



**PLDA**

## **PLDA turns 15**

---

The Professional Lighting Designers' Association, PLDA was founded in October 1994 in Frankfurt under the name of European Lighting Designers' Association, ELDA. Along the way the name added a + sign (ELDA+) to reflect the growing international nature of the Association. In 2006 this growing group of international members raised the issue of changing the name and following a six-month period of collecting and evaluating ideas, the membership voted to change the name to the Professional Lighting Designers' Association (PLDA).

The global lighting community adopted the change fast and smoothly, and PLDA has continued to develop and grow. At the last count (end of November 2009) members numbered 764 in over 57 countries around the world.

So what has the association achieved in the first fifteen years? It has made a name for itself – through highly visible high-quality events, such as the workshops, by collaborating professionally and successfully with leading trade fairs, by supporting and positively influencing academic education programmes, by establishing a sound working relationship with partners from the lighting industry in the form of a Circle of Sponsors, by acknowledging and communicating with other associations related to light and lighting, by partnering with VIA to create the Professional Lighting Design Convention, through untiring efforts at various political levels – and through a lot of extremely hard work.

Now PLDA has reached adolescence! A number of bold, new, and forward-looking elements and ideas are being put on the table. With 15 years' experience behind them, PLDA remains fresh, focussed and fearless. The association is governed by an experienced but comparatively young Council that is more than ever aware of the responsibility they bear for what PLDA has become, the potential it has to go even further and, above all, what it will take to continue to establish the lighting design profession. We look forward to the next 15 years!

Martin Lupton