



○ Architects of Air

*"A luminarium meets a need in people,
it offers a space somewhere between
a womb and a cathedral"*

A luminarium is a sculpture people enter to be moved to a sense of wonder at the beauty of light and colour.

Since 1992, over 2 million visitors in 40 countries across 5 continents have immersed themselves in the spectacular, luminous world of Architects of Air.



Since 1992 Architects of Air's luminaria have made over 600 exhibitions in 40 countries. From Berlin to Brooklyn, Hong Kong to Hawaii, Taipei to Tel Aviv, Sao Paulo to the Sydney Opera House, the monumental walk-in sculptures of Architects of Air have enchanted audiences around the world.

Architects of Air build 'luminaria' – monumental inflatable structures designed to generate a sense of wonder at the beauty of light and colour.

A luminarium is a dazzling maze of winding paths and soaring domes where Islamic architecture, Archimedean solids and Gothic cathedrals meld into an inspiring mix of design and engineering.

The luminaria are designed by company founder, Alan Parkinson, who started experimenting with pneumatic sculptures in the 1980s. They are made at the company base in Nottingham (UK) using a plastic produced solely for Architects of Air. Only four colours of plastic are used to generate a great diversity of subtle hues.

Every luminarium is an original design. All the luminaria are modular and can be configured according to different site requirements. Each luminarium is made up of around 20 elements that are zipped together on site to typically occupy an area of 1000 square metres.

Easy to erect, laying out the structure and anchoring can take as little as 4 hours then, in just 20 minutes, the luminarium is inflated to its monumental size.

The domes rise up to 10 metres high and provide the main focal points. The convoluted tunnels determine the journey the visitor will take. The luminaria also feature at least 30 'pods' that are alcoves where people can sit and relax out of the way of the other visitors.

"The luminaria are successful precisely because they have that Le Grand Meaulnes quality of transforming a place, making a magical event, then quietly disappearing".

Hugh Pearman, Sunday Times





A SENSE OF WONDER

Visitors remove their shoes before entering an airlock. Once inside they can wander freely or just lay back and enjoy the ambience of the structure. The first reaction is often one of delight at the unexpected beauty of the light.

The radiance of the daylight transmitted by the coloured pvc of the luminarium is surprising in its luminosity and makes a direct impact on the senses.

Through labyrinthine tunnels and cavernous domes, visitors move in a medium of saturated and subtle hues. Vivid reflections of liquid colour spill across the curved walls creating a world apart from the normal and everyday.

Visitors are excited to discover how different colours blend or resonate; how they transform faces and clothing. Some explore, following their maps through the maze immersing themselves in radiant colour.

No two visits to a structure are alike as the atmosphere inside alters according to changing weather and changing light outside. The experience is also affected by how the public inhabits the luminarium.

It is a paradox that such a stimulating environment can simultaneously be so calming. Many people find the luminaria a place for rest or meditation.

Visitors try to put their experience into words – comparing the experience to like walking through a stained glass window, like a futuristic space station, or like inside a gigantic strange breathing organic but comforting creature.

Sometimes the structure may be animated by a musician or a storyteller but, more often, the space is enjoyed in its simplicity. As such, it is appreciated by people of all ages from all backgrounds

In the course of the exhibition as many as 2000 visitors per day may have passed through the luminarium to have been touched by a sense of wonder at the beauty of light and colour.

“It is just impossible to describe what you see. I was amazed by the colours. I felt like a pilgrim must have felt visiting the new Canterbury Cathedral.”

“Suddenly the world outside seemed to be forgotten, we had all been transported into a whole other world of light.”

“The effect as you wander through is simultaneously disorienting and comforting, stimulating and serene. This is a place for respite, re-charge or both.”

“Transformative. People seemed to be taken...brought back to a place of tranquility and joy»



As well as giving the visitor an awe-inspiring arts experience, a luminarium gives the following benefits:

BROADEST APPEAL - a luminarium is for everyone. Appreciated by all ages, all cultures, all abilities including the elderly and wheelchair users. A luminarium is the most inclusive offering.

A POWERFUL MAGNET - AoA's luminaria are often a highly visible centrepiece to a festival. The appearance of this ephemeral cathedral of air is a spectacular intervention in the everyday urban environment and a huge attraction to passers-by.

HUGE MEDIA COVERAGE - The luminaria are enormously photogenic. Most exhibitions will attract TV coverage and often live broadcast. Front-page photos in the press are not unusual. One Press Association photo was seen by 100s of millions of people around the world.

A MOST VERSATILE FORM OF ART - all luminaria are modular and can be adapted to different sites. They can operate in most weathers. They are successful in their own right and can also be used for many additional functions - performance, workshops, illumination, education, and more.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE- AoA has built a strong reputation for reliability over 18 years of international touring whilst maintaining a 100% safety record. Over 50% of all AoA bookings are repeat bookings.

STRONG SPONSOR APPEAL- offering a wide range of possibilities for publicity and hospitality, a luminarium can be a great platform for raising a sponsor's visibility.



LUMINARIA ON TOUR

Architects of Air has toured its luminaria around the world since 1992. They have been seen in a great variety of contexts: at festivals of music, theatre, science & dance, at arts centres & museums, at community, corporate & school events, architecture & design related events, etc. The luminaria are also presented as a stand-alone event e.g. as part of a civic summer programme.

The best way to get an understanding about the practicalities of presenting a luminarium is to experience one for yourself! Look up www.architects-of-air.com/touring.html or subscribe to our mailing list for latest tour updates. There you will find regularly updated information to enable you to make a visit or to take the opportunity to join a tour.

In 2013-2014, Architects of Air are touring 5 luminaria Pentalum, Exxopolis, Miracoco, Mirazozo and Amococo

For nearly an hour I explored my environment in a light that appeared liquid in nature. It constantly blended, radiated, resonated, and transformed my surroundings. The calming effect of the structure was unlike anything I have experienced. Maya Gonzales Berry, Visitor in Perth - November 2010

Every once in a while something comes along that is just so different and interesting, it's hard to put into words. That's how I felt about Architects of Air. Ann, visitor in Omaha, USA - June 2012



Built in 2013, Pentalum is a celebration of the beauty of geometry. The luminaria have long used forms based on the Platonic solid, the dodecahedron, and the variants subsequently described by Archimedes and Catalan.

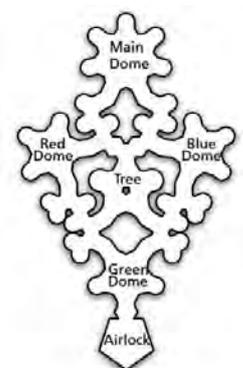
The pentagon is the base for the main structure elements, with the exception of the main dome, which, in order to achieve more volume, is heptagonal in form and as such still maintains the sought-after asymmetry.

The main dome continues the endeavour to master the rendering of muqarnas dome-like surfaces that was successful on a smaller scale on Exxopolis. The tree occupies the centre space and this time the tree trunk is also 5-sided instead of the usual six-sided trees of previous structures.

Full configuration

Length: 55.5m / 182ft

Width: 29m / 95ft





EXXOPOLIS



Exxopolis is Architects of Air's 20th luminaire completed in 2012, the 20th year of the company. Exxopolis is the first luminaire to be mainly designed on computer and the new technology has permitted very-wide ranging experiment.

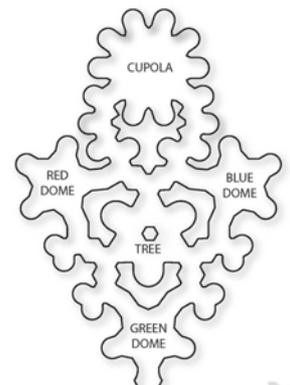
One of Exxopolis' attractions is the radiant red tree that spreads its luminous branches high over the centre space.

The *pièce de résistance* is the main dome, 'the Cupola', that the visitors discover after journeying the length of the luminaire. In that cavernous space they are surrounded by 10 scintillating 'stained glass' windows that rise over 7 metres off the ground. The windows' design is based on Penrose tiling. They are composed of over 1,000 pieces of plastic assembled by Nottingham community groups. Above the windows spreads a *muqarnas*-style ceiling crowned by an iridescent finial.

Full configuration

Length: 53.5m / 175ft

Width: 29m / 95ft



MIRACOCO



Miracoco was built in 2011 and closely resembles its sister structure Mirazozo in terms of the visitor's journey and the arrangement of its spaces.

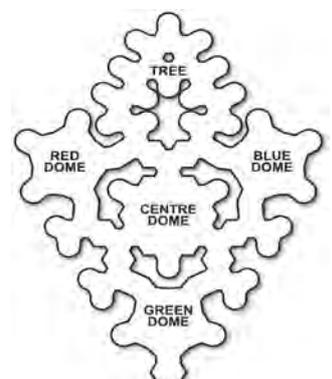
Its distinctive element is in the rendering of domes. As in Mirarazozo the geometric solid, the dodecahedron, provides the basis for the outer domes but in Miracoco the geometry is made more precise by using reinforced restraints to define the form. The engineered design and the working of the illuminated seams enhance the sense of underlying structure.

Miracoco's Centre Dome features 12 outer domes to create an imposing structure redolent of the Lotus Temple of India. Inside the visitor discovers a spiral lattice of scintillating points of light that shine from a field of shimmering hues.

Full configuration

Length: 55.5m / 182ft

Width: 32m / 105ft



MIRAZOZO



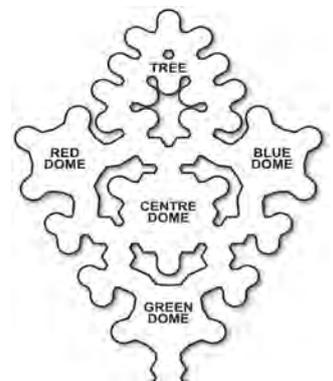
Built in 2010, Mirazozo takes the cruciform ground plan that was the basis of the 'Levity' series of luminaria.

The distinguishing feature of Mirazozo is the use of an 'illuminated seam' where luminous seam lines create an exploding lattice of light that has been likened by some commentators to a firework display. The pattern of these neon-like strips induce the viewer's gaze to shift between different perceptions of the same view – an effect one encounters in the contemplative geometric surface design of Islamic art and architecture.

Mirazozo's Centre Dome design was based on the physical principles underlying soap bubbles and how they join. Mirazozo was conceived to be very modular and to permit compact configurations.

Full configuration

Length: 55.5m / 182ft
Width: 32m / 105ft



AMOCOCO



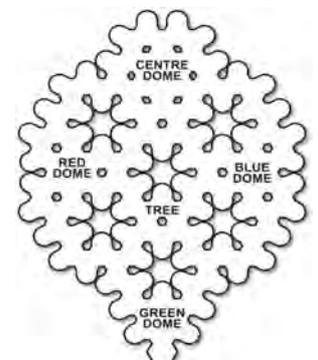
Amococo is based on a hexagonal grid and is the most labyrinthine of the luminaria. In addition to the four large domes it features 86 small 'triaxial' domes and 71 pods that together create a complex of pathways where the visitors may happily lose themselves.

Built in 2008, one of Amococo's common visual motifs is the 'oculus' – an ovoid window that allows light to gently diffuse into the domes. This is most subtly effective in the cupola of the central dome where the ceiling resonates with a soft wash of rainbow colours.

Amococo is the largest luminarium and has the potential to be set up in a very long narrow configuration approaching 80 metres in length.

Full configuration

Length: 51m / 167ft
Width: 29m / 95ft



WHERE THE LUMINARA HAVE BEEN



Luminaria are exhibited in a range of contexts: arts festivals, theatre festivals, science festivals and often as exhibits in their own right. Here follows a small selection of the 500 exhibitions since 1992:

Australia	Sydney Opera House
Austria	Vienna Wiener Stadtfest
Belgium	Zomer van Antwerp
Brazil	Filo Festival, Londrina
Canada	Toronto Harborfront
China	Lantern Festival, HK
Czech Rep.	Prague Castle
Denmark	Metropolis, Copenhagen
Dubai	Winter Festival
England	South Bank, London
France	Le Quai, Angers
Germany	Laokoon Hamburg
Greece	Tinos Festival
Holland	Oerol Festival
Hungary	Sziget Festival
Ireland	Galway Arts Festival
Israel	Mediathèque, Holon
Italy	Pennabilli Street Festival
Korea	Tancheon Arts Festival
Lithuania	Capital of Culture 2009
Mexico	Zapopum, Guadalajara
New Zealand	Auckland Festival
Norway	Bergen Intern'l Festival
Oman	Muscat Arts Festival
Poland	Non Stop, Wroclaw
Portugal	Centro Culturel Belem
Qatar	City of Joy, Doha
Romania	White Night, Bucharest
Russia	Kolomenskoe
Singapore	National Museum
Scotland	Edinburgh Fringe Festival
Slovenia	Exodos Festival, Ljubljana
Spain	Guggenheim, Bilbao
Sweden	Stockholm Water Festival
Taiwan	'Create Britain', Taipei
Switzerland	Storytelling Festival, Basel
U.S.A.	Art Basel, Miami
Venezuela	Festival de Los Artes
Wales	Cardiff Castle

Full list available on the touring page of our website

WHAT THE PROMOTERS SAY

It was such a pleasure to have your team here, who were wonderful ambassadors for Architects of Air. Mirazozo was a huge success, possibly the most attended presentation ever at Sydney Opera House (we can't be sure) and certainly one of the projects we feel most proudest of from our Summer season. Jonathan Bielski, Head of Programming, Sydney Opera House.

"A sanctuary of the senses in the middle of the Valencia - Levity II proved to be an unprecedented success with both media and the public." Marivi Martin, Director, Festival VEO, Spain

"The structures are very unique, not only because of the concept, but also because of the exhibition period during several days. It gives an opportunity for successful marketing and media coverage. We only dealt with happy visitors!!!!" Reggy Barra, Managing Director, Theater de Stoep, Netherlands

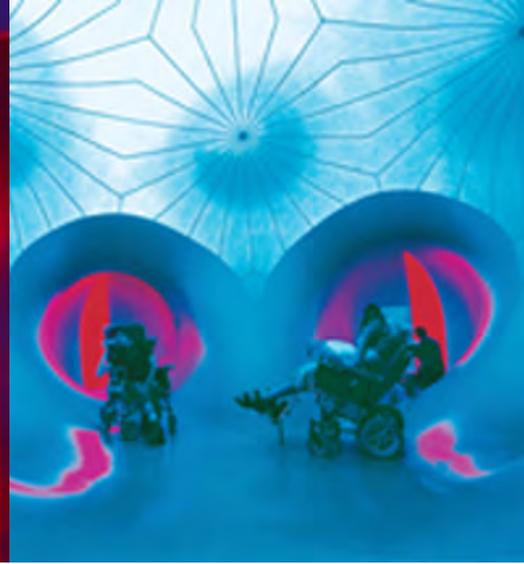
"I have never seen so many happy faces." Miran Sustersic, Director, Exodos Festival, Ljubljana, Slovenia

"A really immersive, inspiring, spiritual and accessible space and a great way to engage a diverse range of local communities as well as attracting the passing tourist trade." Maria Bota, Director, Salisbury International Arts Festival, UK

"Arcazaar had exceptional promotional power for our exhibition 'Ten Centuries of Architecture' in Prague Castle. The public response was highly emotive and globally positive." Dana Machackova, Curator, Prague Castle, Czech Republic

"The first day was thrilling. We had 1438 visitors to Amozozo. Yesterday, despite wet weather we had over 1300 visits. We had good radio and television coverage and the front page of the Otago Daily Times – two magical photos and an enthusiastic story. Thank you so much for your creativity, your team and your co-operation in getting this unique exhibition to our Festival". Nicholas McBryde, Director, Otago Festival of the Arts, New Zealand

"The unique quality of the luminarium is to bring a wholly different experience to an outdoor setting. I was surprised by the number of and variety of social and cultural groups of general public who visited the luminarium. It was a great "leveller" of an experience." Jon Hogan, Events Manager, Gloucester, UK



TOURING SCHEDULE

A regularly updated touring schedule is available on www.architects-of-air.com/touring.html

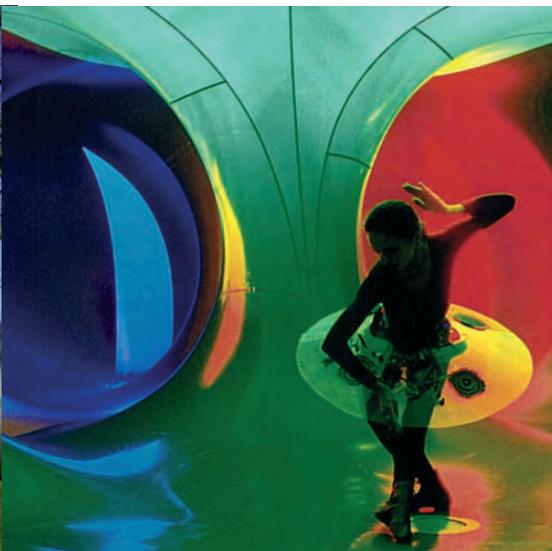
MEDIA

The luminaria are very photogenic and attractive to the media and therefore offer exceptional promotional potential. There are numerous available links online that feature photos and videos about Architects of Air.

www.architects-of-air.com/media.html

A MOST VERSATILE FORM OF ART

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