



Residential Lighting | Oksana Bondar | Eco-conscious Lighting

George Hotel | Panthella 320 | Hilton Hotel Heathrow Airport | Sensi Collection | Stomping Ground Morris Moor



Garden

Vinayak Diwan is the Principal and Founding Member of Lightbook, a boutique design studio based in New Delhi, India. After graduating in architecture in New Delhi, Diwan pursued a Masters

in lighting design in Milan. Working across Milan, Paris, Singapore and India, Diwan has accumulated a rich understanding understanding of a variety of culturally different projects.

Diwan chats with **darç** to explain his approaches to lighting the external areas of a home and how to incorporate outdoor lighting with an indoor scheme.

To start off, Diwan explains the first things to tackle when approaching a residential project: "Residential lighting design is a complex process where all elements of design work in unison to achieve the desired intent for any project. Lighting is responsible for providing the user with a multi-use experience within a single space and it takes forethought and an abstract sense of design to perceive a lighting environment, right at the beginning of any residential project.

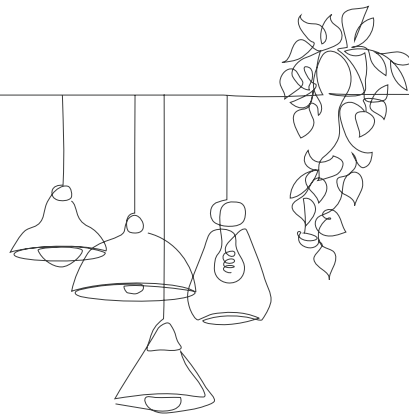
"The architectural and spatial elements along with scale, functionality and user lifestyle are the most critical components in initiating a conceptual brief for the project. We holistically review every space with regards to general layout, furniture, ceiling designs, colour palette and most importantly natural lighting, along with other technical aspects of lighting design. We will stitch all the threads together along with clients' expectations to create a great lighting visual at the end," he says.

Diwan strongly believes in "conceptualising lighting spaces as part of a strong narrative that encompasses both the interior and exterior".

"Lighting design should start from entrance foyers through various meandering interior spaces over to the large rear landscapes covered with age old trees, which are well illuminated. We strive for a strong lighting narrative, which believes in connecting different spaces with each other with an appropriate balance of aesthetically pleasing lighting and functional lighting, with hints of accents on artwork or sculptures in the house.

"It's all about creating that magical experience for the clients as they play with different mood settings on the keypads in different spaces and create a warm abode for themselves," he elaborates.

Looking more closely at the garden area, Diwan explains how "lighting



design strategies for landscape illumination are very handy in creating the spatial form and visual experiences by the evening". Recommending the overall design scheme proposed by the landscape designer/gardeners is studied closely to identify key elements of the project, Diwan explains that the key high places can be in softscape / planting or in hardscapes / flooring pattern of any project.

"Lighting design has to balance the functionality and aesthetic aspects of the landscape lighting in the most subtle form in order to create a well curated space," he says. "We always recommend creating different layering in the project as it adds depth to the overall scheme. Trees and shrubs can have uplighters, which can be combined with ambient lighting in the waterbodies or linear grazers to illuminate any feature wall in the landscape. We suggest that lighting should not be an afterthought and all lighting cables should be planned in early stages of the project."

The introduction of decorative lighting pieces outdoors should be considered. "Our lighting ideology to illuminate outdoor spaces has always been with minimal intervention yet achieving the maximum," comments Diwan. "Outdoor spaces should be treated with subtle lighting accents, whereby the lighting is provided to only necessary areas in 2700K or warmer. Outdoor lighting is a breather from the bright interior spaces so one should aim at low light levels and it can best be done with good quality outdoor decorative fixtures. We can always throw in some battery operated table lamps in brass finish or tall sweeping lamps above your table or hanging lamps from trees, which create that warmth as desired for the outdoor spaces.

"The first step towards good landscape lighting is to keep all design attributes in mind and furnish a cohesive lighting scheme. Landscape lighting should always be an extension of your interior sit-out areas, while large glazings give us a view of the external decks, which maintains visual hierarchy.

"External grade sockets should be discreetly located so outdoor lamps can be triggered as we want to avoid the clutter of wires running on the deck. Boundary walls or peripheral walls should not be left dark due to security constraint so low height poles or bollards can be added depending upon the scale of the project. We recommend taking consideration of structural consultants in order to plan the foundation of the poles or bollards at any relevant location as soil conditions vary on different projects."

Since the development of LED technology, the choice of outdoor fixtures has increased dramatically, allowing for more client choice and flexibility for designers. "We have access to good quality fixtures, which have reduced in size, are highly efficient, variable colour temperature and different body finishes, to say the least. Clients never had such a variety of fixtures as there are available these days, with excellent service on our esteemed projects.

Once our lighting design scheme is approved and in process of execution, we initiate the process of lighting mock-ups for our clients and they get to experience various aspects of good quality lighting fixtures, hence the decision making becomes easier. They get the freedom to choose the lighting experience they want on a daily basis and our role as lighting designers is accomplished once the client accepts our recommendations."

Speaking of the appropriate light levels for a residential space, Diwan concludes: "Landscape lighting or garden lighting is an interplay of various materials and elements illuminated to give a lighting story, so there is never a definitive value of lux levels. It's a personalised experience of various visual elements and lighting hierarchy that can start as low as a candle light (1lux) all the way to 20 lux for walking passages. Lighting colour can be extremely warm (2200K to 2700k) in residential projects but hospitality projects should use 3000K and maintain the brilliance of the spatial character."

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