

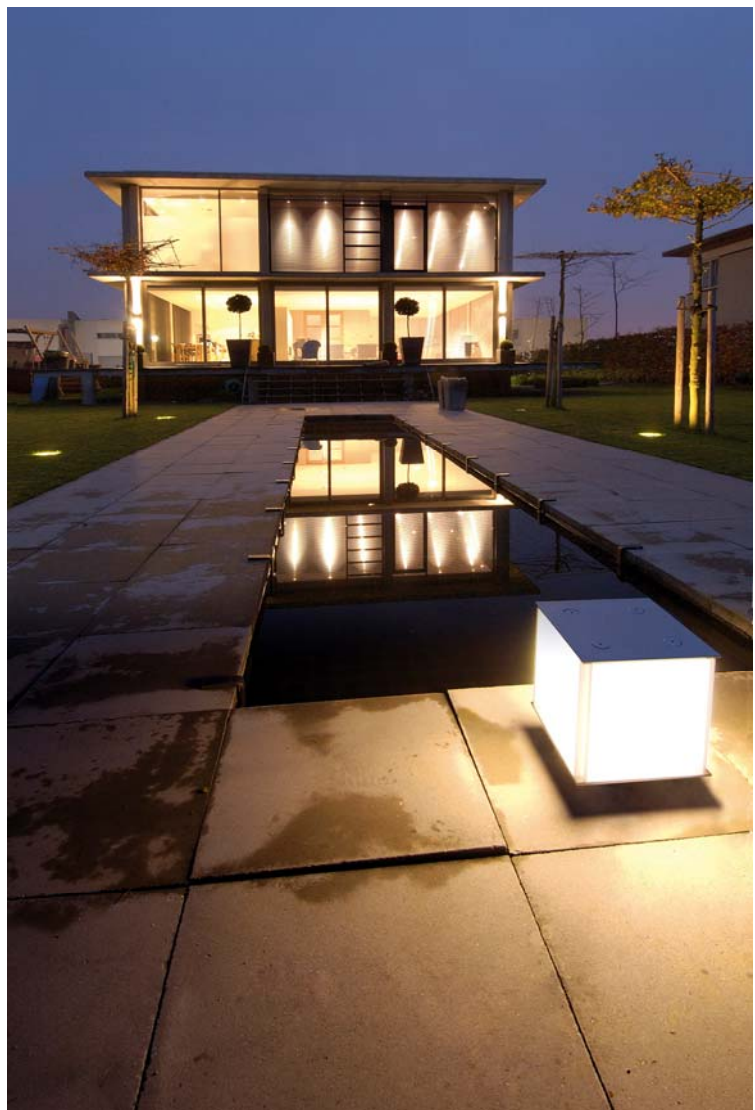


Outdoor Lighting Techniques In The Garden For Entertaining (Patios, Courtyards And Decking)

Contemporary fashion includes entertaining at home and often extends out to the garden or is set in the garden, particularly when the weather is kind and people are in the mood to relax. If you are lucky enough to have space outdoors for entertaining you can avoid all the rearrangement that's required when you hold parties and dinners indoors and you can probably cater for far more people too with the addition of some [outdoor lighting](#).

Welcome your guests from the start with an elegant outdoor lamppost in your front drive or garden to distinguish it from your neighbours. Walk them down an illuminated path as you chat about the evening's plans and show them through to your entertainment space where light from spikes, floodlights, wall lights or bulkhead lights provide a scene with guests, food and drink all easily noticed.

There is something tremendously appealing about eating al fresco, it seems much more relaxed and informal. While adults sit and chat, children can play in the garden, still able to be seen as the night grows on if you have sufficient light outdoors. You can even make a play area especially for the children by having a tree illuminated under which they can play – that way, you'll always know where they are. Barbeques, birthdays or a simple celebration of the British summer can get us all excited and ready to entertain. Of course you'd like to make it special as well as attractive and one of the best ways to achieve this is with sympathetic lighting – something interior designers and garden designers strongly recommend.



Courtyards, patios, decking areas and lawns can all offer a little extra charm when they are well-lit. If you only have a small area and want to avoid any protrusion, LED recessed lights will offer a great solution and spike lights in turf, carefully positioned can be angled to light areas with interesting washes that create artful silhouettes or shadows against walls. Wall mounted lights are usually positioned high enough not to interfere with seating arrangements and hood shield or lantern topped bollard lamps can provide signposts for areas as well as illuminating any flowers or low growing plants underneath them.

Any steps can benefit from lighting. Those in decking areas lie flush with the surface and ensure safe passage. Small, square LED lights can be fitted either on to the risers or the treads, depending on the effect your desire. Coloured bulbs can make an interesting style statement and continue a theme from indoors if you wanted. Concrete or brick steps by walls look fabulous when a wall mounted light spreads a wash of light that show up the steps and the attractive patterns of the wall itself when shadows exaggerate the angular lines. LED wall lights or recessed brick lights could provide just the touch you need as well as ensuring safety and security.



Outdoors is only the indoors of your home with fresh air all around. With LED lighting being so energy efficient and cost effective it could transform your property and give you an extra room for play, relaxation or partying when it is dry enough to enjoy being outside. There are plenty of ideas once you begin to think about them. If you wrap up warmly, even winter barbeques or Halloween, or Guy Fawkes bonfires could become regular features on your calendar if you brighten up the space with effective outdoor lighting techniques in your garden.

Bring on New Year!

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