

# 3lux:letters

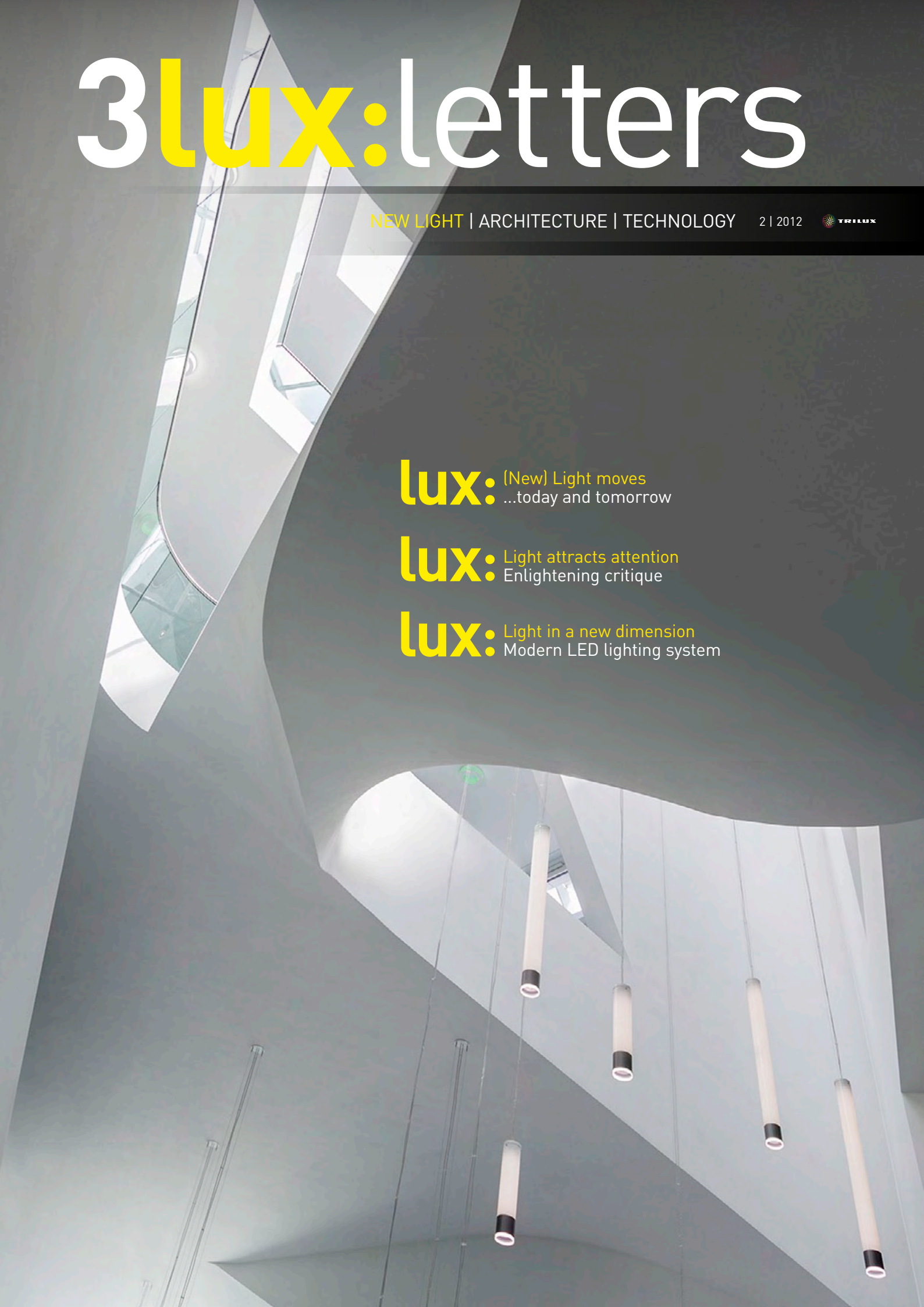
NEW LIGHT | ARCHITECTURE | TECHNOLOGY 2 | 2012



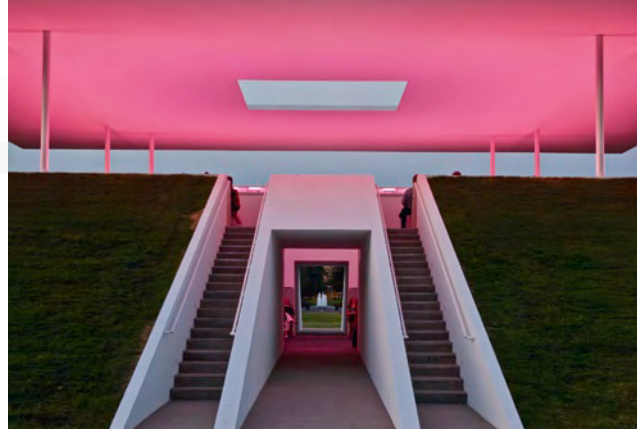
**lux:** (New) Light moves  
...today and tomorrow

**lux:** Light attracts attention  
Enlightening critique

**lux:** Light in a new dimension  
Modern LED lighting system



The roof's illumination contrasts with the changing colors of the sky, visible through an opening at the roof's center



Photos: Rice University

## TEMPLE OF LIGHT

Twice a day – at sunrise and sunset – the latest skyspace by American light artist James Turrell is transformed into an atmospheric light space.

By Stefan Staehle

Over the last 40 years, in his skyspaces James Turrell has intensively focused on the relationship between light and space. In summer 2012 he realized his 73rd in collaboration with architect Thomas Phifer on the Rice University campus in Houston, Texas. A monolithic roof measuring 22 by 22 meters and with a central square opening providing a view of the sky floats over a planted base. Visitors enter via an introverted, cuboid room at ground level containing benches of pink granite; the platform above offers them a view out across the campus. Turrell created the light show *Twilight Epiphany* especially for this project. As the name suggests, it is activated twice a day, at sunrise and sunset. At these times the 256 LEDs integrated into the roof immerse the underside of the pavilion roof and the inner space in iridescent colored light, which forms a contrast to the surrounding light and the constantly changing sky – an impressive interplay between the real and artificially created colors of light. [www.skyspace.rice.edu](http://www.skyspace.rice.edu)