

Bo Steiber

The rôles and importance of Lighting Designers

Light and Spirituality goes hand in hand, where there is light, there is life. Light attracts people from afar. Light, both natural and artificial, shapes emotional response by increasing activation and alertness. From our point of view the Lighting Designer's role is to assist with conceptual solutions, day to day design planning of lighting application, its function and application. By including a Lighting Designer on the design team, it would be more likely for projects to be completed successfully.

Good lighting attracts awareness to the projects and gives comfort to people. Bad lighting, glare, attracts attention to itself and turns attention away from the object of illumination.

Unfortunately, Lighting Designers are sometimes the last to be considered in terms of all aspects of design and lighting budgets the first to be trimmed, which can be detrimental to any project.

From our perspective 'The importance of a Lighting Designer's rôle is to:

- Gather information from the client to identify their needs, visual and physical capabilities, age and lifestyle and develop solutions to design issues.
- Enhance the spatial design and details of structure in interior and architecture. It is through the eyes of the lighting designer that the importance of illuminating artwork, ceiling, walls and floors that define a space, includes textures, forms and hues that give it character are recognised.
- Provide energy efficient lighting through selection of appropriate lamps and quality light fittings for designated areas or appropriate tasks. The selection of high quality light fittings may involve initial higher cost but the investment is very often can be returned in reduced maintenance costs and increased reliability.
- Provide cost effective lighting through specification of long-life lamps with good colour rendering that are easily available for relamping, cleaning, maintenance and accessibility.
- Specify quality lighting control equipment, transformers or ballasts for crucial matching of lamps to prolong the lamp life and reduced cost by application of dimming control. With the choice of correct dimming system, the balance between ambient and accent lighting is achieved to create a variety of moods in the space.
- Design external lighting to complement the architecture. The appearance and character of a space is greatly dependent on the distribution and pattern of light and shadow. Architecture and interiors are seen to be a composition of style, space, colour, scale, proportion and ornamentation.
- Provide visual comfort, safety and security to public spaces with the appropriate lighting effect on signage, artwork, sculptures, etc. Contrast of brightness in a landscape proves important in the element to create visual focal point as well as provide safety. Creating comfortable lighting through enhancing the skin tone of a person, where lighting does not create harsh shadows.

We believe that these projects below are some examples of where we have contributed to the success of the projects that echoes the importance of a Lighting Designer:

Bo Steiber is Principal of Bo Steiber Lighting Design, Singapore

The Esplanades Theatres on the Bay Singapore

The Esplanades Theatres on the Bay was originally conceptualized by LDA of United Kingdom, carried through documentation by Vision Design Studio and brought to completion and commissioned by Bo Steiber Lighting Design.

In the bird's eye view of the The Esplanades, the folded rhombic-shaped sunshade on the roof top is further enhanced by thousands of light emitting diodes (LEDs). The external lighting was redesigned by ourselves (and Light Cibles for the LED's on the roof) and was followed up by close site coordination throughout the installation and commissioning stages. Our main challenge was to provide the right ambience for the outdoor circulation areas without the use of Post top or Bollard type of luminaires. As lighting was mostly associated with planting it required close coordination with both the electrical and landscape con-

tractors to convey the design intent during the actual installation of the light fittings.

The Concert Hall is a glamour filled with appropriate lighting which enhances the spatial designs and details of the structure in the ornate interior. Both the Lyric Theatre and the Concert Hall has a variety of lighting design elements and required countless hours of site work. Mostly so the Concert Hall where for example the aiming of the light fittings associated with the 'Ribs' lining the sides of the hall took a lot of effort from all. However all the efforts were justified as the end result has been much appreciated. The importance of our role was also evident in the Foyer Tiers where late changes to the ceilings and wall treatment required the lighting designer to quickly redesign this very important area to appropriately complement the interior and satisfy the theatre patron's needs.



The Esplanade Theatre Concert Hall

Belle Mare Plage Resort Mauritius



The Beach restaurant overlooking the beach and pool allow its guest to bask in a relaxed atmosphere where natural lighting and accent lighting intertwined.

A 5-star resort hotel that lies within the Indian Ocean designed by interior designer, Martin Branner of Inter-Arc (S) Pte Ltd. The architecture and interior of the resort has a tropical paradise atmosphere of tranquility and relaxation.

The lobby lounge has a high ceiling which is lit by a pendant at two corners and surface mounted low voltage spotlights from the side of the ceiling. Incandescent strip uplighting behind the banquet seating provides a warm wash at the back wall. Lighting in the day is a combination of natural lighting and accent lighting. The reflection pool which is just a stone throw away from the lobby lounge is lit by natural candle lighting that exudes an air of romance.





The lobby lounge



The Junior suite overlooks a crystal turquoise lagoon on the doorstep. The accent lighting in the suite and the terrace provide a tranquil and relax atmosphere that will wash your stress away.

Kushin-Bo Japanese Restaurant in Suntec City Singapore

On this restaurant project we were once again asked to work with Mr Warren Chen of PT ID and it is always rewarding. Warren appreciate the value a lighting designer can bring to any project and gets us involved very early in his conceptual design process. This time we conceptualised and eventually designed a combination of a pendant, wall light and floor lamp that addressed the illuminance for the interior with curved timber strip ceiling. It provides a modern feel to the traditional "Japanese Lantern" in this contemporary Japanese restaurant.

Like so many of the projects we worked on with PT ID, this project has also been recognized and featured in newspapers and magazines. We believe that one of the reason for this is the value added service provided by the Lighting Designer.





The Kushin-Bo's entry



A view of Kushin-Bo's restaurant area

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