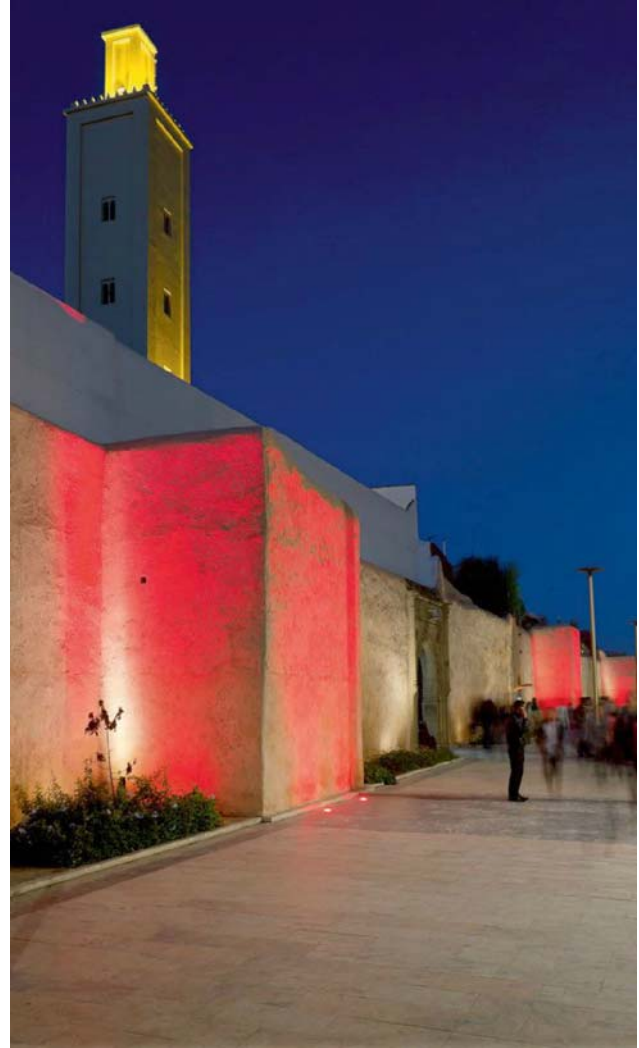


FLY ON THE WALL

The walls of Rabat have stood ready to repel marauders for centuries. Today, in friendlier times, the walls have been made more welcoming by a lighting design from Electrimar, with fixtures from LEC Lyon.



The walls of the Moroccan capital were built in the twelfth century and were made a World Heritage site by UNESCO in June 2012, along with a number of other sites in the city, including the kasbah des Oudayas, the Essais Garden, the medina and the Mohammed V mausoleum.

In order to protect the South and the West sides of the city, a major wall was built at the end of the twelfth century by the Almohades. Rabat currently has two great walls intersecting at an acute angle, measuring over five-kilometre long. The walls are two metres thick and, on average, eight metres high.

The illumination of the 1.5km long walls was achieved in concert with the reconstruction of the road alongside the old town.

“The walls encircle the old city of Rabat and the ones that we have decided to light are the ones that are the most visible,” says Fouad Bahechar, president of Electrimar, the Moroccan lighting specialists who worked on the project.

“Every 30 metres, the turrets project outwards, over the street. We thought that this rhythm was interesting to explore and that’s the reason why we chose to use two colours, warm white for continuity and red for relief.”

To meet with the requirements of the project Electrimar began a dialogue with LEC Lyon.

Allevard adjustable and fully recessed spotlights, which included six to seven LED lights in red and warm white colours, were installed in the ground.

These fixtures light up the walls from top to bottom and offer the shockproof protection necessary to overcome the heat and the traffic, which are both prevalent features of the Rabat atmosphere.

The 5716-Allevard spotlight, installed in Rabat, spreads out strong light from the ground to coat the eight metre high walls, while the integrated spotlight lenses were customised to enable the wide-ranging coating of the walls in warm white as well as coating the turrets in a sharp red. LEC developed a spotlight Especially for this project that allows on-site adjustments of the beam without dismantling the device in question. The lighting was adjusted to the smallest detail for a quality, accurate end result.

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