

## Arch Street Lighting Celebrates 90 Years of Illuminating Philly

A parking space was difficult to come by on Oct. 12 in the Old City section of Philadelphia. No, the cast of MTV's *The Real World* was not back in town, and there weren't any Presidential candidates out stumping. The nearly 100 people gathered at 120 Arch Street were there to participate in a special anniversary celebration where First District city councilman Frank DiCicco presented owner Michael Kurland with a citation in honor of nine decades of continual service to the community.

Arch Street Lighting has long-enjoyed a solid reputation as the City of Brotherly Love's premier commercial and home design company, offering a large selection of decorative lighting fixtures from European as well as American designers.

Now in its third generation of ownership, this showroom got its start in 1914 when Kurland's grandfather, Harry Horn, inherited his uncle's gas mantle store on South Street. He later made the switch from gas to electric and changed the name to Harry Horn Electric. Throughout the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, under the guidance of Kurland's father, Irving, the business flourished as a supplier of light bulbs and electrical supplies. When home improvement discounters appeared on the horizon while Mike Kurland was at the helm, he realized that it no longer made sense to carry inventory similar to the big box stores. Ultimately, that competition led to a rebirth for the family business in 1996, and warranted another name change announcing its new focus. In addition, the retailer relocated to a gallery-like space in a neighborhood known for fine furnishings and antiques.

"I never imagined that I could build such a successful company just by doing what I love," Kurland notes. "During my time running this business, [the industry] has seen so many changes, but they have all come about through evolution, not revolution."

For more information about Arch Street Lighting, call (215) 925-4660, or e-mail [archstlite@aol.com](mailto:archstlite@aol.com)



*First District city councilman, Frank DiCicco (left) presents Arch Street Lighting owner Michael Kurland with a certificate of appreciation for the store's 90 years of exemplary service.*