

DESIGNING A MODULAR BREED OF LUMINAIRES

BY KEVIN COTE

Joe Thornley creates the Windsor Range for Lee Colortran



GERHARD KASSNER

The problem with designing new luminaires is that every move is somehow determined by the range which precedes them," says Joe Thornley, the development and design manager at Lee Colortran, the British based lighting manufacturing division of Lee Panavision International, and one of the world's largest manufacturers of lighting and lighting consoles for film and television.

And Joe Thornley certainly knows about lights. When Lee Colortran approached him in the summer of 1987 with what he calls "the opportunity of a lifetime" — a carte blanche assignment to develop the company's first range of luminaires to be sold outside of the United States — he was working for Strand Lighting, a division of the Rank Organization.

As a product manager at Strand, Thornley had just finished providing the company's research and development team with specifications for a major new range of theatre luminaires called Cantana. At the same time, Lee Colortran, already a rival to Strand for television and film lighting equipment, was seeking to expand aggressively into the theatre lighting sector. Over the past two years Lee Colortran has been developing the Master series, its new range of dimming and control equipment for the stage.

■ Joe Thornley (1) designed the Windsor range so that it can be quickly modified to house a variety of lens tubes, a fresnel or plano-convex lens, and 1000 or 1200 watt lamps (2).

● Joe Thornley (1) a conçu les Windsor de manière à qu'ils puissent être rapidement modifiés pour contenir une variété d'objectifs, allant d'un Fresnel à des plano-convexes, et des lampes de 1000 ou 1200 watt (2).

▼ Joe Thornley (1) hat die Windsor-Anlage so entworfen, dass sie schnell verändert werden kann, um eine Anzahl verschiedener Tubusreihen, Stufen- oder planconvexe Linsen sowie 1000 oder 1200 Watt-Lampen unterzubringen (2).

GESCHAFT