



Perceptual Matters

Happy 2016!

As we weather through this oscillating winter, the natural light on a clear day remains seasonal with its lateral character of creating long dramatic shadows. These can be seen on horizontal and vertical surfaces. The previous newsletter focused on interior lighting quality and LEED; inspired by winters dramatic natural light, this newsletter features considerations for integrating light carefully into the exterior environment.

The illustrated plan above depicts a new entry sequence at Brookside Gardens, in Wheaton Maryland. The festive color was introduced in the graphic for our recent holiday mailing.

Thank you for your tremendous feedback from the September Newsletter 'Matter of Fact'. I hope 'Perceptual Matters' will be as informative.

Wishing you a light-filled year.
Sincerely,

Debra Gilmore IALD, MIES
Gilmore Lighting Design

Exterior Lighting Considerations

"Night is the common benefactress of every thing that breathes; it is during her reign the greatest share of happiness is spread over the earth." Louis Sebastien Mercier, 1788

Certain questions and conditions arise on any exterior lighting projects. The diagrams below outline some primary basics needed to achieve good results.

A. Quality



Night Lighting requires quality design, materials, and installation.

This generally equates to higher costs, but reasonably so considering the long term investment and harsh conditions of water, wind, extreme temperature, corrosion etc.

B. Security

Higher light levels do Not necessarily equal increased safety.

Bright lights often cause deeper shadows which makes it harder to recognize hidden ninjas. Take care to balance contrast ratio's and light levels.

[8484 Georgia Avenue Plaza](#)



C. Landscape Accent # 1

One uplight per tree is not enough.

Similar to portrait lighting, illumination from 3 directions will best model the form of the object.

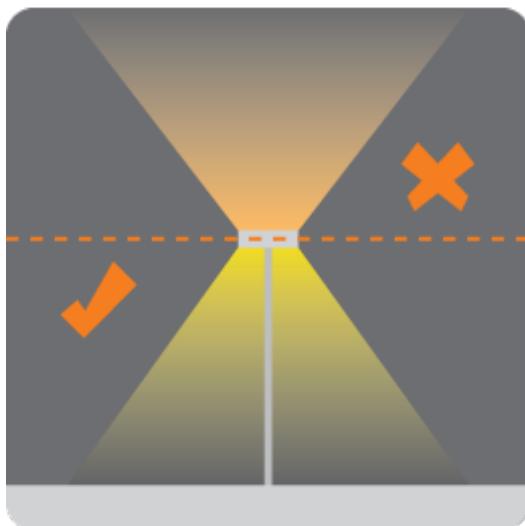
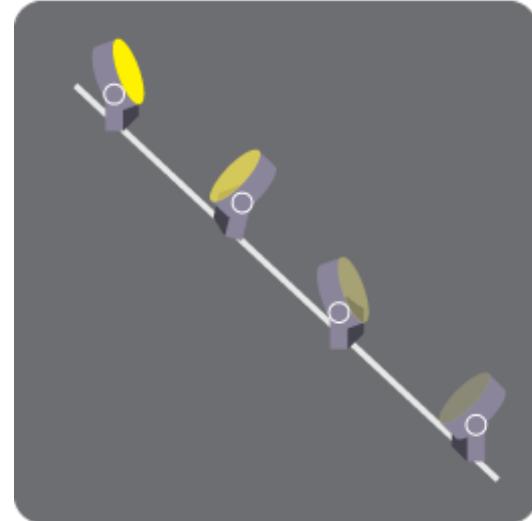
[Sherman Residence](#)

D. Landscape Accent # 2

Small discrete fixtures require careful coordination with wiring.

Scrutinize plans for safe unobtrusive power locations that enable proper voltage.

[Sherman Residence Detail](#)



E. Light Pollution

Don't Pollute

Keep all the general illumination lights pointed down.

[University of Virginia Master Lighting Plan](#)



F. Light Trespass

Respect your neighbors

Unless they ask for help, best to keep your light on your own property, besides, it's the law in many jurisdictions.

[Eagle Academy PCS](#)

G. Special Features

Integrated lighting can be beautiful and makes interesting 'moments' in the landscape.

Mounting details and coordination are mandatory!

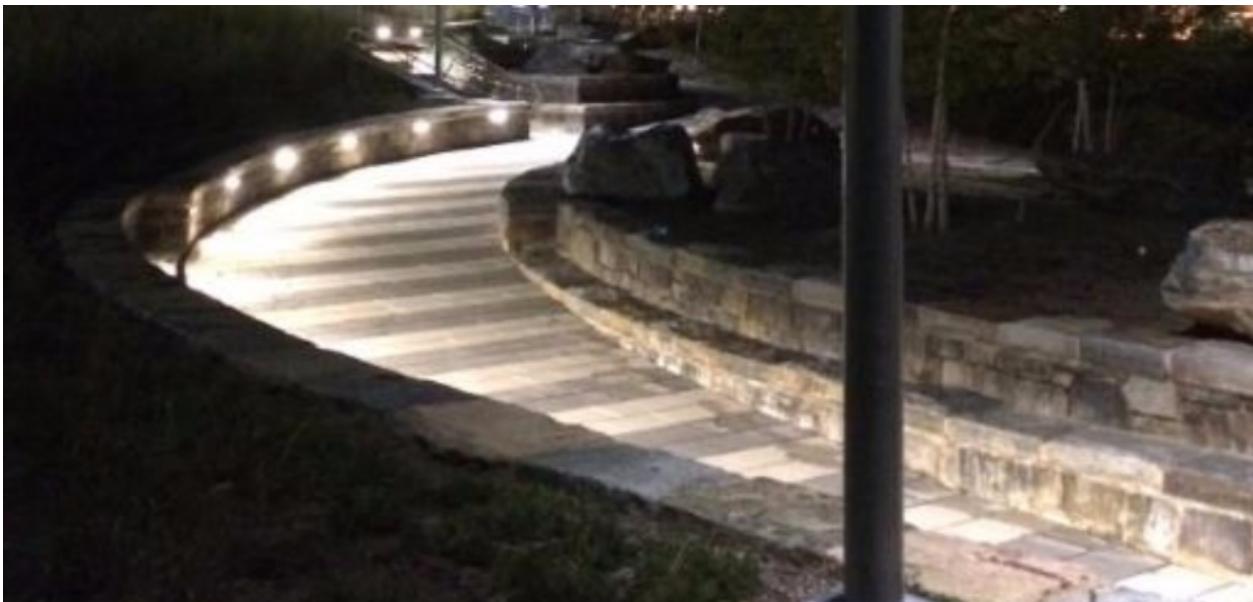
[Senate Square Multifamily](#)

Gilmore Lighting Design Turns 18



For 18 years, Gilmore Lighting Design, a certified women owned business, has developed a proven award winning reputation. Gilmore has designed millions of square feet for commercial lighting projects including government facilities, corporate headquarters, institutional campuses, parks and zoos; while utilizing 33 years of experience to wisely integrate appropriate technologies, including Revit use, into projects.

Germantown Town Center Urban Park, Germantown, Maryland



This construction image depicts two paths woven together within the park that identify ADA access through a steeply sloping site.

Accent lighting in strategic locations helps distinguish elevation changes and provides larger vistas, thus a sense of security, and nocturnal identity of the park encourages after dark appreciation.

Gilmore Lighting Design collaborated with Maryland National Park and Planning Commission and Annapolis Landscape Architects on the Master Plan implementation of a former storm water management site to create a pedestrian friendly park.

[Go to Germantown Town Center Urban Park for more info.](#)

Speaking Engagements, Latest Awards and Articles

- Debra Gilmore has been selected to be one of 7 international workshop leaders for [Lights in Alingsas](#). Every year, Alingsas, Sweden welcomes 85,000 people for this prestigious European lighting festival.
- Debra Gilmore's topic "Visualizing a Garden's Night Potential" was chosen for the [2016 American Public Gardens Association \(APGA\) conference in Miami](#). Debra will speak along with Lisa Delplace, Principal at Oehme van Sweden and Stephanie Oberle, Director of Brookside Gardens. Claire Sawyers, Director of the Scott Arboretum will moderate the panel.
- 2015 AIA | DC Architecture Design Awards Presidential Citation for Urban Catalyst [11141 Georgia Avenue, Wheaton, MD](#)
- Celebrating 50 years, National Endowment for the Arts has an open invite for individuals to write about how art influenced their lives. See: [My Art Story](#) by Debra Gilmore. It's not too late to submit your story.

