

ILLUMINATING THE OUTDOORS

TRANSFORM YOUR
GARDEN

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GARDEN & OUTDOOR LIGHTING

FIRST EDITION

THE
HUDSON LIGHTING
EDITION

IMAGE AND GARDEN LUCY WILLCOX

WELCOME TO ALL
THINGS GARDEN
LIGHTING AT

HUDSON LIGHTING

This Guide to Garden & Outdoor Lighting will teach you our approach to garden lighting, helping you gain a deeper understanding of the Dark Sky concept. In these pages, you'll discover our lighting fixtures along with insights into their effects, as well as a range of articles exploring diverse outdoor lighting projects that offer inspiration and expert tips.

Dark skies has been a keen buzzword in the garden lighting industry since late 2024, and that interest continues well into 2025. I have Emma Griffin to thank for my first introduction to the dark skies concept—a few years ago, she emailed me some information about it, and I was instantly intrigued. That initial spark led me to dive deeper into the ideas and even produce my first YouTube video on the subject back in August 2021.

The idea behind launching this print magazine is to provide value through a mix of our own articles and guest contributions from industry experts, offering top tips and fresh perspectives on garden lighting. As this is our inaugural issue, I'm excited to share our journey with you and look forward to many improvements along the way.

So, welcome to Magazine #1. Enjoy the read and let it inspire your next outdoor lighting project.



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*Hudson
lighting*

Made in England

ABOUT Hudson Lighting

FROM THE FOUNDER - CHRIS HUDSON

At Hudson Lighting Ltd., we specialise in creating enduring outdoor lighting solutions that enhance any garden or outdoor space. With over a decade of experience as an electrician installing outdoor lighting for elite landscape gardening firms, I have a deep understanding of the unique challenges and requirements of garden lighting.

Driven by a passion for quality and durability, I founded Hudson Lighting in 2017 to address common issues with standard light fittings, such as water ingress, which often required multiple service visits. Our response was to design light fittings that are not just waterproof but completely submersible. This dedication to quality means each light fitting undergoes rigorous underwater testing, ensuring it can withstand the elements and provide reliable, long-lasting illumination.

Our products are meticulously crafted in our Surrey workshop, where we handle every step of the manufacturing process. From precision machining, to assembling circuit boards, our skilled team manages all aspects of production. Our facility is equipped with a state-of-the-art Nakamura lathe, allowing us to fulfill both standard and custom requests up to 65mm in diameter.

As we grow, our team continues to expand our capabilities.

Discover the benefits of investing in superior garden lighting with Hudson Lighting Ltd. We offer a free comprehensive lighting design service via our in house lighting designer - Jodie, from hand sketches and 2D overlays to full 3D visuals and walkthroughs, along with detailed wiring and ducting plans to assist installers. This ensures that every project is not only beautifully illuminated but also optimally executed.



CASE STUDY with Unique Projects

UNIQUE PROJECTS - CORNWALL SEAFRONT

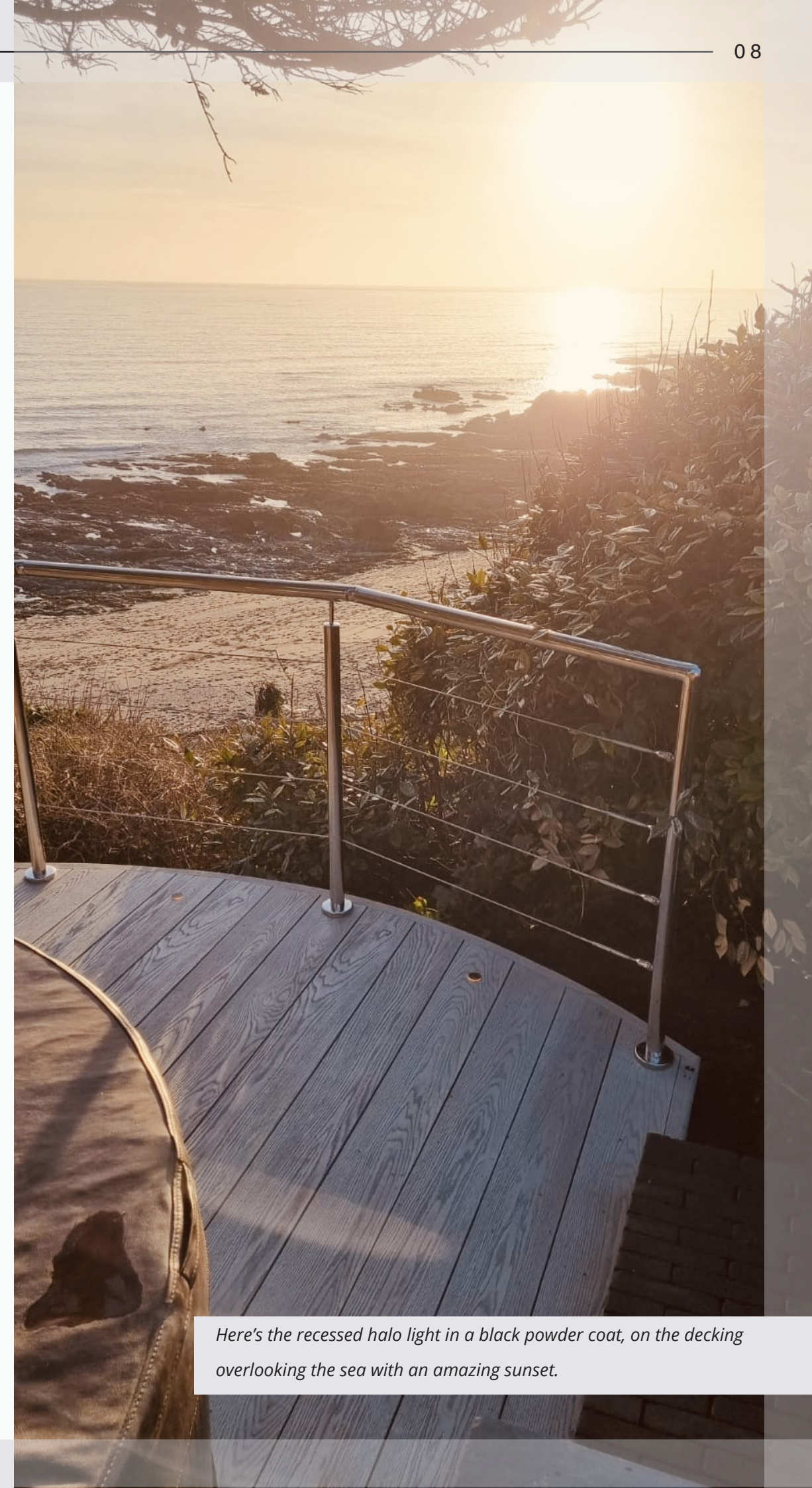
Ben from Unique Projects reached out to us as a long-term client for a special project in Cornwall. This project was on the seafront, featuring a deck directly overlooking the sea. He enquired whether our halo lighting would be suitable so close to the sea, to which I confidently confirmed that our 10-year warranty holds due to the anodising process we implement before powder coating.

"Whilst Unique Projects do not design per se, when we can influence or make suggestions on matters such as lighting, we always advise the use of the Hudson Lighting products. Chris and his team have industry-leading knowledge in the outdoor lighting arena and have a wide range of high quality, British made and well-engineered products that also have been environmentally considered. Besides that, they offer an industry-leading warranty and are always on hand to advise what fitting is best suited to an installation. We were very pleased to have specified Hudson fittings on a recent project overlooking the Cornish coast at Portwrinkle. Functional, exquisite and modest in their design and sympathetic to the natural setting."

- Ben Browning, Director, Unique Projects (Devon) Ltd.



Cornwall Seafront



Here's the recessed halo light in a black powder coat, on the decking overlooking the sea with an amazing sunset.

DIFFERENT FIXTURES:

Showcasing their impact and effect

HUDSON LIGHTS

SPIKE LIGHT

Spike lights have been placed next to the tree, uplighting it with a soft, atmospheric glow.

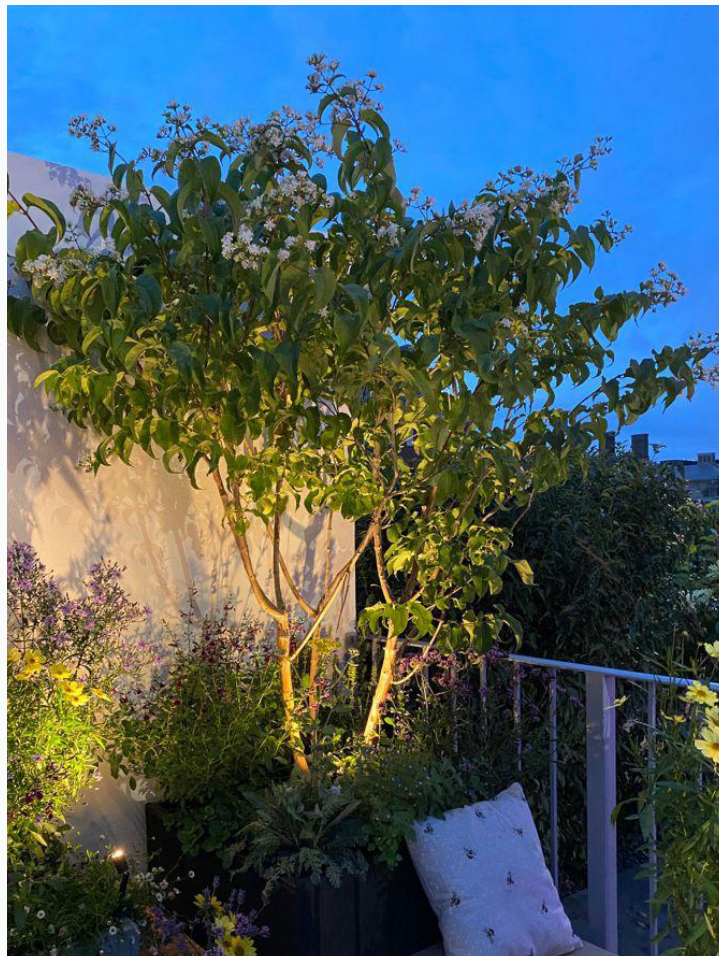


Image and garden Nicola Hale - Landform

DOWNWARD SPIKE LIGHT

Downward Spike Light has been placed at the edge of planting to illuminate steps, casting a beautiful glow and reducing trip hazards.

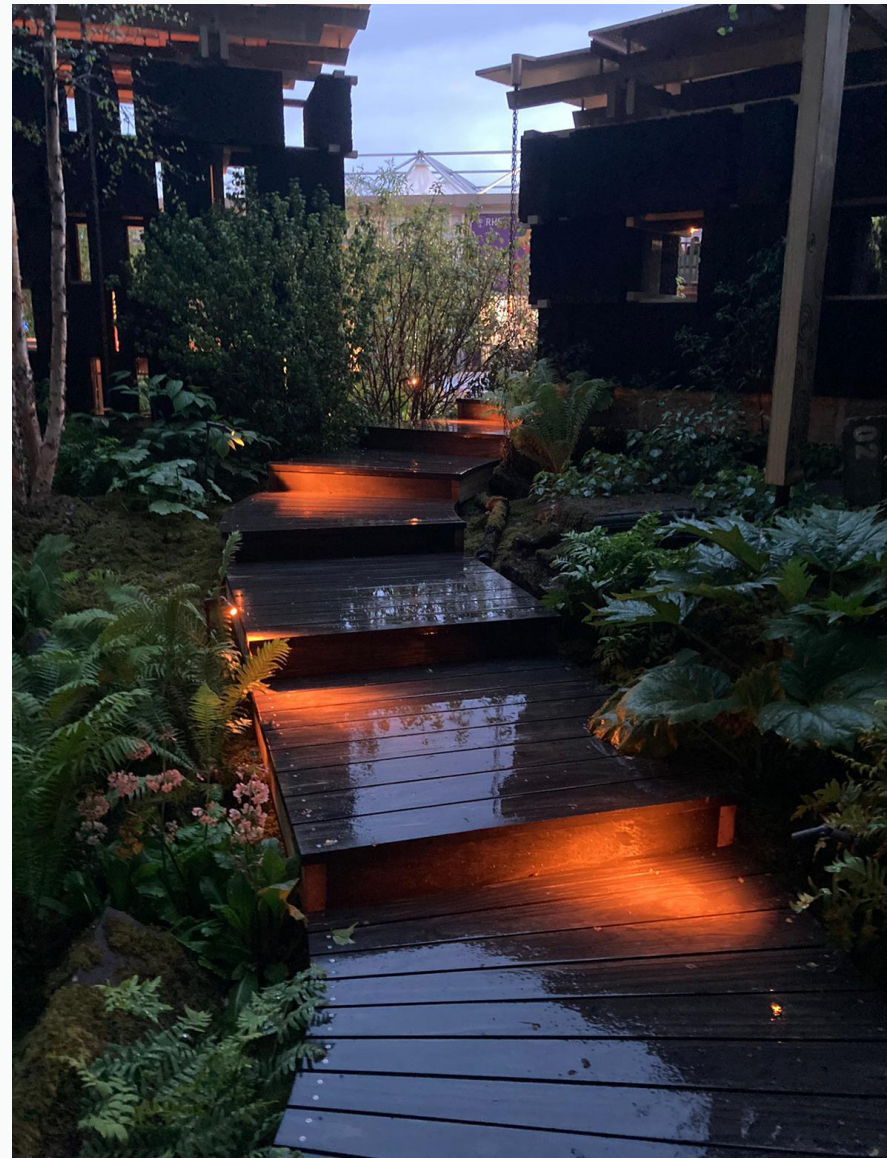


Image and garden Sophie Parmenter and CKS Architects

PLANTING LIGHT

Planting lights are strategically positioned above key plants, casting a soft, gentle glow that highlights their natural beauty. This subtle illumination creates an enchanting atmosphere, enhancing the garden's ambiance while drawing attention to the plants' features without overpowering them.

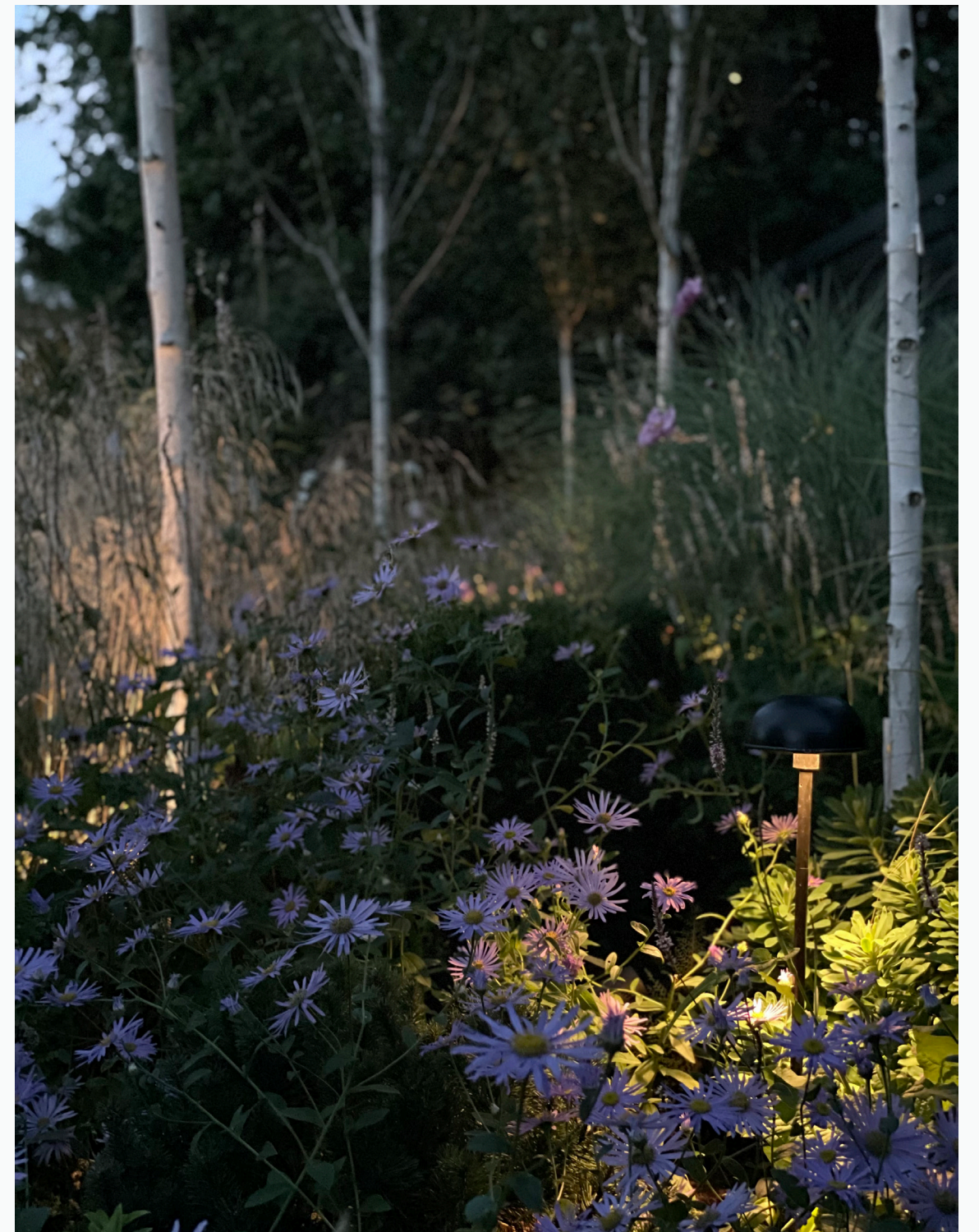


Image and garden Lucy Willcox

Three ways into the dark sky feeling

BY: MELANIE HICK

Melanie Hick is a garden designer specialising in bat and wildlife-friendly schemes for commercial and domestic clients. Her Climate-Forward won silver gilt in the Get Started category at RHS Hampton Court 2024. [MelanieHick.com](https://melaniehick.com)



Dark skies are about more than legislation. The feeling of enjoying the dark is a precious one few of us get, but we can show our clients how.

We humans feel deeply in the dark. Our senses come alive, and we're forced to be alert to more than we need to be in the causal comfort of a daylight stroll.

I praise the dappling of light and shadow plate dout with careful lighting placement, on the surfaces that give lustre and pattern rather than harsh reflection. I like to hint at the path we must take through a garden. Accessibility always, but art and light as sculpture as well.

There is a perfect juncture of using light artfully for our human clients and to support wildlife, including bats. Many clients are more aware of our responsibilities to and opportunities to enrich wildlife, by using light with discernment.

Darkness is enriching, but you and I are often faced with clients who want to illuminate the darkest corners of their gardens and properties like it's the 5th of November every night.

We know we're on thin ice with this climate crisis and species decline, but this education piece leans not so heavily on the measured science, but more to the feeling and deep connection to our human selves that darkness brings.

Your job and mine is part educator. We are guides with expert knowledge, steering clients and stakeholders to what's best for themselves, the property and the planet.

The three reads on my desk now are Dani Robertson's book *All Through The Night*, Junichirō Tanizaki's *In Praise of Shadows* and Jacqueline Yallop's *Into the Darkness*. Each speaks to darkness in different ways, but each provides a way in to encouraging clients to commission dark sky lighting, as seen in Hudson's dark sky lighting range. These are three ways to use Chris' dark sky lighting selections in your clients' gardens.

The dark skies way

In 2024 Gower became our newest dark sky mandated area, and ask anyone who knows it and it's a majestic place. Now even more so, as especially on a new moon, you will be rewarded with a surfeit of stars.

The effort to gain the designation began in 2017, and included community involvement from the Gower Society.

Swansea Council has now retrofitted all 1,641 streetlights in Gower with dark sky-compliant LED lanterns, and the area has hosted hundred of dark skies events.

This is the angle of Dani Robertson in her book *All Through The Night*. Switch them off, she cries, we all deserve the stars. She is passionate about dark skies and low lighting. Her argument works for these circumstances, where are safe within gardens or areas of natural beauty.

"Through dedication and collaboration, the dark sky advocates supporting Gower National Landscape have achieved a significant milestone—securing its place as an International Dark Sky Community. This achievement safeguards not only the breathtaking beauty of Gower's starlit skies but also the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage rooted in its landscape," remarked Amber Harrison, International Dark Sky Places Program Manager.

This has led to Gower businesses being able to offer dark sky tourism, another convincing factor for any commercial tourism client, if the planning requirements were not enough.

The way of beauty and art Junichiō Tanizaki's In Praise of Shadows is a gift of a book, written in 1933 and translate into English in 1977. One for any lighting designer's birthday list.

The light and darkness hinted at in this assembly of notions is dappled, muted and artisanal.

The light, or the lack of light, suggested in these beautiful pages (the Vintage edition with art selected by Suzanne Dean is especially luxe) is influenced by Tanizaki's abiding love of his Japanese culture and its respect for lustre, muted luminescence and aesthetics.

"If light is scarce then light is scarce; we will immerse ourselves in the darkness and there discover its own particular beauty," he writes, gently reminding us that we do not have to illuminate everything to enjoy it.

The beauty we find when we mark out a material, perhaps a fine stone, or bark texture with a low wash of light is echoed here.

"Were it not for shadows, there would be no beauty," he writes. Shadows are a gift in this world, because they tell us there is beauty beyond the waking day, when we are not even awake to see it.

Here is the science and the human

Jacqueline Yallop's Into the Dark: What darkness is and why it matters, broadly and deeply covers darkness as found in all manner of literature, eras, illnesses, sciences and philosophies.

A rich look into darkness and light in everything from Samuel Taylor Coleridge to Turner's sunsets and the very real sunset of a life in that of her father's decline to dementia.

This book discusses how we are never truly in darkness. Photons are everywhere, that much is true. I would rather not lecture a client on this, but instead guide them to thinking about the phases of the day and our perception of lights that enriches us.

Yallop references and quotes so widely, yet it's her own words I want to refer to here, because this small notion is worth reminding our clients of.

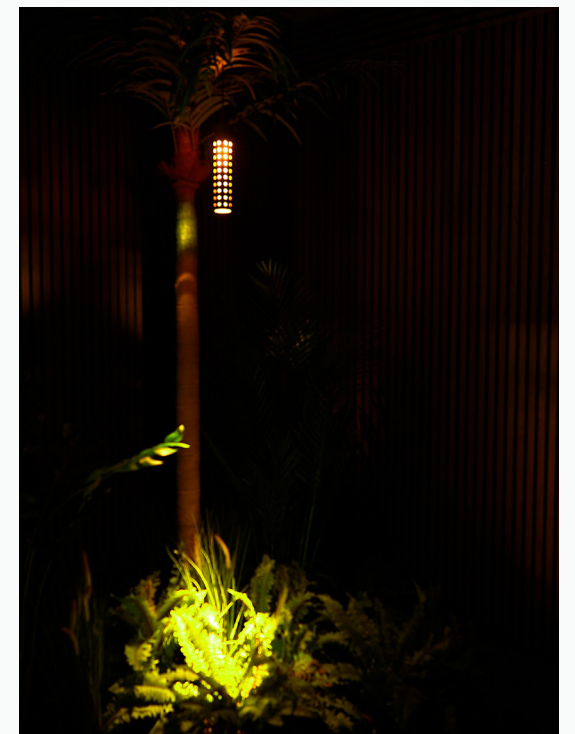
"Dusk is important," she writes. "It acts as a physical and emotional marker and tempers the day, allowing for the evolution of complete darkness. But it's a tender thing, fragile and flowing."

"Light pollution creates a false dark, too hard and unreal, too monotonous to be dusk, a bogus blur of illumination rather than a gathering of the dark."

We can help our clients to see these delicate shifts of light, dark sky planning guidance as in Gower and the Hudson dark sky selection, allow them to experience the full human feeling of experiencing the extent of the day.

Breakout:
Melanie recently used three Luna pendants on a separate circuit to sit above diners

under a pergola in a London garden. These are intended to be switched on and off for the enjoyment during the meal, and are deliberately designed not to be left on through the night or as security lighting. The low light and small moment acts as a decorative focal point and visual add for a short part of the evening.



Three ways into the dark sky feeling

BY: MELANIE HICK

A sustainability first, Made in Britain business

BY WORDS & STORY: MARIA COVLEA, CONCEPTS: CHRIS HUDSON

A decade ago, I used to work as an electrician and I was often frustrated and enraged by the poor quality of the products I was installing.

I have always prided myself on the quality of my work, so I was often disappointed to receive calls shortly after the installation, informing me that the lights were no longer working after a serious rain. On some occasions, I had to go back multiple times in a year to the same location to fix failing lighting systems.

Initially, I tried switching between brands, attempting to find fittings that wouldn't fail me or my customers. After eight years of working as an electrician and having no luck in finding good quality products, I realised that the old saying "If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself" might be true.

That is when Hudson Lighting came to life.

Here, at Hudson Lighting, in Surrey, UK, we produce outdoor lighting. Everything is designed, made, tested and packed in our state-of-the-art facility. We proudly wear the Union Jack on the shoulders of our uniforms, and we are one the few outdoor lighting companies in the UK that can say we are fully Made in Britain.

If you are still considering becoming our customer, here are seven reasons why you should choose us:

1. Made in Britain:

Hudson Lighting is proud to design and manufacture all products in the UK, ensuring full transparency and control over quality. Unlike many imported fittings, we produce everything locally in Surrey, from aluminium turning to circuit board assembly.

2. Unmatched Quality & Faster Turnaround:

We thoroughly test our outdoor fittings by fully immersing them in water, guaranteeing durability. As a local manufacturer, we offer quicker turnaround times compared to overseas orders.

3. Reduced Carbon Footprint:

Ordering locally reduces transportation emissions, helping meet climate change goals. Supporting local manufacturing also gives your business a competitive edge by demonstrating sustainability.

4. Repair Over Replace:

Unlike many overseas suppliers, we offer spare parts for our fittings, promoting repair and sustainability instead of replacement.

5. Clear Communication:

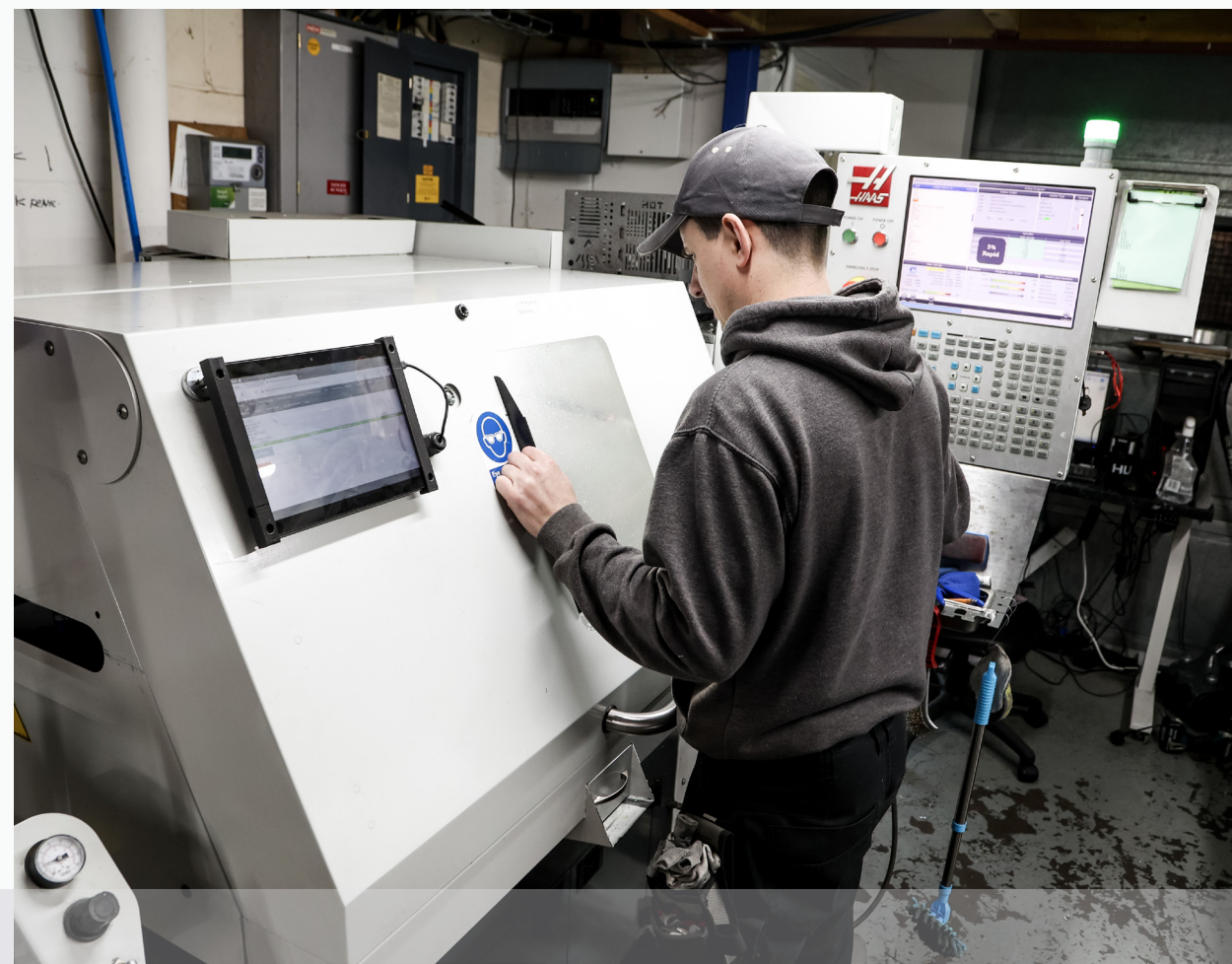
Ordering from Hudson Lighting eliminates language barriers and time zone issues often encountered with overseas suppliers, ensuring smooth communication.

6. Supporting the British Economy:

Buying British-made products strengthens the local economy and helps create jobs in the UK, especially important in light of the impacts of the pandemic and Brexit.

7. Transparency and Trust:

We welcome customers to visit our facility in Surrey to see where and how our products are made. Our door is always open for tours!





Around the beautifully illuminated seating area.

CASE STUDY with Landform - Mark Gregory

*THE SAVILLS PLOT TO PLATE GARDEN - CHELSEA
FLOWER SHOW 2023*

In 2022, Mark Gregory from Landform Consultants introduced us to a very special project: The Savills Plot to Plate Garden for the Chelsea Flower Show 2023. The garden was designed with a strong focus on ecological sustainability and exclusively used British-sourced and reclaimed materials.



The logs ready for the fire, adding warmth to the ambiance.



Products Used:
Downward spike spot
Micro eyelid light
Single wall light
Micro spike spot

Hallway featuring hand-painted details and meticulously laid brickwork.

Close-up of a downward spike spot among the planting.

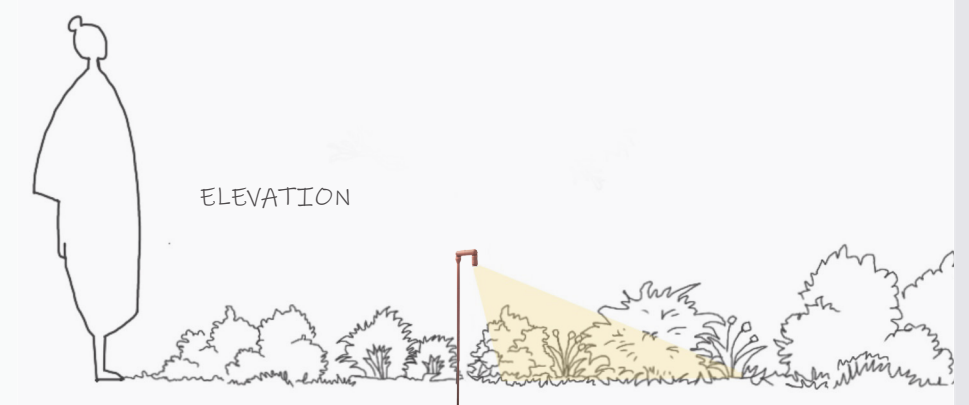


By the British made veranda.



Image and garden Artisan Electrics

DOWNWARD SPIKE LIGHT



CASE STUDY with BSD Electrical Services

GARDEN LIGHTING INSTALLATION IN SURREY

Ben from BSD Electrical led a remarkable installation for a dream garden in Surrey. Ben and his team of expert electricians executed the project to the client's delight, enhancing the garden's aesthetics and functionality.

"We love suggesting Hudson Lighting for our high-end projects. The fittings are beautifully discrete, custom to meet all our wonderful unique requests, and the service Chris provides is fantastic. Always on hand to support and deliver."

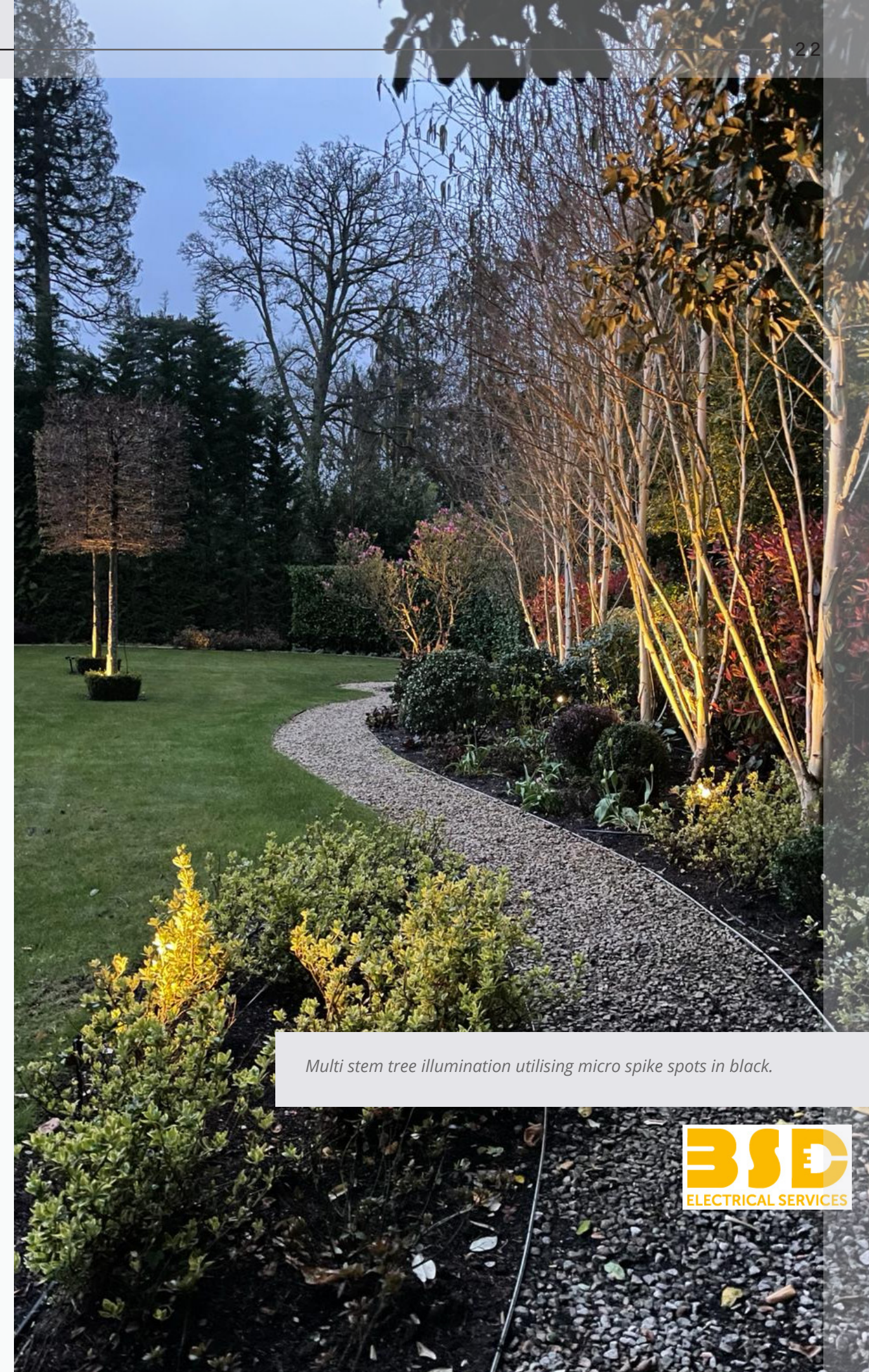
- Ben, Director, BSD Electrical



Custom path markers were made to produce a T-style pattern on the ground.



Micro spike spots placed subtly within the planting - uplighting under each parasol.



Multi stem tree illumination utilising micro spike spots in black.

DARK SKIES PART 1

**BY WORDS & STORY: MARIA COVLEA,
CONCEPTS: CHRIS HUDSON**

A LIGHTING GUY HOPING FOR DARKNESS

I am sitting at my desk, but my mind wonders, far away and into the future.

In my vision, I can see myself sitting on the grass in my garden, with my children lying next to me. The sky is pitch black and the light of the stars pierces the darkness. They look like a giant diamond shattered into a billion pieces.

I can hear the sweet innocent voice of my children murmuring "Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are..."

My vision stops there, and reality brings me back to what... I wonder the most... I wonder if this vision will ever come true if I can help the world maintain the darkness of our sky and the visibility of the stars.

"Dark sky? But Chris, you are in the lighting industry, what are you talking about?"

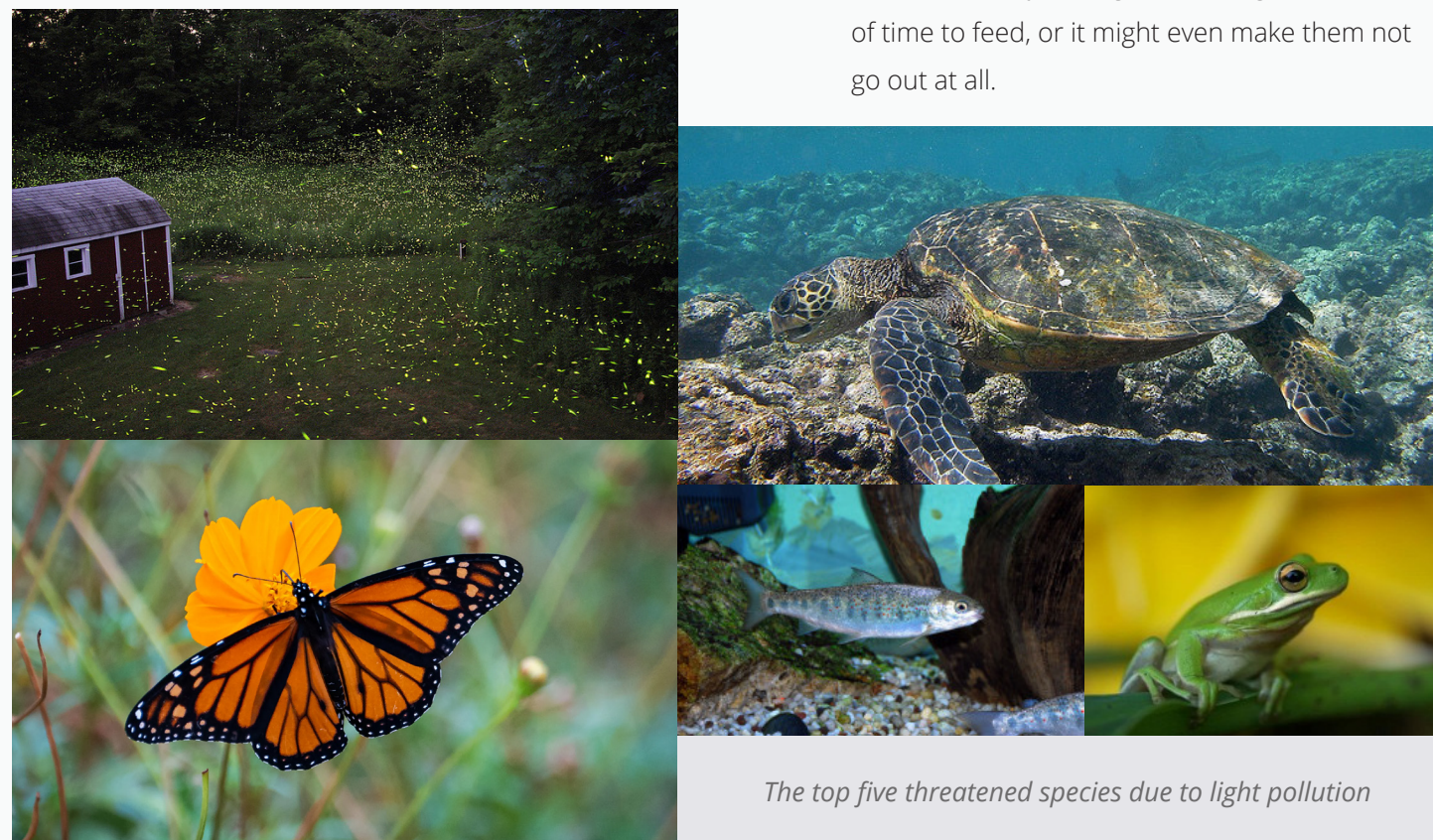
Allow me to share more about the dark skies, their significance, and the crucial role we can all play in this movement.

Dark Sky is an international movement focusing on combating the detrimental effects of light pollution on wildlife.

The Effects on Wildlife

In our urbanised world, artificial light has brightened the night, affecting the natural habitats of millions of species and, consequently, putting our future at risk.

Imagine living a life where your grandchildren may never experience the magic of seeing a firefly for the first time, or the majestic beauty of a monarch butterfly. These two insects are among the "Top five threatened species" due to light pollution.



The top five threatened species due to light pollution

The classic lullaby "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", we all once heard; says:

Then the traveller in the dark. Thanks you for your tiny spark, How could he see where to go, If you did not twinkle so?

We grew up listening to these lyrics, however, somewhere along the way, we forgot about the birds, insects and bats, travellers of the night, and their need to guide themselves only by the brightness of the moon and stars.

For example, insects use the moon as a signpost to navigate in the night. A bright light will disorientate them, and we have all seen this hundreds of times when insects circle back around a bulb in the night. This is a small glimpse into the impacts of a disrupted ecosystem. Birds and bats are affected, as they can't feed on these insects.

Animals such as bats only go out at night to find food, a bright light close to their roosts can make them stay in longer, reducing the amount of time to feed, or it might even make them not go out at all.

This usually leads to malnutrition and death, putting the bats at risk of extinction.

Bats play a vital part in our native wildlife, and they are a key indicator of the state of the environment. They are top predators of common nocturnal insects and are sensitive to changes in land use practices. In a world without bats, we would have no forests or farms, as bats help spread seeds and control the insect population.

Aside from the negative effects on wildlife, light pollution also robs us of the beauty of the night sky and the millions of stars it holds.

Playing Our Part

We all have to play our part in reducing light pollution, and while we can't control the full urban environment, we can control the way our houses and gardens are illuminated.

The good news is that there are ways to protect the dark skies, and as a guy working in the lighting industry, passionate about sustainability and protecting nature, I can teach you everything you need to know about these methods.

Maintaining a dark sky above your garden doesn't mean turning the lights off completely. It means choosing the right lighting systems and always considering living in harmony with nature as a norm.

Thank you for reading this story and for learning more about the dark sky movement



Image and garden Lucy Mitchell

ELEVATION



MULTI STEM MASTER

DARK SKIES: bright ideas for enhancing outdoor spaces

NIGHT-FRIENDLY ILLUMINATION

By Words & Story: Maria Covlea, Concepts: Chris Hudson

If you've been keeping up with my blog posts or YouTube videos, you already know that I'm very passionate about the Dark Skies movement. This movement aims to reduce the impact of light pollution by minimising unnecessary artificial light at night (ALAN).

Everyone, humans and creatures alike need darkness during the night, whether for restorative sleep or facilitating the nocturnal activities of animals like bats or owls. The rising and setting of the sun trigger our circadian cycle, our internal clock, signalling our bodies when to awaken and when to rest. This natural rhythm is aligned with the cycles of nature and the universe. The circadian cycle is influenced by light and darkness, so when it's light outside, our bodies know it's time to be awake, and when it's dark, they know it's time to sleep.

Exposure to blue or white light after sunset confuses our internal clocks, often resulting in disrupted sleep patterns. This phenomenon isn't limited to humans; animals and plants are also affected. Species such as the monarch butterfly, fireflies, and turtles are particularly vulnerable to these disturbances.



Manufacturers in the lighting industry, together with garden designers and electricians, must assume responsibility and provide our clients with the best guidance. We have to make sure that the lights we fit outdoors are not damaging to our clients or to nature.

I've put together a guide that focuses on how to choose the right light temperature to protect your clients' wellbeing, nature, and the beauty of the night sky. Find on the next page.

“This movement aims to reduce the impact of light pollution by minimising unnecessary artificial light at night (ALAN).”

Night-friendly
illumination

How to photograph Garden Lights:

A GUIDE TO CAPTURING MAGIC AFTER DARK
BY JONATHAN WARD

Photographing garden lights requires the same meticulous attention to detail as shooting in daylight. But if anything, night photography demands even more preparation and thought. With a bit of planning, you can turn your garden into a glowing wonderland of light and shadow, capturing images that shimmer with atmosphere.

Planning Is Key

The secret to great garden light photography starts long before you take the first shot. Scout your garden or location in daylight to identify interesting compositions, architectural features, and lighting arrangements. Arriving early will give you the chance to set up and fine-tune your equipment.

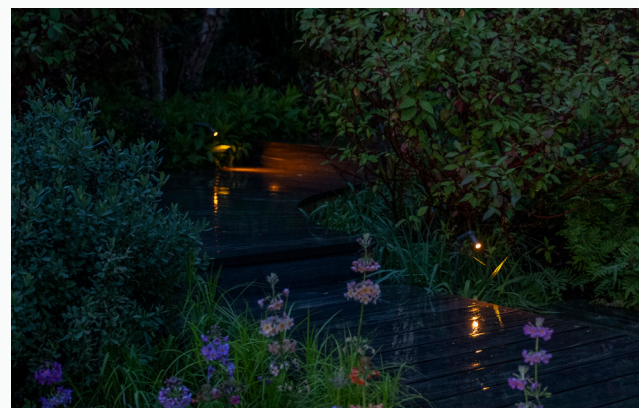
The golden window for low-light photography is the hour surrounding sunset, known as the “blue hour.” In winter, this sweet spot can shrink to as little as 20 minutes before and after sunset. During this time, the fading light of the sky perfectly complements artificial garden lights, creating a harmonious balance that’s both striking and easy to capture.

Compose with Care

Once you’re on location, take time to scrutinize your scene through the viewfinder.

It’s easy to focus on what you want to see, but don’t let that blind you to distractions. Are there unsightly telephone wires slicing through the top of the frame? Do objects in the foreground or background clash awkwardly?

Good composition is about subtraction as much as addition. Be ruthless in eliminating visual clutter, ensuring that every element in your frame adds to the overall image.



Turn Off the Flash

When it comes to photographing lights, there’s one cardinal rule: switch off your camera’s flash. Garden lights look their best when captured in their natural glow, free from the harsh interference of additional lighting.

Without a flash, your camera will rely on slower shutter speeds to gather enough light. This means stability is critical to avoid blur. A sturdy tripod is ideal, but in a pinch, you can improvise—use a bean bag, a stack of books, or even a bag of compost to steady your camera.

Master Manual Focus

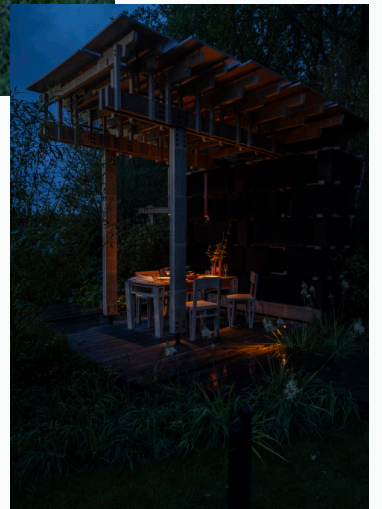
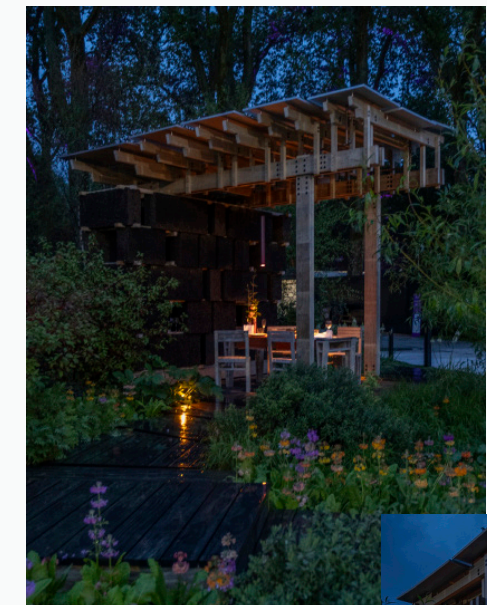
As darkness deepens, your camera’s autofocus may falter. When this happens, switch to manual focus. Use the viewfinder or screen to ensure your subject is crisp. If you’re unsure how to adjust the focus manually, consult your camera’s manual beforehand—fiddling in the dark is never ideal.

Control Unwanted Light

If you’re shooting from inside your house, remember that indoor lights can spill into your scene, affecting the final image. Turn off any unnecessary lights behind you to avoid glare. For stray lights from neighboring properties, a lens hood can help minimize their impact.

The Magic of Water

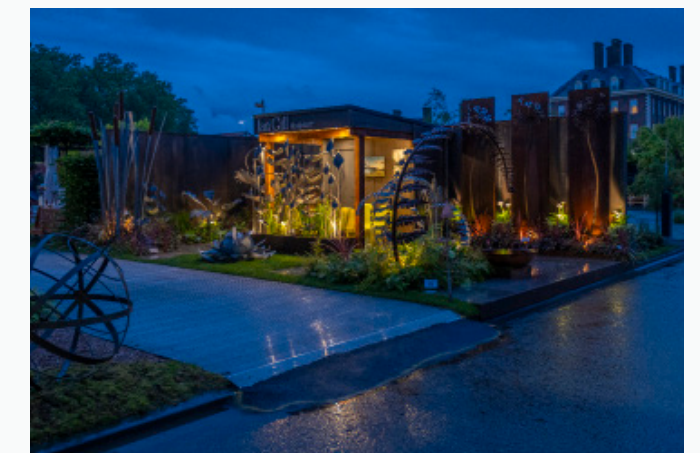
Water, often overlooked in night photography, is a secret weapon when capturing garden lights. Its reflective properties amplify and soften colors, creating a dreamlike glow. A pond can



work wonders, but don’t worry if you don’t have one—dampen paving stones or lightly mist plants to achieve a similar effect. The glistening surfaces will transform your garden into a luminous paradise.

Final Thoughts

Photographing garden lights is as much about the journey as the destination. It’s an opportunity to slow down, notice the details, and experiment with your camera’s capabilities. With a bit of patience and creativity, you’ll create images that capture the magic of your garden at night—pictures worth treasuring long after the lights go out.



CASE STUDY With Rose Hill Luxury Gardens

RHINO GREENHOUSES TRADE STAND AT CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2023

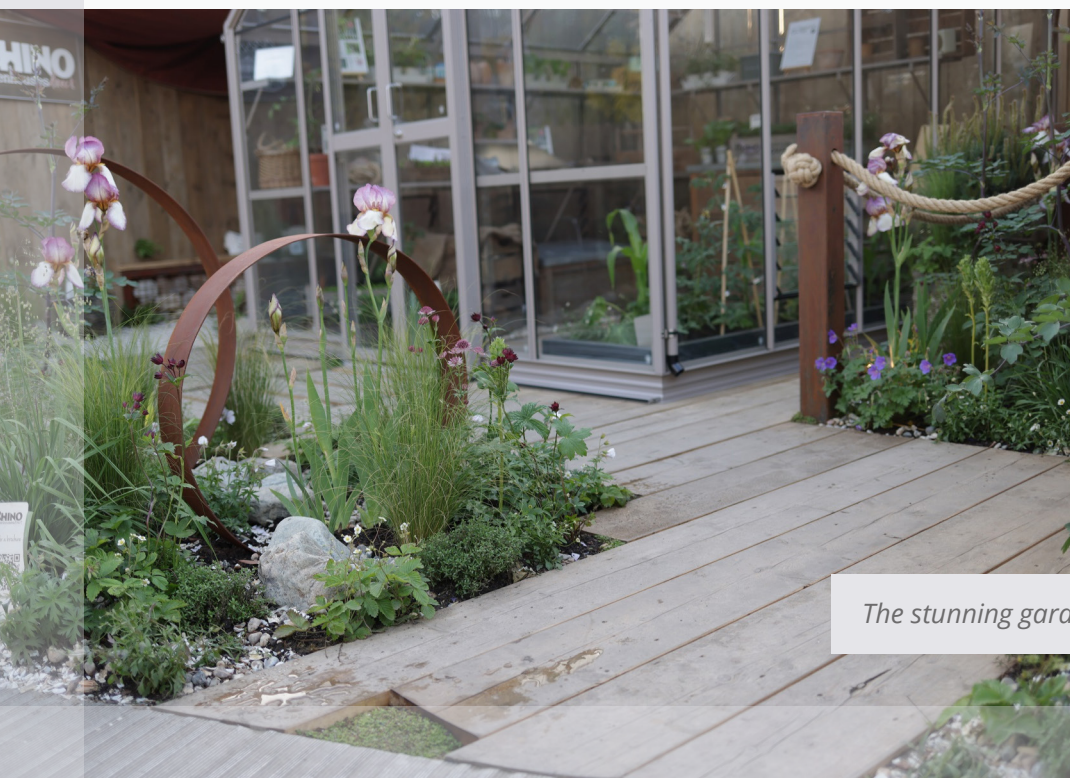
In collaboration with Landscape Plus, Hudson Lighting was tasked with illuminating the Rhino Greenhouses Trade stand. The team led by Rae and Tommy executed the project flawlessly, earning a 5-star trade stand award. Our choice of micro spike spots in CorTen was key, their discreet design blending seamlessly with the landscape and matching the CorTen features of the stand.

"Hudson Lighting are a fantastic company to work with, not only do they supply stunning lights they also have extensive knowledge and a clear passion for the quality and durability of their products. We have worked with Hudson Lighting on various projects including the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show and would highly recommend them for garden lighting."

CorTen micro spike spot blending into the surrounding planting.



CorTen Micro spike spot set against the lush planting.



Products Used:
Micro spike spot

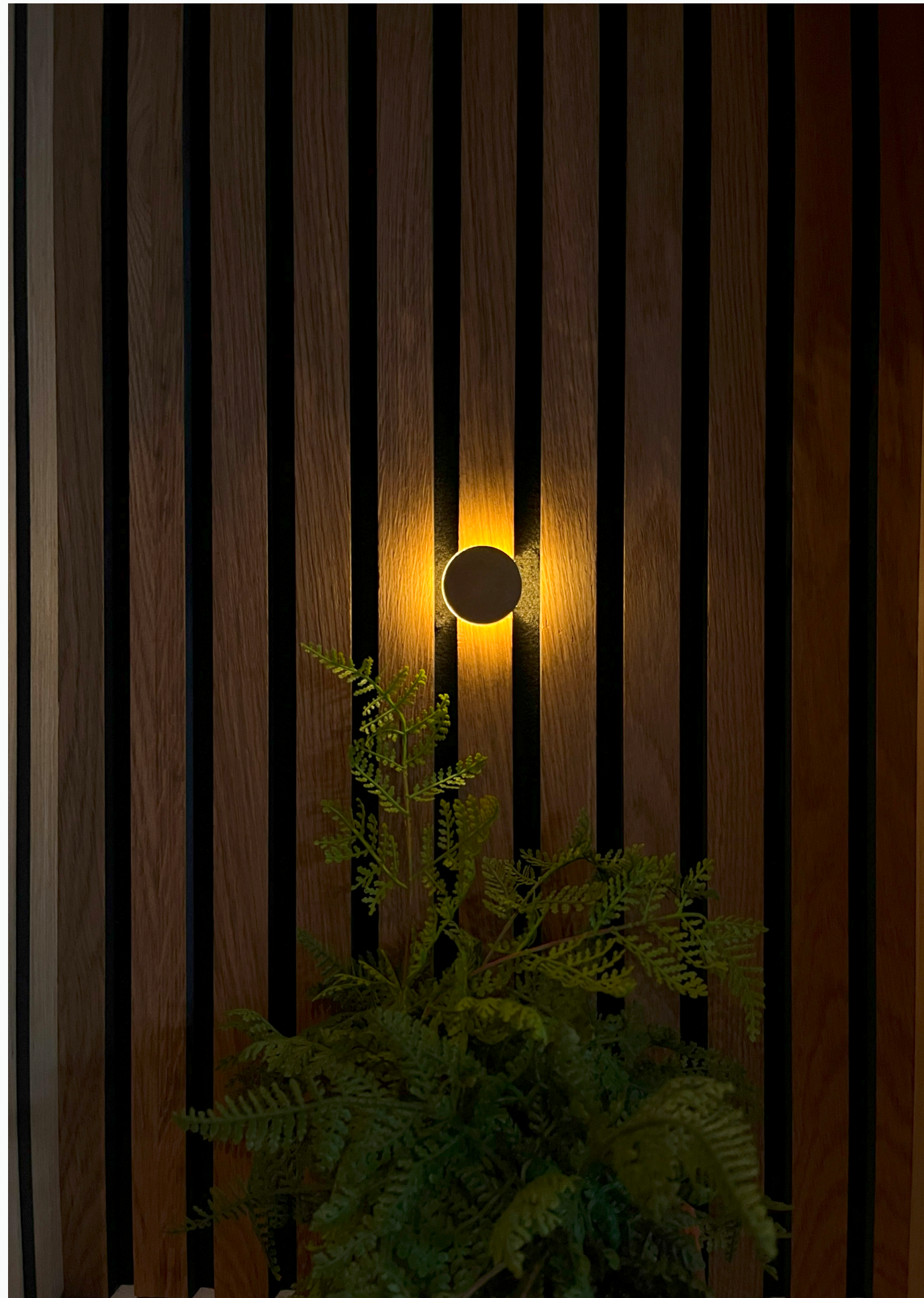


The stunning garden by Rose Hill Luxury Gardens.



CorTen rings contrast against the rugged coast-themed flooring. The Rhino greenhouse taking centre stage, with CorTen rings in the foreground.





HALO LIGHT



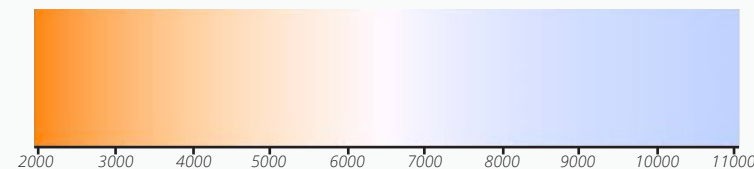
An amazingly unique light which should be used in path ways and decking instead of using the mistake of recessed uplights. Providing a gentle cascading light output in a halo style pattern. Submersible (IP68), small, but powerful with a user replaceable LED. 10 year guarantee. Pre-flexed with 2 meters of 2 core flex - longer cable lengths available on request up to 100M. Dimmable. All components of the fitting are replaceable allowing for longevity of the fitting beyond the warranty for years to come. Must be used with 350mA LED drivers, wired in series only. 42W Max (120VDC)

How to choose the right light temperature to protect

BY WORDS & STORY: MARIA COVLEA, CONCEPTS: CHRIS HUDSON.

UNDERSTANDING LIGHT WARMTH

Kelvin (K) is a unit of measurement used to describe the colour temperature of light. When it comes to light warmth, lower Kelvin values represent warmer, more yellowish light, while higher Kelvin values represent cooler, bluish light. Confuses our internal clocks, often resulting in disrupted sleep patterns. This phenomenon isn't limited to humans; animals and plants are also affected. Species such as the monarch butterfly, fireflies, and turtles are particularly vulnerable to these disturbances.



AVOID COOL WHITE LIGHT (5000K - 6500K)

A light of 5000K to 6500K mimics daylight, when on, it banishes the darkness of the night, transforming it into an artificial imitation of daytime. We need darkness at night; seeing bright artificial light in the evening can be damaging to our sleep, even if it's for a short time. Animals suffer greatly from this type of light, as it can confuse them to the point of starvation or death. If you are part of the outdoor lighting industry, please refrain from recommending or installing this type of lighting.

OPT FOR WARMER TONES (3000K - 1800K)

A 3000K light is a warm white light, but it's still quite high on the Kelvin count, so ideally, we will shift towards 2200K lights which are a bit warmer, resembling a sunset glow.

The best light is 1800K; this is the warmest of the white colours, a personal favourite of mine. It's much more nightlife-friendly, peaceful and has a significantly lower impact on wildlife or circadian cycles.

CONSIDER RED LIGHT

Utilised in marine navigation, this light sustains nighttime visibility without causing harm to the environment. We do recommend using this for outdoor lighting whenever feasible.

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE OR RECOMMENDATION

If you are a garden designer looking to make recommendations to a client for outdoor lighting or an individual looking for inspiration, think dark skies first and choose to illuminate your garden or other outdoor spaces with a light that is less than 3000K; let's live in harmony with nature.



Image and Garden Michelle Brandon

MICRO SPIKE LIGHTS

Enhance your outdoor lighting design with the compact and versatile micro spike spot. Perfect for highlighting smaller features and creating intimate focal points, this lighting solution is ideal for illuminating plants, sculptures, or architectural details. Its sleek and unobtrusive design ensures it blends seamlessly into your outdoor space, adding a subtle yet impactful touch to your landscape.

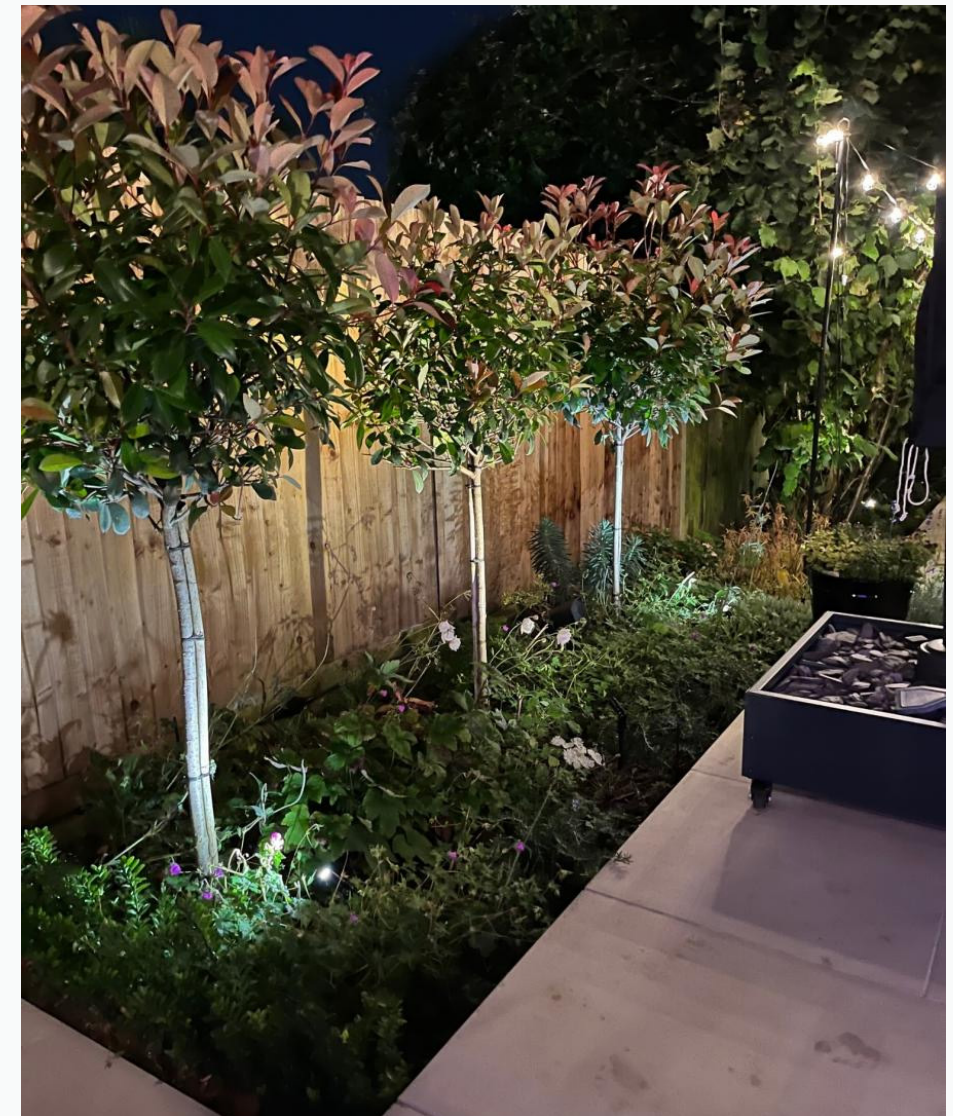


Image and Garden Love Mackenzine Electrical

Key Features and Benefits:

- Submersible and waterproof (IP68 rated)
- Small but powerful, with a user-replaceable LED
- 10-year guarantee for peace of mind
- Pre-flexed with 2 meters of 2-core flex (optional longer leads available)
- Dimmable for customisable lighting effects
- Reverse polarity-proof design with a diode bridge for simplified installation
- All components are replaceable, ensuring the fitting's longevity far beyond the warranty



DARK SKIES PART 2

BY WORDS & STORY: MARIA COVLEA, CONCEPTS: CHRIS HUDSON

A Dark Sky Guide for British Outdoors

It's easy to grasp the devastating impact of wildfires. They rage hot and fierce, leaving nothing but destruction in their wake. Creatures of all kinds, from birds to insects, vanish into the flames, reduced to a sea of blackened ashes.

Yet, not all destruction of nature unfolds with such dramatic flair. Sometimes, it creeps upon us slowly and quietly, altering entire ecosystems. This is particularly evident in the case of light pollution stemming from artificial nighttime illumination, which silently alters and destroys entire ecosystems over time.

Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) has only become a common occurrence since the mid-20th century, and the negative effects it has on nature were observed soon after. The harsh

glow disrupts the natural production of melatonin, essential for body repairs for both humans and wildlife. When ALAN is present, birds find it challenging to navigate during the night, bats retreat to their roosts, and newly hatched turtles on beaches perish as artificial light disorients their directions. Even plants, bathed in artificial light during the night, are more susceptible to disease.

ALAN doesn't just affect the ground; it reaches upward, reflecting atmospheric particles and creating sky glow, a layer of light which hides away the beauty of dark skies.

Did you know?

A study reveals that 60% of Europeans and almost 80% of North Americans cannot see the beautiful glow of the Milky Way because of the effects of artificial lighting.

In the last 20 years, the Dark Sky movement, the war of darkness against ALAN, has been slowly shifting towards the dark side, and for once, that is actually a good thing. Experts leading this charge have transformed areas like the South Downs National Park into protected Dark Sky zones. Dan Oakley, a pioneer in this initiative, emphasises the importance of “right light, right time, right place” for success, urging the lighting industry to champion this cause.



Downs National Park - Photo by Pablo Rodriguez

To do my part, I've put together a simple guide to aid in embracing darkness and preserving the beauty of our Dark Skies.

1. *Illuminate Only When Necessary.*

ALAN should serve a purpose; if it can't be justified, it's likely unnecessary.

2. *Define The Area To Be Lit Precisely.*

A specialist can strategically position light sources to target only the areas that need illumination effectively while minimising spillage into unwanted areas. Use glare guards to control the light.

3. *Ensure Lights Turn Off When Not in Use.*

Nighttime illumination not only wastes energy and contributes to carbon emissions but also disrupts local wildlife. Employ timers and motion controls to mitigate these effects.

4. *Choose Warm Lighting.*

Opt for warmer lights (less than 2700K, ideally less than 2200K) to minimise negative impacts on nature. Replace fluorescent lights (now banned in the UK) with alternative lighting.

5. *Direct Light - Only Downwards.*

Avoid upward-facing lights to reduce sky glow and negative effects on wildlife. If the light must be upwards consider the degree of the reflection to reduce light spillage.

6. *Maintain Buffer Zones.*

Keep areas near waterways, hedgerows, grassland (that is not maintained) and edges of woodland in complete darkness to protect wildlife habitats.

7. *Seek Professional Advice.*

Consult experts like DarkScape Consulting or Hudson Lighting to make informed lighting choices amidst the many available options.

CASE STUDY with Katherine Holland garden design

THE FOLIO SOCIETY'S READING ROOM GARDEN - CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2023

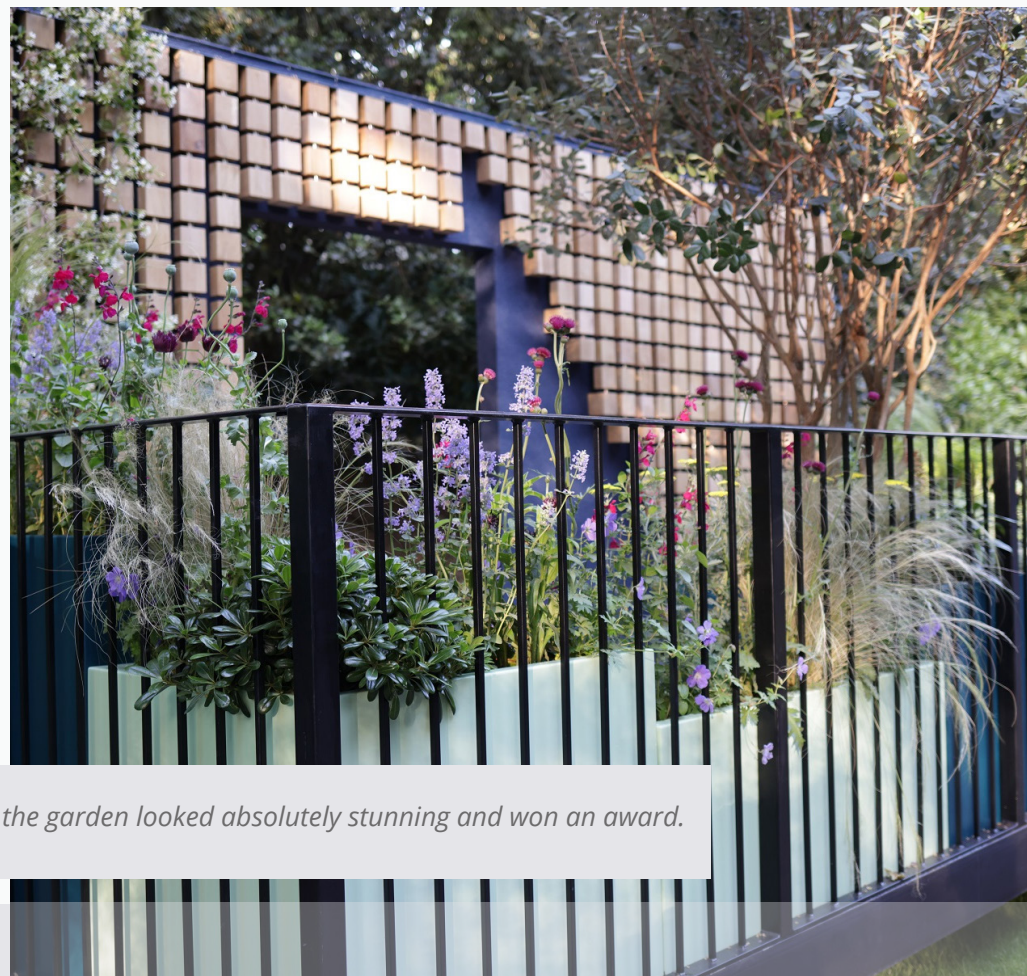
In early 2023, Katherine Holland and Phil Sutton Landscapes approached us to discuss the lighting for Katherine's spectacular garden at the Chelsea Flower Show 2023. Various lighting solutions were explored to enhance the handcrafted cedar blocks in the garden.

After careful consideration, we decided to use micro inset lights recessed within the blocks, which perfectly accentuated the features.

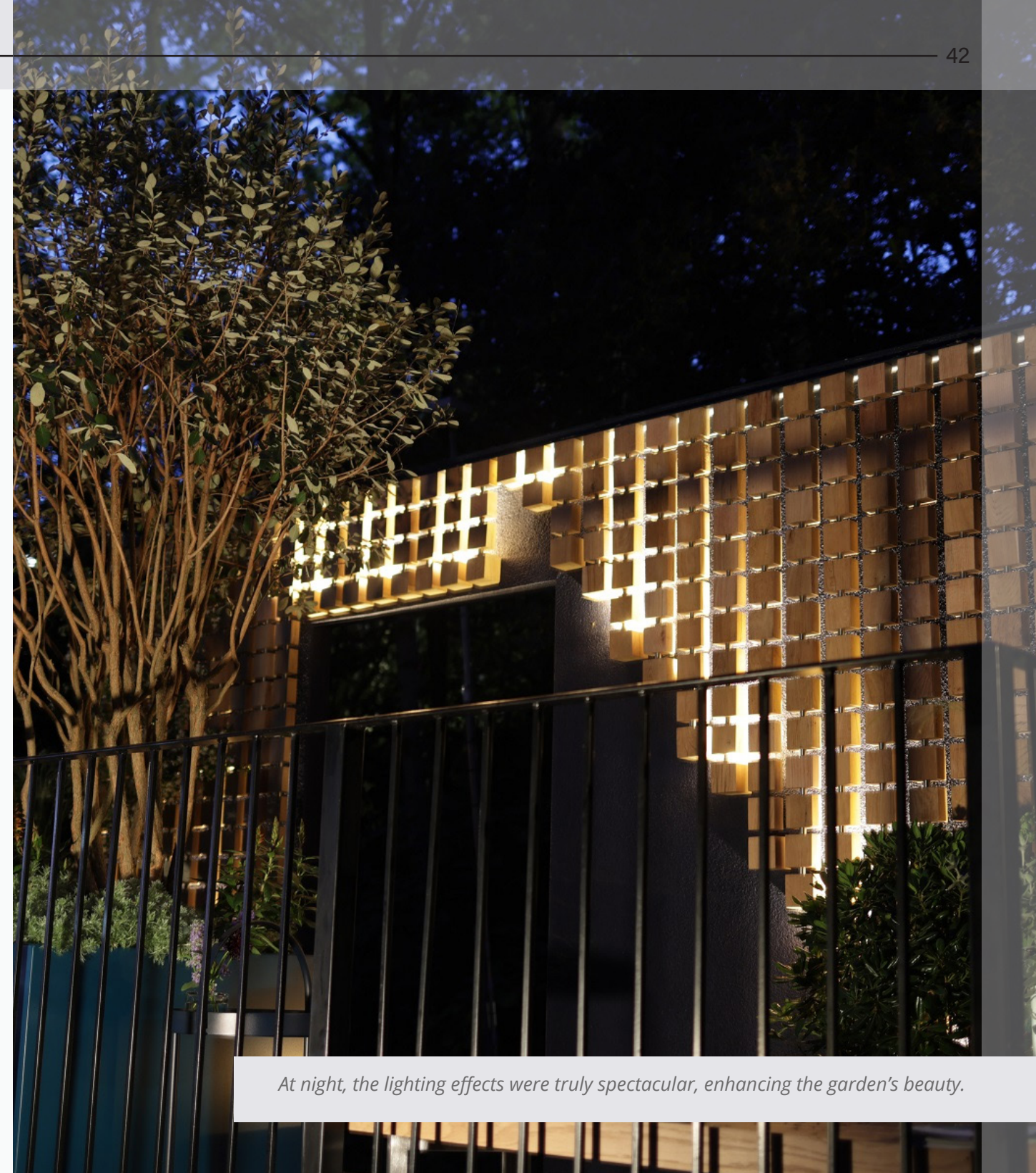
KATHERINE
HOLLAND
GARDEN DESIGN



2023



During the day, the garden looked absolutely stunning and won an award.



At night, the lighting effects were truly spectacular, enhancing the garden's beauty.



Detail of the micro inset lights installed in the oak blocks.

Products Used:
Micro inset



Installation materials

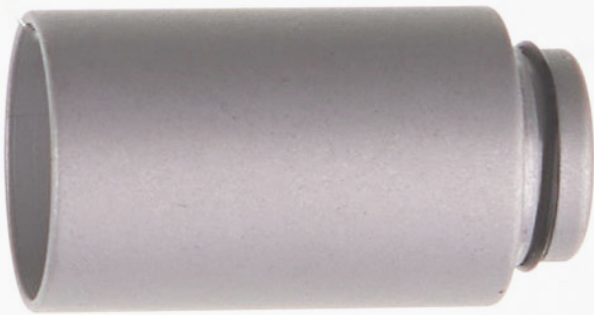
THAT HUDSON LIGHTING OFFERS

- 9W IP68 DRIVER
- 25W LED DRIVER
- DIMMABLE DRIVER 35W 0-10V
- 607 WISKA BOX BLACK
- MAINS DIMMABLE LED DRIVER 23-40W
- MAINS DIMMABLE 9-16.8W DIMMABLE LED DRIVER

35W LED DRIVER



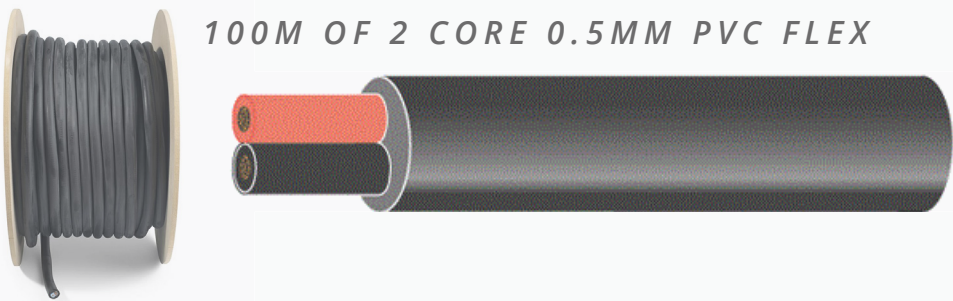
SLEEVE FOR RECESSED LIGHT



20W 350MA DRIVER



100M OF 2 CORE 0.5MM PVC FLEX



WISKA SPIKE



108 WISKA BOX IN BLACK



10W DIMMABLE 350MA DRIVER



All things Garden Lighting

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - TO HUDSON LIGHTING

Where are Hudson Lights made?

Our Hudson Lights are proudly made in the UK, specifically in Coulsdon, located in the South of England. We manufacture everything under one roof, handling all aspects of production in-house. From CNC machining and anodising to powder coating and electronics, we control every step to ensure the highest quality craftsmanship.

Why choose our lights?

We're proudly British-made, with everything manufactured in-house. Every component of our lights is user-replaceable, meaning you can easily disassemble and replace parts individually, right on-site—no need to send them back to us like with other manufacturers. Additionally, we offer an in-house design service to assist with your lighting needs, ensuring you get the perfect solution for your project.

What finishes do you do?

We offer a range of standard in-house powder coat finishes, including Black, Nato Green, Corten, and Bronze (RAL 8040). Additionally, we provide premium materials such as solid brass, solid copper, solid bronze, and 316 stainless steel for our Halo light. If you require a custom colour, we can source the specific RAL shade you need and powder coat the lights in any colour you desire.



Do you do customisations ? If so to what level?

Yes, we absolutely offer customizations! At a basic level, we can modify any of our fittings by adding features such as spikes (or extending them), adding flat plates, and of course, custom colours are always an option. If you have a more unique requirement, feel free to send it to us, and we'll assess whether it's something we can create in-house.

How are the lights powered?

Our lights are powered by a 240V mains feed, which is connected to an LED driver. From there, we use a series wiring system at 350mA. You can run a loop around your garden and connect each light. This setup can support a run of up to one kilometer in length.

Are they dimmable?

Yes, our lights are absolutely dimmable. The dimming capability depends on the driver you choose. We offer a variety of options including 0-10V drivers, DALI, leading edge, trailing edge, and toroidal drivers, giving you plenty of configuration choices to suit your needs.

How waterproof are your lights?

All of our lights are rated IP68, except for our bollard lights. This means that most of our lights can be installed underwater. If you plan to install a light underwater, just let us know in advance, and we will conduct a 72-hour test to ensure it performs without any issues.

What is Dark Skies?

Dark Skies is all about preserving our natural night sky and being more wildlife-friendly. It focuses on reducing light pollution, which not only enhances the aesthetic of our gardens but also helps protect the environment. By choosing dark skies-compliant lighting, we can create beautiful outdoor spaces while minimising our impact on the planet and supporting local wildlife, making it a simple yet impactful choice for both beauty and sustainability.

Why should we go with a Dark Sky scheme?

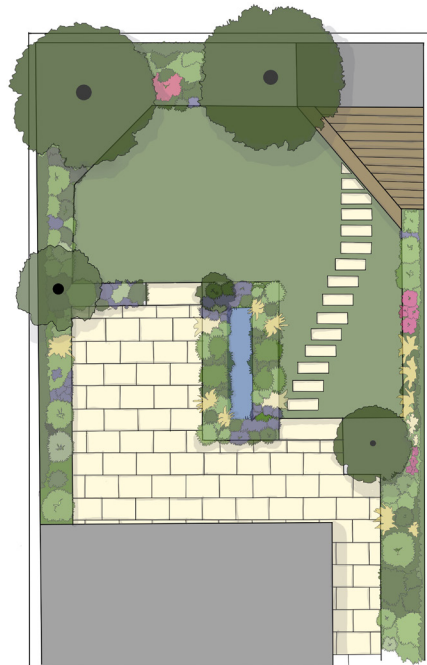
Choosing a Dark Sky scheme is a smart decision for several reasons. It's better for the planet by reducing light pollution, better for wildlife by preserving natural habitats, and better for human health by minimising disruptive artificial lighting. Plus, it's simply the right thing to do if you're installing lighting in your garden. Not only does it support a healthier environment, but it also creates a stunning, more atmospheric look for your garden at night.

Creating a 2D lighting plan in Procreate

STEP BY STEP FOR CREATING LIGHTING PLANS

Step 1: Import Your Plan into Procreate

Start by importing your plan into Procreate. When you do this, the plan will be imported into a new document in your Procreate gallery. In this document, the plan will appear as a new layer above the background layer, which will be Layer 1. You can rename this layer if you'd like for better organisation. To rename it, tap on the Layer Icon (the two squares stacked on top of each other at the top of the screen). When you click on this, the layers panel will appear. Tap on the Plan Layer twice to bring up a menu. From the options that appear, select Rename, and you can now call this Layer Plan.



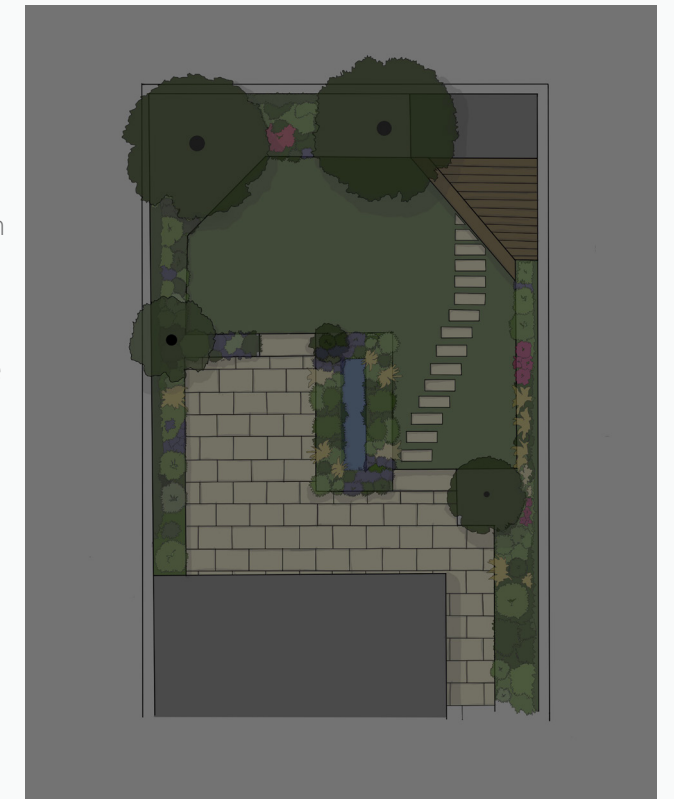
Step 2: Making the Plan Dark to Show Night-time

Next, you'll need to create a new layer to simulate a night-time effect. To do this, tap on the Layer Icon again and click the + button to create a new layer. This new layer will be Layer 2, and it should be positioned above the Plan Layer. To move the layers around, simply drag and drop them in the layers panel. Make sure Layer 2 is highlighted in blue to confirm that you are working on the correct layer.

Now, you'll change the colour of this layer to black. Tap on the Colour Icon (the circle located at the top right), and it will show the current colour you have selected. Click on this circle, which will bring up the colour palettes. Choose the Classic Palette and select black. Once black is

selected, tap back on the Layers Panel and double-tap on Layer 2. A menu will appear with the option to Fill Layer; select it, and your layer should now be filled with black.

After filling the layer with black, tap on the N symbol on Layer 2 to adjust the layer's opacity. Slide the opacity to your desired level—if you want a lighter plan, set it between 50%-60%, and for a darker plan, set it between 60%-70%. This will give the effect of night-time, and you'll be able to see your plan underneath the black layer.



Step 3: Drawing the Lighting Plan

Now that the night-time effect is in place, create a new layer for your lighting plan. Tap on the + again to add Layer 3 and make sure this layer is above the previous ones. Tap on the Colour Icon and select white, as this will be the colour used for your lighting symbols.

Next, select a brush for drawing the lighting plan. Tap on the Brush Icon at the top of the screen and choose the Studio Pen from the Inking section. This is the brush I use for lighting plans, but you can choose one that suits your style. If the pen size is too large or too small, adjust it by using the sliders on the left side of the screen. The top slider changes the size, while the bottom one changes the opacity. For this step, keep the opacity at 100% so that the lines are clear and visible. You can now start drawing the lighting symbols where you want them to go on the plan.



Step 4: Showing the Light Effect

To simulate the light effect, create another new layer above all previous ones. Rename this layer Light Effect or simply leave it as Layer 4. Tap on the Colour Icon again and select a light yellow colour to represent the light effects. Now, change your brush to a Soft Brush under the Airbrushing section. Before you start drawing, adjust the size and opacity of the brush. The size will depend on the lighting you've placed in the plan, and you can adjust it as needed. The opacity should be set between 8% and 14% to create a subtle wash of light, not too harsh. Now, you can start painting the light effects over your plan, creating a soft glow around your lighting symbols.



Step 5: Adding a Key for Lighting Symbols

To make your plan clear, you need to add a key for the lighting symbols. Create a new layer and name it something like Lighting Key. Tap on the Brush Icon and select the Studio Pen again, setting the colour to white. On this layer, draw a key with labels for your lighting symbols, placed on the side of the page for easy reference.



Step 6: Final Adjustments and Export

Once all the layers are created, it's time to make final adjustments to the overall darkness of the plan. Go back to the black layer (Layer 2) and play around with the opacity to get the desired darkness. You can also adjust the light effect layer if it's too harsh by reducing its opacity.

You'll now create two final plans for export. The first plan will be a lighter version of the plan, with all layers visible. To do this, set the opacity of Layer 2 to around 55%. Then, tap on the spanner icon at the top of the screen, select Share, and export the image in your preferred format.

For the second plan, you'll create a darker version that only shows the light effect. Turn Layer 2 opacity down to around 65% and hide the Lighting Key layer and the Lighting Plan layer. To hide them, uncheck the boxes next to these layers in the layers panel. Once only the black layer, the plan layer, and the light effect layer are visible, you're ready to export this darker version.

By following these steps, you'll be able to create detailed, professional lighting plans in 2D using Procreate.



Creating a lighting visualisation in Procreate

STEP BY STEP



Step 1: Import Your Photo or Render into Procreate
Start by importing your photo or render into Procreate. Once imported, the image will appear automatically in a new document within your Procreate gallery, positioned as Layer 1, above the background layer. Working with separate layers allows you to edit and erase elements without affecting the entire image, providing greater control over your design.

Step 2: Simulate Night-time by Darkening the Plan
Next, create a new layer to simulate the effect of night-time. Tap the Layer icon and click the “+” button to add Layer 2, which will be positioned above your image or render. You can reorder layers by dragging and dropping them in the Layers panel.

Select Layer 2, tap the Colour icon at the top right, and choose black from the Classic palette. Once selected, return to the Layers panel, double-tap Layer 2, and choose Fill Layer to fill the entire layer with black.

To create a night-time effect, adjust the opacity of Layer 2 by tapping the “N” symbol and sliding the opacity between 50%-70%. A setting of 50%-60% will create a lighter night-time effect, while 60%-70% will yield a darker, more dramatic atmosphere. This layer will allow the underlying image to remain visible while creating the illusion of night.



Step 3: Drawing Lighting Fixtures
Now, it's time to add the lighting plan. Tap the “+” button to create Layer 3, placed above the black night-time layer. On this layer, you'll draw symbols that represent where the lighting fixtures will be positioned.

Tap the Colour icon again and choose white to represent the lights. Next, select a brush from the Inking section (the Studio Pen is ideal for clean lines) and adjust the brush size to fit your design. Set the opacity to 100% for sharp, visible lines.



Draw lighting symbols on the image to show where the lights are located. These symbols could be arrows indicating light direction or simplified representations of the light fixtures themselves.

Step 4: Adding Highlights/Detail to Simulate Light
Now that the lighting fixtures are drawn, create Layer 4 above all the previous layers. Tap the Colour icon again and select a light yellow colour to represent the emitted light.

Select the Technical Pen from the Inking section, and reduce the brush opacity to a lower setting for subtlety. Carefully outline the areas where light will illuminate objects in your scene, such as trees, plants, or other focal points. Focus on the areas where light is most intense to enhance the visual impact.



Step 5: Adding Texture to the Light Effect

After applying the basic light highlights, create Layer 5 to introduce texture to the illuminated areas. Keep the light yellow colour selected, and switch to the Artist Crayon brush under the Sketching section. Lower the opacity and adjust the brush size as needed.

Lightly draw over areas where the light strikes textured surfaces, such as bushes, plants, or gravel. This step adds a sense of depth and realism, giving the light effect a more three-dimensional look. If you're working with smooth or soft surfaces, such as fabrics or polished materials, you can skip this step.



Step 6: Main Light Spill Effect

Now, create Layer 6 above all the previous layers. Select the Soft Brush under the Airbrushing section, and reduce the opacity to create a more subtle light effect. Adjust the brush size according to the scale of the light spill you wish to simulate.

Use this brush to gently paint over the areas where the light casts its most intense illumination, blending the light spill across the scene. Focus on the areas closest to the light source where the light intensity would naturally be strongest.

Once the Light Detail, Texture, and Light Spill layers are complete, fine-tune the opacity of each layer to ensure the lighting effect looks natural and seamlessly integrated into the image.

For added realism, apply subtle colour touches to enhance the illuminated areas. For example, use the Soft Brush to lightly add a soft green hue to areas with plants or trees, mimicking the way light affects the colours in nature. Similarly, you can apply this technique to flowers or other colored objects, lightly brushing over them with their respective hues to highlight their illuminated parts.

Additionally, use the Technical Pen to add finer highlights in white or yellow. This will help emphasise key details, such as edges or reflective surfaces, further enhancing the depth and realism of your lighting effects.



Step 7: Final Adjustments and Exporting

Once all layers are complete and you're satisfied with the lighting and night-time effects, return to Layer 2 (the night-time layer) and adjust its opacity if necessary to fine-tune the overall darkness or lightness of the scene.

When you're happy with the final look, you can export the image in two versions:


First Export: Export the image with Layer 3 visible, which includes both the lighting effects and the fixture symbols. This version is ideal for presentations or annotations, allowing you to explain the lighting choices and placement.

Second Export: For a polished, professional final image, turn off Layer 3 by unchecking the tick in the Layers panel. This removes the fixture symbols, leaving only the lighting effects visible in the final export.

With these steps, you'll have successfully created a realistic, visually compelling lighting visualisation for your photo or render—perfect for presentations, design portfolios, or professional design purposes!



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We offer specialized training for those who want to excel at garden lighting, whether you're an electrician, landscape contractor, or garden designer. Below is a quick overview:

FOR ELECTRICIANS

A hands-on ~3/4 day course covering design, pre-planning, installation, commissioning, and fault finding.

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FOR LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

A practical course focusing on integrating lighting within landscaping projects, covering wiring, layout, and installation best practices.


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FOR GARDEN DESIGNERS

An in-depth look at lighting design principles, fixture selection, demonstration methods, and more — tailored for design professionals.

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Image and Garden Katherine Holland & Philip Sutton



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