

SET UP WITH THE INTENTION OF BECOMING THE PROFESSIONAL BODY AND VOICE FOR THE LIGHTING INDUSTRY, THE LIGHTING FORUM IS GAINING GROUND RAPIDLY, PARTICULARLY IN THE ARCHITECTURAL FIELD. HERE WE FIND OUT WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES.



■ Peter Hucks and Diane Goslar, of Lighting Forum

THE QUEST FOR LIGHTING EXCELLENCE

Any profession worthy of the title needs an official governing body to act as both its mouthpiece and its watchdog.

Although there are separate associations for lighting designers and lighting manufacturers, there has not, until recently, been an association that encompasses the lighting industry as a whole. But when you consider that lighting is one of the younger professions, having made the quantum leap from the almost-dark ages to the age of light in little more than a hundred years, this is not so surprising.

The Lighting Forum was established four years ago by lighting designers and consultants as a totally independent association in Britain. Its principal aim is 'to advance and stimulate lighting excellence'.

Current president of the Lighting Forum is Peter Hucks, senior lighting designer at Lighting Design Limited, based in Hammersmith, West London.

He explained, 'What we wanted to do was to bring lighting design specialists into closer contact with the lighting industry and to provide clients with a body to advise them on such matters as terms of engagement, ethics



■ Munamar Hotel, Turkey: *Miniature halogen starlights and downlights.*

and professional practice. Prior to the Forum we operated without any general set of standards to work to.

'An important benefit of the Forum has been the opportunity it has given lighting designers to meet with lighting manufacturers and other design disciplines to swap ideas and to discuss future trends and needs.'

So far the emphasis has been

unashamedly on architectural lighting.

He went on, 'Lighting designers often have to go through the whole design process with architects to get them to appreciate what we are trying to achieve. We provide expert support to help architects become more efficient with their designs and more effective with their lighting solutions.'

'Our intention is to broaden the scope to include all aspects of lighting design, including theatrical, film and television.'

Further credence is given to the work of the Forum by the fact that it is affiliated to the Chartered Society of Designers, who indeed nominally 'house' the Forum and provide it with a headquarters in Bedford Square, London.

'Links with the Chartered Society of Designers are proving invaluable,' said Peter. 'Its Colour Group — which meets to forecast trends in colours for product, industrial and commercial design — is, for instance, in discussion with us to establish joint seminars and projects on the effects of lighting on colour.'

In line with the professional status sought by the Forum, the long-term aim is to establish it on a par with the RIBA.