



2008 GE Edison Awards Special Citation

Rakovalkea - Dynamic Street Lighting of Rovakatu Rovaniemi, Finland



Photography by: Antti Hiltunen / VALOA design

The hometown of Santa Claus, Rovaniemi, is located on the Arctic Circle. Light around-the-clock in summer and darkness in the winter bring different shades to the arctic region's rhythm of life. This project earned a Special Citation for its community-responsive design. The effect of lighting in the midst of winter darkness creates a magical atmosphere in this city center.

The lighting design is dynamic and hints at an ancient fireplace, a slow-burning hearth called Rakovalkea. Seven visual programs, implemented with color-changing LEDs integrated into a custom column design, are designed to be applicable to peaceful, everyday life and also to periods of high tourist travel. The midnight sun, the beautiful blue light in the polar winter, and the changing spectrum of the northern lights form the basis for this design.

Effective and high-quality road lighting are also critical to this design. An indirect street lighting system on top of each column features GE 150-watt ConstantColor® CMH® 3000 K ceramic metal halide lamps, selected for their superior color qualities.



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Roope Siirainen



Arto Heiskanen



Marko Kuusisto