



Skira's Dynamic Lighting Design Brings Croatia's Iconic Tunnel into the Future

Header: Danijel Bartolic

The Učka Tunnel, a vital link between Istria and mainland Croatia, has undergone a transformative upgrade with the completion of its second tube. The milestone was celebrated on September 13, 2024, in a ceremony Croatia's Prime Minister attended. The tunnel now represents a symbol of innovation and regional pride.

Skira Architectural Lighting, led by **Dean Skira**, earned the prestigious **LIT Lighting Design Award for Bridges and Public Infrastructure Lighting** for this amazing project. Their work goes beyond functionality, **turning the tunnel into an artistic**

and immersive experience that reflects Istria's cultural and natural beauty.



Photo Credit: Danijel Bartolic

A steel curtain rooted in Istrian identity

One of the project's highlights is a **corten steel curtain wall** at the tunnel entrance, designed to evoke the region's characteristic red, dry earth. Complementing this, the project



visually striking gateway to the tunnel. This architectural statement **seamlessly blends natural inspiration with modern technology**, setting a new standard for infrastructure design.



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Dynamic lights inspired by nature

Beyond the corten wall, Skira's **lighting design integrates ten unique scenarios** that reflect Istria's diverse seasons and iconic winds, the Bura and Jugo. These dynamic scenes, projected onto the administrative building and surrounding areas, also capture winter snowfalls, **immersing viewers in the rhythm of the region**. The lighting scenarios transition automatically each evening until midnight, or 10 p.m. in winter, harmonizing with the natural environment.



Photo Credit: Danijel Bartolic

Energy efficiency meets stunning design

Skira's approach prioritizes environmental responsibility without compromising visual impact. The lighting system features **energy-efficient technology and centralized controls**, reducing energy consumption and maintenance costs. By syncing the system with seasonal changes and sunset timings, the design **balances sustainability and functionality**.



Photo Credit: Danijel Bartolic

An immersive experience for travelers

As millions of travelers pass through the Učka Tunnel, they will encounter a design that merges technology and timeless beauty. This **innovative lighting enhances safety and functionality and** creates a memorable journey, celebrating the essence of Istria and the power of sustainable design.

The project exemplifies the creative synergy between **Skira** and **Bina-Istra**, who entrusted the team with full creative freedom. **Christian Santaleza, Technical Director at Bina-Istra**, praised the collaboration:

“The integration of the corten steel sculpture and lighting transformed the tunnel into a remarkable experience. Together,

we achieved an extraordinary result that will stand the test of time.”



Photo Credit: Danijel Bartolic



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Project info

Company: [Skira Architectural Lighting](#)

Lead Designers: Dean Skira

Other Designer: Bozidar Pustijanac, Dean Matika and Antonio Osip

Client: Bina-Istra d.d.

Photo Credits: Danijel Bartolic

Project Location: Istria, Croatia



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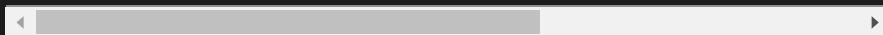
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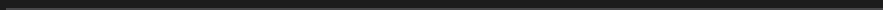


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