

# The Telegraph

## Champs Elysees lights up with Christmas sparkle

Paris turned on its Christmas lights illuminating the annual light display on the avenue Champs Elysees.

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All along the glamorous avenue, trees were encircled by rings of lights that blinked, swirled, and changed colors.

According to the designers of the display, Koert Vermeulen and Marcos Vinals Bossols of Belgium-based ACT Lighting Design, their plan was to bring a new, colourful and animated look to the Champs Elysees' annual holiday light show.

The designers earned the opportunity to deck out the avenue in an international competition, where one of the goals was to refresh and reimagine the avenue's traditional light design.

"They wanted to break with the past, so they wanted to have a new design, a new concept, a new image and a new aesthetic that was not related to the traditional images of Christmas," said Mr Bossols. "So that was a very inspiring point."

The hovering hoops around the trees sport over a million LED lights in all. Each tree has its own set of lighting cues to achieve the elaborate effects the designers envisioned.

Though a fair amount of electricity is needed to power such a large luminescent show, the display is in fact built to be more ecologically friendly than in past years.

"In total, here are actually 588 trees on the Champs Elysee, 2.4 kilometers. We have equipped 200 of them with our structure. Each structure has 3 rings, 6 LED strips, in total 1.2 million above LED lights that we use - 65 percent less energy consumption than previous years," said Vermuelen.

French actress Audrey Tautou of Amelie fame and Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoë ceremonially pressed the oversized button that illuminates the famous avenue's display.

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