

PRESTIGE

Outdoor Lighting



LANDSCAPE LIGHTING DESIGN GUIDE

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Why Light?

Light is one of the most important aspects in our life. What's the first thing that someone does when they lose power? They look for a flashlight. Even a small amount of light makes people feel comfortable in scary situations like this. Light provides a safety sense in any space it is used in. Just think about it, do you feel more safe sitting in the dark or in the light? Not only does light do that, but when added in a creative way to design, it provide an additional artistic touch. There are many reasons why you should use landscape lighting to outdoor spaces.



Safety/Security

A lot of homeowners choose to incorporate landscape lighting so they're more comfortable and safe. Using lighting in your house for security reasons doesn't necessarily mean using huge lights that are triggered by motion sensors. Even though this is what many people think, it isn't true at all and you can still feel safe which just enough light to see where you're going and navigate your way around the house.

Highlighting Elements

Your home's exterior along with its architecture elements is essential to the design of your landscape. To highlight these elements, you can use landscape lighting to do so in a creative way. Your interior design isn't the only things that can be highlight by light. Do you have a pool or a fountain in your exterior design? Just imagine how great they would look is light is used to highlight them in the evening.

Adding creative aesthetic touches

There is a lot more to lightning than gaining a sense of security, you can use it to create aesthetic interests by adding it to your landscape, especially if you decide to use it for your outdoor lighting. One of the best things about this is that there are endless ways to use light for your landscape so the aesthetic and creative opportunities are endless.

Selecting the right fixture

Choosing the right fixture is just like choosing other types of landscape elements; they both need to reflect your own style of design. Whether you prefer colourful lighting fixture, traditional, transitional, or even simple ones, you're definitely going to find something you like.



Finding materials for fixture

Once you have chosen a certain fixture style, you need to select the material for it. It is essential that you take budget into consideration because this will affect the material you choose. Durability is the second factor you need to consider. The last thing you want is paying so much money for lightning fixtures that will become ruined after a couple of months. Keep in mind that continuous exposure to different weather elements, like rain and snow, can greatly impact fixtures and this is why you need to analyse the fixtures you choose first.

Aluminium

Aluminium is considered to be an affordable material, but has a lower quality and this is why it isn't really that durable when compared with other material. It oxidizes easily and loses colour which is why using it for coastal areas is a bad idea. Even though powder coating can extend its life to some extent, it will still be affected by ultra violet rays.

Copper

Copper is a preferred option for lighting fixtures. Even though it isn't solid when compared to other materials like brass, many manufacturers mix them with brass to ensure longevity. However, coppers will usually darken if exposed to weather elements if it isn't mixed with anything else.

Brass

Brass is a mixture of copper and zinc and can hold up in extreme environments and weather conditions. Even though they are somewhat more costly than other types of fixtures, they will last for a longer time and come with warranties. Even though a patina can take place by time, it isn't going to corrode at all which makes it an excellent choice for landscape lightening.

Choosing bulbs for fixtures

The bulbs you choose for fixtures are based on your preference. The amount of maintenance you're looking to do and budget will definitely have an influence.



Halogen

Halogen has been used for bulbs in landscape lighting for years now. Not only are they low voltage, but they provide warm and bright lightening as well. However, it is essential to purchase them from a reputable manufacturer to ensure you don't get the cheap and low quality ones.

LED

LED is an excellent choice for those of you looking for another option that halogen lighting. One of its main benefits is that its eco friendly and doesn't need that much maintenance. Throughout the past years, its quality has significantly improved as well and provides the same high quality lighting of halogen.

Setting a budget

Many of the decisions you make when choosing landscape lighting depends on the budget, whether it is the type or amount of fixtures you need. When you meet the company or individual responsible for designing your landscape lighting, make sure you inform them with the budget to find something suitable. Whether you have a really high or low budget, there are many excellent options out there to choose from.

Needs

The most important need for light is to feel safe, especially during the night. Maybe the area around the pool is really late at night and requires lightning? These are all areas that the designers will probably sports but it is important that you make a clear list of places you're worried about or think need lightning.

Wants

This is the more fun part of landscape lighting and usually comes after you're done with the needs part. This is the chance to add additional aesthetics and be more creative with your house. This is usually done with people who have a higher budget. If you're confused about what your house really needs, you can always ask your designer to share some of their ideas.





Meeting with designers

This is perhaps the most important part of installing your landscape lighting because you will get to discuss all the details with your design. This is the perfect time to organize all the ideas you have and make a list of your needs and wants. The meeting will probably begin with a detailed walkthrough of the house and what it really needs from both your points of view. Other than these points, it is a great idea to discuss what additional things can be done in the future. You don't necessarily have to agree to every single point the designer tells you, but make sure you at least reach an agreement on some points so you can work together effectively.

Finalizing Logistics

A walkthrough throughout the details is helpful, but to ensure that you are both on the same page, make sure you send each other landscape design plans or sketches. The designer will probably take some pictures in beginning to ensure that they don't forget anything. They are then going to create a design document that is somewhat more formal, probably by using software. Nowadays, there are many tools that are used such as interactive drawings or video tours which provide exact visualization of what it will look like. The more information and detail you share with each other, the better the end product is going to be.

Installation

If you need any changes to the landscape lighting design, the contractor you hire should always be willing to do that. The final step should only be done after you've completely agreed on everything such as the design, timeline, and budget. You will both then agree on a time to start and a deadline. Keep in mind that there are some uncontrollable circumstances that can take place such as changes in weather conditions, which can delay the work so always put it in consideration.





Walkthrough

You're almost there! When the landscape lighting is installed, you will have to meet with the designer again to have the last walkthrough. This is usually done at night so you can properly examine the lighting and figure out if any necessary adjustments are needed to guarantee the right ambience and safely. The designer is also going to teach you how to use the lighting system so make sure to ask any questions if there is something confusing or difficult to understand.

Service

Just like other properly elements, maintenance is going to be needed for your landscape lighting, no matter how professionally it was installed. With the right maintenance, the lighting effectiveness can be affected. For example, some failed lamps might not be noticed properly or old bulbs can actually dim fixtures. The price of maintenance will depend on the agreement you have with your designers and the types of materials chosen so make sure you discuss this with your designer as well. Many lighting design companies provide high quality maintenance programs so the only thing you should do is ask them. There are several plans to choose from as well such as bulb replacement, regreasing fixture, removing exposed wire, trimming plants, among many others

Final steps

We would love to assist you and make the process of installing landscape lighting for your house easier. We will be here from the start to the end and will be happy to assist even after the project is finalized. Contact Prestige Outdoor Lighting LLC at 910-612-1910 or visit www.PrestigeOutdoorLighting.com to learn more about how we can help you add that special beauty to your house.



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