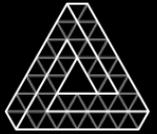


The Penrose Triangle



The Penrose Triangle



Burning Man 2013 Honorary Recipient
Exhibited at First Night 2014, Boston

The Penrose Triangle is a surprisingly pervasive cultural artifact. Perhaps the simplest way to create a three-dimensional illusion from a simple drawing of straight lines, it has been celebrated in the works of MC Escher, printed on postage stamps, and integrated into popular brands. Those of us who daydreamed during middle school may well have doodled it on the covers of our notebooks, as something in its simplicity confronts our innate ability to visualize shape, causing us to pause and better understand the boundary between what is and what is not achievable.

This sculpture reproduces the Penrose triangle illusion as a 17' tall, curvilinear, illuminated structure that engages viewers to become active participants in the space they inhabit. The shape's symmetry encourages passers-by to stop and discover its secret, often passing on the secret to subsequent onlookers.

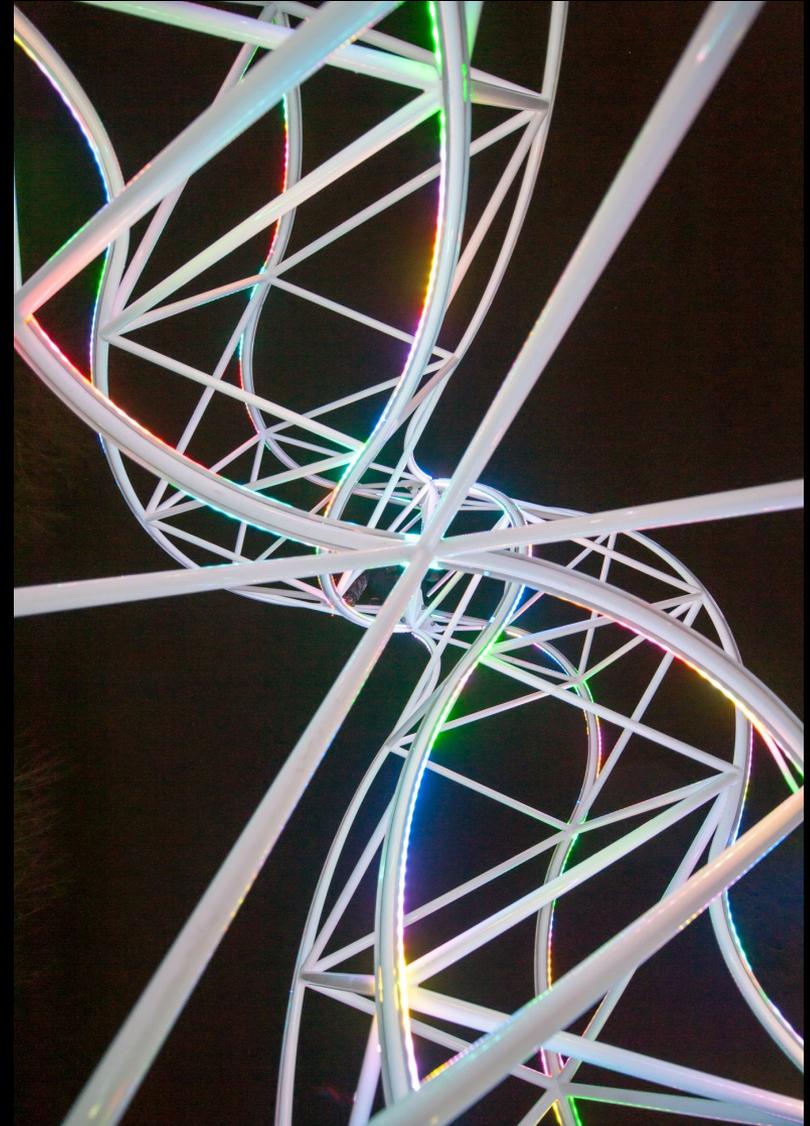
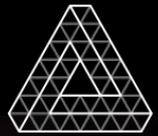


Photo: John Dill

First Night 2014, Boston



Burning Man 2013



Technical Details

Overall:

height: 17' 4" width: 19' 2" depth: 8' 6"
powdercoated steel and channel lighting
overall weight: 3000 lbs
installs in a $\varnothing 25'$ circle, typically in a day

Structure:

3 cubes and 3 arms bolt together in three modules
beams are 1.5", 0.08" and 0.12" wall structural steel
designed to support 40 adults with safety factor of 10
designed to withstand extreme weather and winds

Lights:

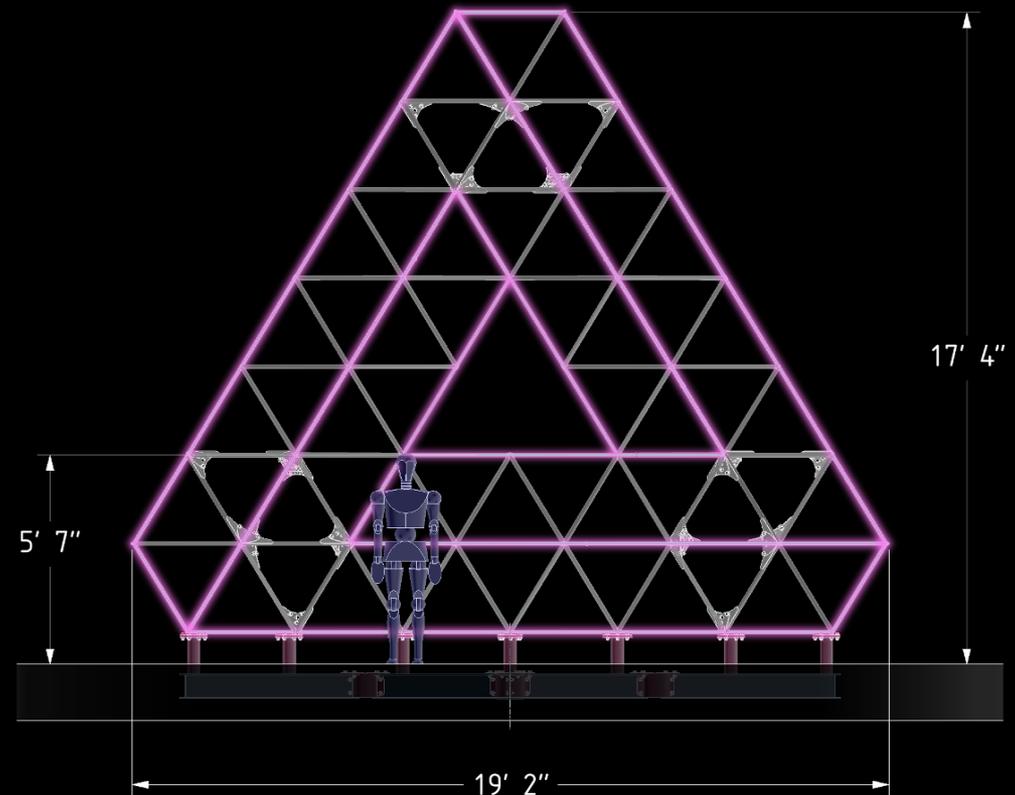
contains 2538 individually-addressable LEDs
light show can be interactive or community-programmed
48 bit HDR color for smooth transitions at low intensity
each of the corner cubes embed control and power modules
3 Teensy microcontrollers drive 8 channels each
1 centrally controlled using Beaglebone microcontroller
internet connectivity for interactive applications is possible

Power:

24 VDC internal power and USB control
typically draws 100-200 W, 600W peak
powered by solar, battery, or grid

Base:

suitable above or below ground placement
8" I beam reclaimed from Big Dig (old Chinatown exit 22)



Visible beyond 4000'

Illusion effective from 50' radius

$\varnothing 25'$ Installation Circle



