozy entertaining space for empty nesters.

Coming into this project when it was completely gutted and down to the studs, Randy Heller was tasked with creating an urban-feeling space for casual entertaining while satisfying her clients’ luxuriously cozy life as empty nesters who appreciate nature. “It is very important to me to begin designing solutions from the beginning,” says Heller, “so that my clients have a happy home for years to come.” To that end, she reconfigured the kitchen so that it was part of an open living space but still had a separate dining room for more formal dinner parties. The original fireplace was closed up to get it out of the awkward corner it was in, and replaced with a ventless EcoSmart fireplace in the middle of the room. The cohesive neutral palette of grays and creams and textures like mohair and leather paired with sheer fabrics creates a feeling of openness and light. Along with rugs from Isberian Rugs, lighting from Visual Comfort and some pieces from Restoration Hardware, most of the furniture is custom-designed by Heller using a mix of metals and fabrics by HOLLY HUNT, Brentano and Kravet. “For me, design is an expression of who I am and how it relates to my clients,” says Heller. We’re sure her clients agree it relates very well. 836 Judson Ave., Highland Park, 847.926.7025, randyhellerdesign.com

