

# Blue-Light Special

When Nacht & Lewis Architects and Skanska designed the new **Sacramento Central Utility Plant** to house and circulate water to cool 23 downtown office buildings, they smartly played off the inspiration of blue water. And it didn't hurt that a growing number of downtown structures were making their mark with bold blue lighting features (the U.S. Bank Tower, Esquire Tower, Convention Center, and the Alhambra Reservoir to name a few). The result is a 126-foot "thermal energy storage tank" that holds 4.5 million gallons of water and adds to the skyline at the same time. Look closely and you'll see a simulated water drop, with blue and white insulating tiles that dissipate toward the top, as well as a steel crown and an aluminum mesh screen that "splash" outward, all surrounded by blue lights that set the tank aglow at night. When it comes to public utility plants, this is one tall, cool drink of water. *625 Q St.*

