

**SPEIRS
MAJOR**

Thematic Districts, Expo 2020 Dubai,
UAE

**LIGHT
ARCHITECTURE**

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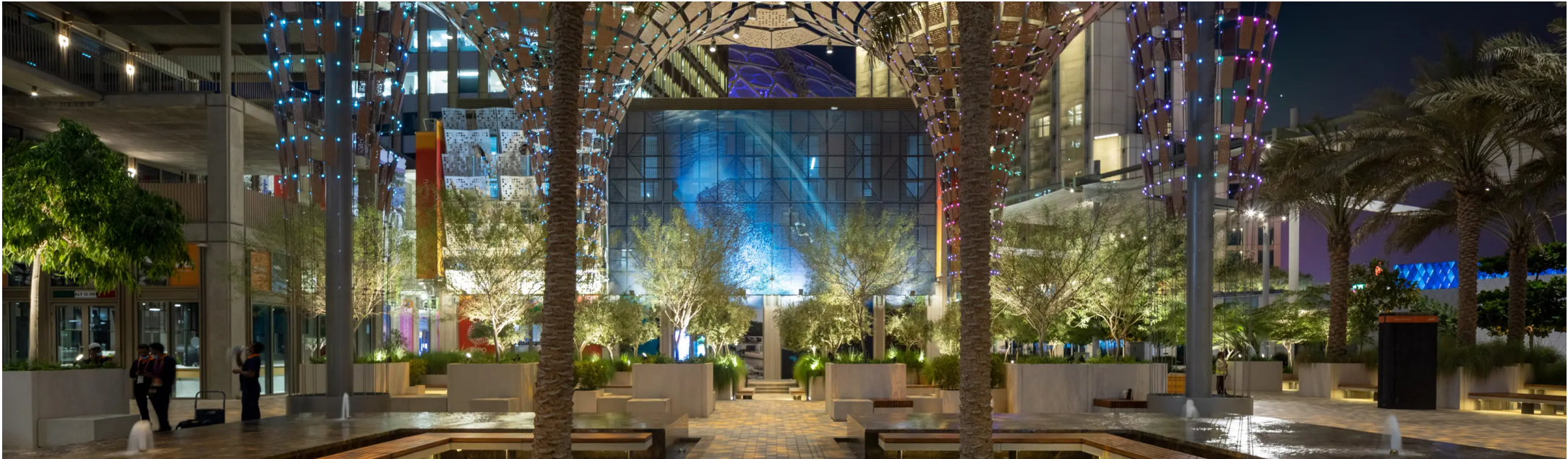
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We created the lighting design for the "Thematic Districts" of Expo 2020, Dubai as part of a competition-winning team led by Hopkins Architects.

CLIENT
Expo 2020 Dubai

DATE
2018-2021

ARCHITECT
Hopkins Architects

PHOTOGRAPHER
Hopkins Architects



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The 'Opportunity' zone celebrated culture, art, identity, and imagination. It featured warmer light, with white and amber tones highlighting innovative facade systems, soft uplighting to trees and light points within the shade structure. In this zone, slower animations created a magical dream-like quality.

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The "Sustainability" zone explored themes of ecology, economy, resources, and nature. This zone featured a subtle character, using light and darkness to shape a sustainable response. We included no direct façade lighting or media screens; instead, the internal glow from the buildings created a lantern effect. Light directed through the foliage of the trees evoked the sense of moonlight casting a textured pattern on the ground, and the shading structures were also revealed by light from within.



Responding to climate and context, this project achieved significant sustainability objectives and was awarded LEED Gold. The design accommodated the intense, temporary, and highly functional needs of the Expo Exhibition itself, with built-in flexibility to adapt to future uses. To help facilitate this, we devised a restricted palette of good quality lighting equipment that, together with a range of accessories, enabled a wide range of effects.