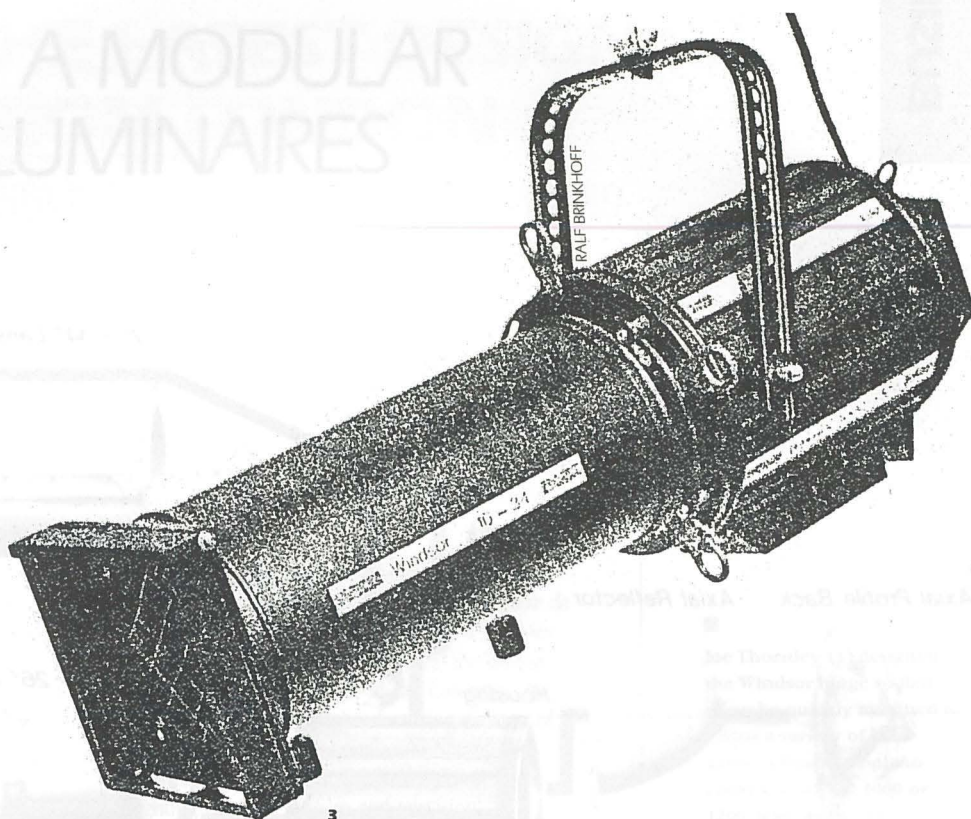


Lee Colortran's new line of theatre luminaires, the Windsor range (3), is an integrated family of 10 luminaires, constructed from 15 interchangeable design modules, allowing numerous mix-and-match accommodations.

La nouvelle gamme des luminaires de théâtre de Lee Colortran, le Windsor (3), est une famille intégrée de 10 luminaires, construits avec 15 modules décoratifs interchangeables, permettant de nombreuses combinaisons possibles.

Lee Colortrans neue Art der Theaterbeleuchtung, die Windsor-Anlage (3), besteht aus einer integrierten Familie von 10 Scheinwerfergrundmodellen, die mit 15 austauschbaren Modulen konstruiert werden und eine Vielzahl von immer neuen Zusammensetzungen erlauben.



With its Master series control desks and accessories already on the market, Lee Colortran now needed someone to design a range of luminaires in order to offer its customers a complete lighting package. Thornley got the job.

"They said we'll put up the money, you design the product," recalls Thornley, a soft-spoken electrical engineer who started his career as a technician with the Mole-Richardson Company. "What appealed to me most was that I was to have a clean drawing board, no holds barred. This was quite novel. It hadn't happened to me before in the thirty years I've been working with lights. In all the other projects I've worked on, we've had to develop new luminaires on the basis of the range that went before. This wasn't the issue at Lee Colortran."

"I realized that you couldn't really improve on the basic technology of the luminaire, so it was difficult to establish an approach different from other manufacturers," says Thornley. For inspiration, he worked backwards from the user, or lighting designer, to the factory floor manager to develop a wish list of features the Windsors should incorporate.

From three decades of working with professionals in film, theatre, and television, Thornley knew

two things: one, that sales people were screaming for a complete range of luminaires that could be available for immediate delivery from stock at all times; and, two, that factory managers were famous for complaining about lead time, needing longer periods of time in which to produce instruments from scratch.

Thornley's major concerns in designing the new line were safety, efficiency in manufacturing, and how the new luminaires could ease the supply and stocking problems. It wasn't long before Thornley had the answer: "Why not make a set of building bricks that can be put together in a few minutes, using common parts?"

With that idea in mind, Thornley began to design the components of the basic Windsor lamp. The interchangeability of the various modules he created meant that the luminaire could be quickly modified to accommodate different lens tubes, a fresnel or plano-convex lens, even 1000 or 1200 watt lamps. This modular concept avoids manufacturing entire lamps to fill specific orders, which takes a lot of time, and stocking hundreds of different lamps, which results in expensive inventories.

The Windsor range is actually an integrated family of ten luminaires, constructed from 15 in-