

Building & CO.

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Architectural Lighting

Architectural lighting is about Art and Technology. In many cases, architectural lighting, whether outdoor or indoor, is not given enough importance during the planning and even construction stages.

Real estate owners only later realise that their investment in facade architecture, for instance, can only be seen during daylight hours. At night, such buildings will either have no lights, or will be fitted with last minute solutions that consist of low cost flood lights.

Planning a lighting solution

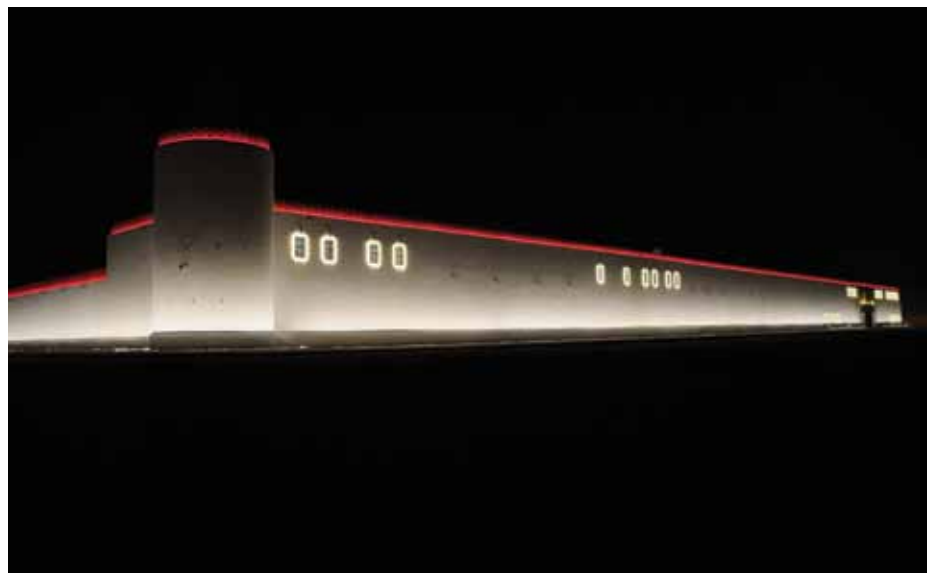
Appropriate lighting solutions increase a property's value and may, with the suitable investment, turn it into a piece of art.

Lighting designs should be undertaken at the early stages of a project. Coordinating efforts between civil engineers and architects from the start is "key" to ensure good artistic results. Provisioning for lighting fixtures, whether from an electrical and/or civil perspective, must be considered an essential part of designing the constructions of today.

Outdoor, the aim is to highlight any building's architectural details. And indoor, it is essential to meet interior design characteristics, whilst spreading the right amount of light needed in each area.

When Art and Technology meet

Controlled and seamless lighting are important aspects to consider when designing a lighting solution. The proper technology should be selected and designed in order to achieve the sought after effect from an artistic point of view.



"Al Rayyan Fortress" - Doha, Qatar - Achieved all by using professional LED products.

Seamless lighting requires that light sources be hidden as much as possible, depending on constraints. Controlled light is achieved by using appropriate lenses, filters, diffusers, lighting technologies etc.

Tests, proof of concepts and tailor-made products are essential, specifically for the most demanding architectural designs. This also ensures that perspective drawings approximate reality as much as possible.

As part of the planning phase, low consumption and low maintenance solutions are to be considered as well. For instance, professional LED products may increase the implementation budget, but on the short/mid run, they will turn out to be much cheaper. Their average lifetimes are usually around 50000 hours and their consumption is between 1/5th to 1/10th of traditional incandescent bulbs.

Besides the above, high end LED products are usually environmentally friendly with zero IR and UV emissions.