



The buildings located in the historic site of Brussels Place du Grand Sablon retain their beautiful aesthetic as a result of being placed under the protection of the Cultural Heritage Authorities. Although new businesses are allowed to take up residence in the area, there are strict guidelines relating to the building and no installations can be allowed if they would cause changes to either the façade or interior of the building.

The buildings are a delight as a result of their historic atmosphere, but the restrictions meant a difficult task for lighting designer Gilbert Moity, who was invited to create a lighting centrepiece for the store. The finished piece is an installation that appears to be floating in the air above the display of treats created by chocolate artisan Patrick Roger.

The store itself is narrow, and so the focus of the store design was to create a space in which customers could easily move around the centre, which is occupied by a giant bronze sculpture and the display of chocolates. The request made to Gilbert Moity was for a lighting design work that would be suitable to go alongside the central sculpture, and also integrate with the general lighting within the store.

Roger's chocolate creations are often inspired by nature, so Moity had the idea to create a kind of hanging forest that floated above the sculpture. Given the long narrow shape of the store, and the considerable height made available by high ceilings, the lighting designer decided to create a suspended artwork, comprised of 90 tubes of different lengths arranged in a sporadic fashion that can be perceived as one unique two coloured object that dominates the space.

Light from the design radiates to the centre of the store, and three other LEDs are installed at the bottom of each tube to direct lighting onto the surface of the bronze sculpture, accentuating the chocolates on show.

Gilbert Moity's design clearly feeds on an interest in engineering and highlights the technological competences that define many of his objects. He was also put in charge of creating the full light for the store, which was specially designed to compliment the creation of central light.



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