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HERITAGE LIGHTING: BASIS FOR THE RENOVATION OF ARGENTINA'S NATIONAL FLAG MONUMENT

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The National Flag Monument is located at Rosario city, on the west bank of Parana river. It was placed there fifty years ago, on June 20th 1957. The Municipality of Rosario decided the renewal of the lighting system of the monument to celebrate its anniversary.

The Monument is a magnificent architectonic expression, consisting of three main sectors each built of travertine marble: the Tower, the Propileum and the Civic court yard, as shows the figure. The whole set covers approximately 10.000 squared meters.



The Lighting Department of the UNT was commissioned by the Planning Secretary of the Municipality to set the goals and boundaries in the design of the lighting of the monument, including the selection of technologies and types of lighting fittings to achieve the objectives.

The task began with the definition of objectives, areas to be lighted and the entire scope of the project. These can be summarized as follow:

- Preservation of the cultural heritage. The requirements applied to the lighting system should assure minimum of interventions and maximum of reversibility of them, maximum of documentation (graphic and photographic as well as historical and technical) minimum of visual impact of the lighting fittings and absolute prioritization of the global appraisal.
- Sharp control of the impact of the lighting. The urban area where the Monument is placed has several civic functions: residential, recreational, turistic attraction, meet



point and meeting place. Due to this, it is mandatory to control the impact upon the environment, as well as on the well-being and safety of residents, drivers and visitors of the place (limiting glare, controlling lighting operation period, avoiding intrusive light, minimizing upward emission of light, etc.).

- Careful selection of the equipment to be employed, in order to achieve higher standards in energy efficiency; photometric adequacy; electrical, mechanical and thermal behaviour; control facilities; compatibility; availability and global performance.
- Maintenance of the lighting system, which should be strictly taken into account.

On these basis, the advisory work including the lighting design of the Monument, resulting in a set of recommendations, plots, simulations and renderings, lighting fittings specifications, etc., which act as guidelines to the firm or firms selected to bring it into conformity.

The paper describes the entire process of lighting design of the Monument, the results achieved mainly by the introduction of new technologies as LEDs luminaires and color changer systems, and the Monument as can be seen after the renewal was finished.