



**Robert Webber** says reclaimed lighting isn't just for indoors. Used in the right way it can become a standout feature in any garden

As a lighting specialist, I'm fascinated by the use of reclaimed feature lighting. It's where the light source itself becomes an architectural focus, as well as a practical object. This love affair started back in 1992 when I had the privilege of visiting Moscow. I was drawn to the use of hard steely materials to produce beautiful architectural solutions. The combination of glass and various metals creates a bold feature. I'm always on the look out for the right projects to explore this lighting further, and since then we have used various suppliers of reclaimed products from Eastern Europe.

Reclaimed lighting can become the feature itself. There are four key areas where we use reclaimed lighting if the design would benefit:

**1 Pendant lighting**, within a pergola or breeze house. Often these lights are hung quite low so it's an idea to know the height of any table or seating. Then you can get the light source right where you need it. We fit squirrel cage lamps to soften the light and provide a warm glow. Normally no more than 40 watts tungsten is needed for soft lighting.

# RECLAIMED LIGHTING FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

**2 Near water.** One great place to consider such architectural fittings is at a property near water. Eastern Bloc reclaimed lighting has a distinct nautical feel to it. It was made to last and as such has bold fittings and globes. One of my suppliers even specialises in salvaged lighting extracted from submarines. You can position the lighting within planting or on feature trees shining down over the water, causing brilliant reflections and shadows.

**3 Small rooftop or courtyard gardens.** Often these gardens have tight budgets and small spaces. In the past we have added a ship's searchlight into a corner. It is a great way to flood light across the area and can be a standout talking point over dinner.

**4 Gardens where natural features are few.** To introduce a lighting feature can help tick all the boxes. It gives a functional focus for the garden as well as a globe for aesthetic lighting.

There are two suppliers we recommend:

#### **Skinflint Design**

[www.skinflintdesign.co.uk](http://www.skinflintdesign.co.uk)

**Sroka** [www.sroka.uk.com](http://www.sroka.uk.com)

Always consider if it's suitable for UK use. It must carry British standard marks, which are many for UK lighting, but the main one is BS EN 60598, which addresses design, manufacture and suitability. Also think about the Ingress Protection (IP) rating. I'll cover this in greater depth in my next article.



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#### **INSTALLING LIGHTING**

Garden lighting has three main functions: functional, aesthetic and feature. These often overlap and one light can perform all three.



In a previous article we examined the three basic principles of addressing an exterior lighting project: functional, aesthetic and feature. We call it the FAF principle. Apply this to any lighting challenge and it can help find a clearer solution.

- **Functional** lighting helps you carry out basic functions in the garden. As simple as finding the key hole at the door or putting the bins out.
- **Aesthetic** lighting creates mood and ambiance; bringing 'emotion' to an area.
- **Feature** lighting highlights key features in the garden. Leading your vision towards an area whether you're in the garden or viewing from inside, like a picture within a frame.



#### **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](mailto:rob@sceniclighting.com) or via his mobile on 07766 051000. [www.sceniclighting.com](http://www.sceniclighting.com)