

EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE

THE THREE MAIN ROLES OF GARDEN LIGHTING



Garden lighting has three main functions in **Robert Webber's** scheme of things. Here he describes how following this principle can help get your lighting plan right

October is normally the time of year when my foreman Toby Lewis lets out a sigh and catches his breath after a really busy summer. This year it's been slightly different. We've noticed a distinct change, with fewer smaller jobs of 10 lights and under but quite a few bigger jobs with 80 lights and counting.

These jobs run all through the winter so we are preparing to get very wet... again. In previous years we have tried to schedule work abroad in the winter, but this year unfortunately we do not have that pleasure. Six months in Mustique is a distant memory now.

Whatever the size of the project, lighting fulfils three basic roles: functional, aesthetic and feature lighting (FAF). These often overlap and one light can perform all three functions.

The lights don't necessarily need to be on separate circuits but it sometimes helps to create simple scenes without the expense of scene setting control equipment.

It's no good having really functional lighting and no aesthetic lighting. That would create a floodlit garden, without any soul. Similarly, a garden where you only light the features may look great from the house, however when you try to use it at night you will fall down the steps and land in the water feature!

Many garden designers ask us to design the lighting for them. They send us the plans along with a client brief and guide budget. We always employ the FAF principle when looking at the plans and simply design within those guidelines. After we install the lighting, it's clear that



thoughtfulness has been employed. Hopefully this principle will help you when planning lighting for one of your clients. It's the only FAF we allow on our projects.

Functional lighting

Most functional light comes from above, illuminating some or all of the following:

- Steps and paths for ease of movement
- Gateposts, keypads, doors and locks
- Parking areas
- Eating and entertaining areas
- Larger areas for safety and security
- Bin and recycling areas

Aesthetic lighting

Creates mood, feeling and ambience

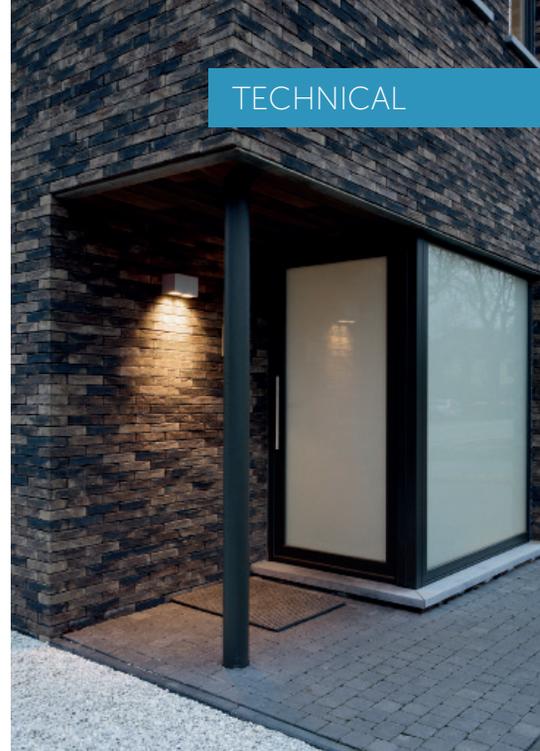
- Timber screens and trellis areas
- Pergolas
- Seating areas and benches
- Views and vistas
- Rockeries, grasses and small planters
- Small trees
- Living walls
- Ponds and water features

Feature lighting

Lighting major features or creating a vista

- Sculpture
- Topiary, pleached and other architectural trees
- Statement trees like oaks, willows or monkey puzzle
- Architectural buildings or features

TECHNICAL



ABOUT ROBERT WEBBER

Robert Webber is the founder of Scenic Lighting, a specialist exterior lighting company based in Berkshire. He designs and installs garden lighting throughout the UK and internationally. Robert can be contacted on rob@sceniclighting.com or via his mobile on 07766 051 000.

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