JOSEPH WERTZ — Ceramic Lights

As our buildings increasingly become more and more an impersonal product of the machine, architects and clients are striving to develop certain supplementary areas of design which will retain some of the warmth and irregularity of hand-crafted production. An intriguing area for such production is that of architectural lighting, which up until the present, has not forceably asserted itself either as a result of the machine or of individual production. Certainly the ceramic lights of Joseph Wertz of Santa Fe open up a whole vista of possibilities in this area of design. In these lights one finds a subtly of texture, of color and of form which boldly contrast with the typical precision of our contemporary architecture. Here is a hand-crafted product which could provide the needed warmth for our buildings, within a price range which would make them feasible for even the smallest of dwellings.

Since Joseph Wertz’s basic interest is experimentation with materials, form and method, he has never produced these lights for commercial sale. If they are to be made available for architectural use it will be necessary for other individual craftsmen to take up their production. Unquestionably Joseph Wertz’s success in the design and production of these lights has been due to his unusual dual background as a talented craftsman and as an architect of wide experience.

D. G.

Group of four lights on display at the Roswell Museum and Art Center
Wertz residence—group of lights in bedroom hung on both sides of window which creates a unity between interior and exterior space. Lights become sculptural form in daylight.

Wertz residence—group of entrance lights as seen during the day