



LAST WORD IN LIGHTING

by randall whitehead, iald



A Superior Exterior

Give landscape lighting two levels to maximize your customers' year-round enjoyment of their yards.



Q: Randall, customers in my area are really excited about their "outdoor rooms." Do I need to adjust my thinking about landscape lighting to accommodate these exterior spaces?

A: Just like inside a home, there is no single light fixture that can

perform all lighting needs in the garden. The moonlighting effect is a design method in which a number of light sources are blended together to create a natural-looking design, as if the garden was being illuminated by a full moon.

Have your customers put together a planting plan, outdoor furniture layout and sculpture or water feature locations before creating the lighting design. The lighting should relate to the way the outdoor spaces are going to be used.

Employ two levels of light—one for when the homeowners are inside looking out into the garden area and a second one for when they are actually outside. In many areas, it is just too cold much of the year for people to be outdoors. Taking this reality into consideration not only keeps windows from becoming "black mirrors" at night, it also visually expands the interior spaces.

Choose an adjustable shielded exterior fixture that can serve as a downlight, uplight or wall wash. Only decorative fixtures, like lanterns flanking the front door, should be visible.

Do not put exterior lights on dimmers. Standard incandescent light, when dimmed, becomes even more amber in color. Green plants look sickly under yellow light, so use a daylight blue color-correcting filter on outdoor lights. This will ensure that plants look healthy.

Locate a panic switch for security lights in the master bedroom. It's no fun running to the front door in the middle of the night to turn on the outside lights. Don't just put light switches for the main rooms and landscaping at the front door. Most people enter their homes from the garage, so install a second set of switches there.

GLASS CONSCIOUS

When you display exterior lanterns, show a few of them with frosted, sand-blasted or seedy glass. Most manufacturers offer these as standard options. Textured glass allows the beauty of the lantern itself to be the main focus instead of the light bulb inside.



GOT A QUESTION FOR RANDALL?

Ask this leading authority about any lighting topic. Send your questions to: *Residential Lighting* magazine attn: Last Word in Lighting 400 Knightsbridge Pkwy. Lincolnshire, IL 60069 Fax: (847) 634-7885 E-mail: Ivanzeyl@vancepublishing.com



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