

Solar Decathlon Takes elliptipar's F303 Luminaires on the Road

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Every two years, 20 college teams compete to design, build and operate highly energy-efficient, completely solar-powered houses in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. This is a prestigious competition that The Lighting Quotient has supported with donated product for several years.



This year, we're particularly proud of the student work from Virginia Tech, which was the only U.S. team to compete in both the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon (2009) and the very first Solar Decathlon Europe (2010) with its LUMENHAUS design, lit in part by elliptipar's F303 concealed cove luminaires.

Andrea Hartranft of C.M. Kling & Associates and Joseph Wheeler, Project Coordinator of Virginia Tech LUMNEHAUS approached The Lighting Quotient to contribute to Virginia Tech's Solar Decathlon team in May 2009. After reviewing preliminary drawings, Dave Pfund and Zach Zaharewicz suggested elliptipar luminaires as the best solution to indirectly light the main living space across a ceiling cavity and above translucent ceiling panels. Ultimately, The Lighting Quotient donated eight nominal 8-ft long **elliptipar F303** concealed cove lights, modified with Lutron Hi-Lume 3D dimming ballasts to respond to daylight availability.

The students integrated the fixtures into the house design, which also featured:

- A cement slab floor, heated by an efficient geothermal heat loop and heat pumps, providing radiant, evenly heated floors;
- A photovoltaic (PV) system that includes "double hit" PV panels in a large nine kilowatt array to generate as much as 30% more electricity than the standard approach.



After competing at the Solar Decathlon in 2009, the Virginia Tech's winning LUMENHAUS design went on the road to appear on *Good Morning America*, in New York's Times Square, Baltimore and even Gothenburg, Sweden before making its way to Madrid, Spain to compete in the Solar Decathlon Europe. Modeled after the U.S. competition, the Spanish and U.S. governments hosted the Solar Decathlon Europe, which consisted of 17 teams in its inaugural year.

The world's energy efficiency needs and the rise of innovative products and technologies are encouraging students to think in new ways that will define the future of green building, and The Lighting Quotient is proud to contribute to the process. This year, we're thrilled that our products are part of Virginia Tech's award-winning design and we look forward to continuing our participation with this prestigious student competition in the future.



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