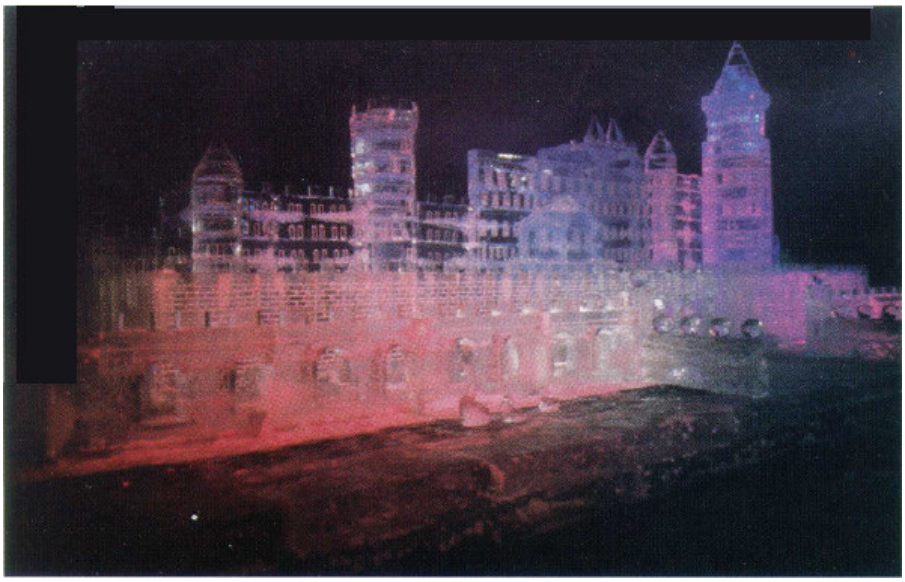

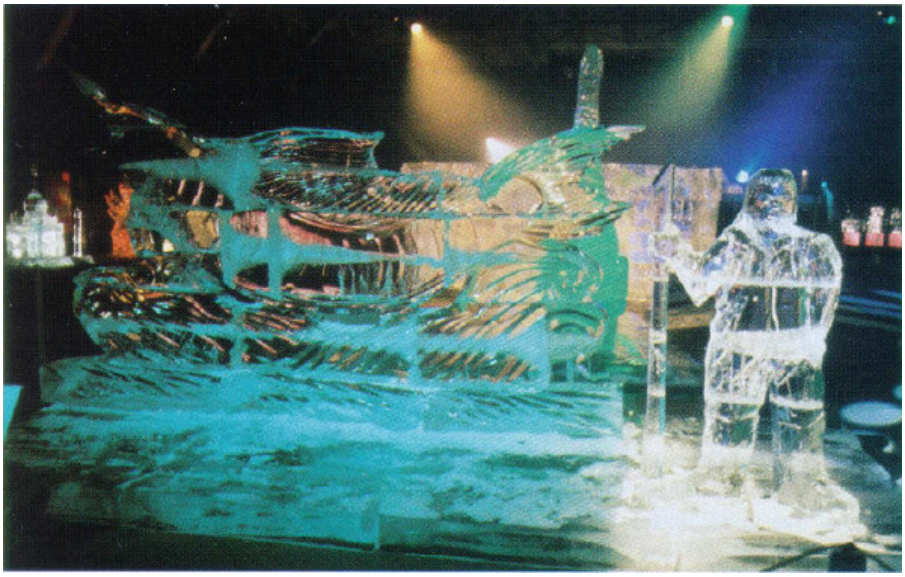

International Illumination Design Awards

FIRE IN ICE

Michigan Firm Fantasizes International Ice Festival

The first Michigan Winter Ice Festival was held at Detroit's Michigan State Fairgrounds. The public event showcased ice and snow sculptures created by world-renowned artists from the US, Japan, and Canada. For 10 days master ice carvers stacked, chipped, molded, and melted 880,000 lbs of ice. Using chisels and chainsaws, these visionary sculptors transformed blocks of white ice into crystal-clear castles, dragons, sports figures, and even a larger than life chess set. This gallery of ephemeral art also showcased a tribute to American soldiers, all sponsored by major corporations.

Though ice festivals are usually held outdoors, the Winterfest ice show and competition was held inside a 40,000-ft2 arena on the fairgrounds. The site was chosen for its central location, room for future expansion, and climate control capabilities. The arena sheltered the sculptures from the rain, wind, sun, and fog that often plague other winter festivals.

The situation also allowed for an intricate and dramatic lighting display to accent and enhance the sculptures. For their solution to this multifaceted assignment, Stefan Graf and Christopher Stuba were awarded an Edwin E Guth Memorial Special Citation by the judges of the Intemational Illumination Design Awards. Stefan Graf, principal of Fantasee Lighting, was the design director of this project.

Recipient of 19 international lighting design awards, Grafs lighting expertise has been employed in concert arenas, churches, shopping malls, public and private landscapes, upscale residences, and video productions. As the design programmer, Christopher Stuba used his knowledge of show lighting equipment to enhance and implement the lighting design goal set forth by Graf. As a show supervisor, he is responsible for the careful execution of motorized lighting cues seen on this and many other Fantasee Lighting projects.

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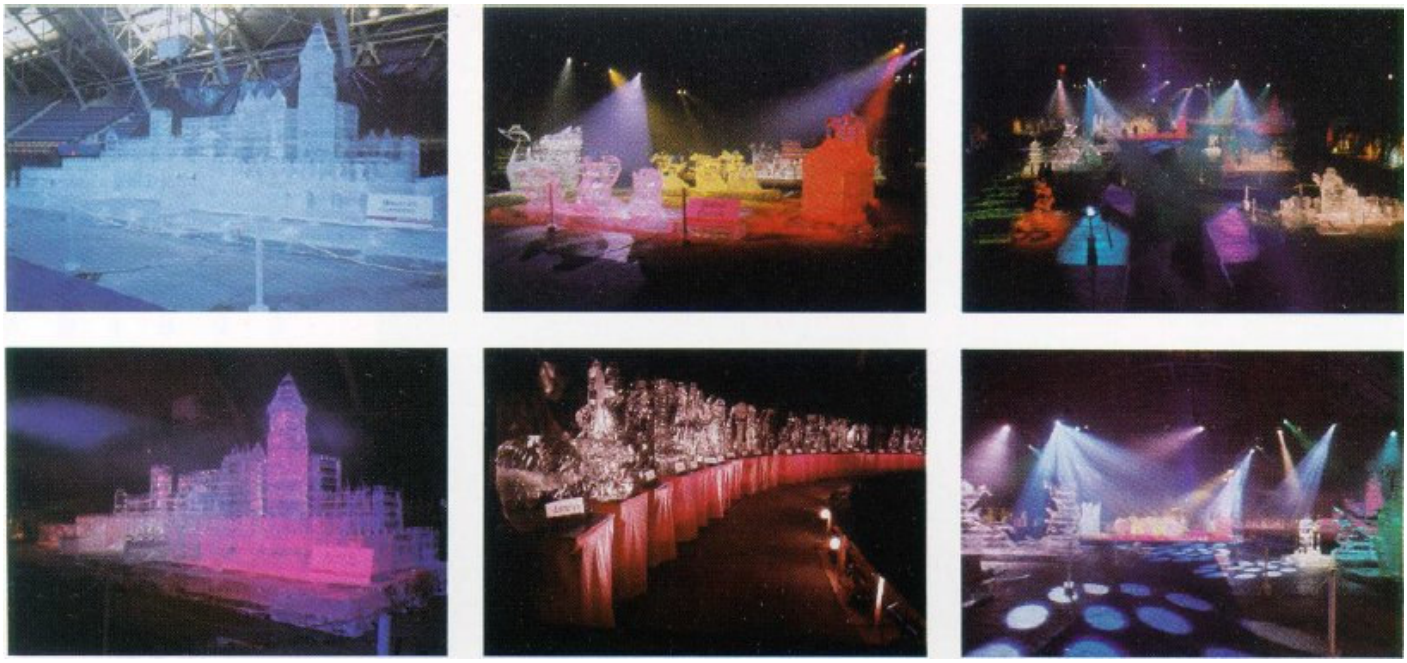

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ICE PALACE

Fantasee Lighting was required by the client, Midwest Ice, to perform the following tasks:

1. Illuminate the ice carvings without melting them.

2 . Transform the arena into an aesthetic backdrop for the art, within a matter of days.

3. Generate excitement with orchestrated lighting effects.

Because several types of lighting were required for maximum impact, Fantasee Lighting approached the design in layers of illumination. The first goal was to dramatize the major carvings by bathing them in pools of light using 1000-W quartz PAR64 fixtures. These were mounted in overhead trusses rigged 25 ft above the coliseum floor. At the bottom and to the sides, 500-W quartz PAR56s were clamped to standing pipes, calling attention to intricate ice details by edge lighting each piece.

Ice has an intriguing ability to capture and hold light. Individual equipment selection and aiming angles were determined on site. Color selection, too, was dictated by each individual sculpture, so the true personality of each carving was enhanced. Each of the 130 sculptures came to life as the lights were focused.

To prevent the sculptures from melting, both light levels and heat from the lamps had to be monitored constantly, using a hand-held digital thermometer. If the ambient temperature at the carving showed the slightest increase, the light level was dimmed accordingly through a multi-channel dimming system. In addition, light blue filters reduced
infrared emissions.

The 40-ft long Ice Palace was backlit by five metal halide floods with moonlight-blue filters to create an ethereal effect. Frontlighting diagonally across the carvings accentuated the crystal facets, and deep-red filters dramatized the building crown. Tiny xenon strobes created spontaneous bursts of light that glittered and reflected throughout the ice
As the carvings glowed, 12 motorized 700-W metal halide fixtures (Intellabeams from Lightwave Research) were programmed to change colors and sweep over designated areas. The cues ranged from colorful, panning images (12 motorized gobo patterns), to precise white beams, to pulsing color washes (12 dichroic filters). All were orchestrated to build momentum throughout the evening. Timing the units became as important as the illumination itself.

Children were fascinated by these fixtures, and were often seen chasing the playful spotlights. Remotely controlled fog generators provided just enough haze to show the scanning shafts of light.

For his work as technical coordinator of the ice festival installation, Robert Gregory, also deserves credit. He utilized his expertise in high-technology dimming, control, power distribution, and installation techniques.

The fantasy-land atmosphere that the client requested was achieved through careful composition of all the visual elements. The success of the first show resulted in Fantasee Lighting's involvement in the second annual Michigan Winter Ice Festival.