

7 COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT RESULT IN POOR LIGHTING DESIGN

You have to see the light source

Not so! The reason we see any object is that light (from somewhere) has reflected off it. We see things that are lit. We don't need to see the light source. In fact seeing the light source is a distraction – a point of glare.

Bright light is good light

Not always! It depends on the situation. We can distinguish between ambient and task lighting. Some situations light kitchen benches or study desks might need high levels of illumination, whereas “chill – out zones” will not.

Daylight lamps are brighter than warm-white

Not so! Brightness is a function of the power of the lamp (watts). What is often perceived as brightness is in fact starkness, and a function of the colour makeup of the light beam. White light is a mixture of all the rainbow colours which when mixed together appear white. A little more blue and a bit less red in the colour spectrum will shift the character of the light toward the blue end of the spectrum.

You need lots of down lights to create even lighting

Who says you need even lighting. Down lights are essentially task lights that project light onto whatever is in front of them

All down lights are the same

Well No! So many different effects can be created depending on the light source, where that light source is within the fitting, the position of the down light, the colour density of the subject, the height of the ceiling..... Such things as the quality of the light source, the effectiveness of any reflector, the light output ratios (LOR) combine to create effects appropriate to the application.

Lighting is just illumination

Not quite as simple as that. We consider form and function of every light fitting to ensure your choice is appropriate for the application. Cost will usually reflect the quality of manufacture and performance. Point to ponder: the bitterness of poor quality remains long after the low price is forgotten!

LED lighting is too expensive

Maybe – maybe not! A light fitting is only expensive if it doesn't perform as expected. LED lighting can fall into this category if it is inappropriate for the job. Given the confusion about colour temperatures, and the inappropriateness in some applications, the payback for the comparative higher cost can sometimes be exorbitant. The higher capital cost associated with these fittings is usually compensated for by cheaper running costs and very long lamp life. Depending on usage the payback period can be as short as a few months. But if the lamp never wears out you need to be doubly sure the investment is appropriate...