

LIGHTING

JOURNAL

The publication for all lighting professionals

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Can Good Lighting Put New Life into Social Housing?

Residential Lighting, Public and Private

Passive Safety – the Electrical Options
Looking East: Special Hong Kong Report

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The Social Lighting Campaign: a Change in the Way we Think of Design?

The PLDA's Graham Festenstein summarises how far the 'lighting for social identity' campaign has come in the last couple of years – and reports on new social lighting initiatives in Europe and on the internet

Over the last two years we have reported on the 'lighting for social identity' campaign run by the ILP and the PLDA. Starting in Liverpool in 2008, the campaign has taken us to Stoke and to Southwark with 'Guerrilla Lighting' events and to Westminster and a meeting with the All-Party Parliamentary Lighting Group. We have recruited supporters across the country and generated interest from designers, engineers, planners, local authorities and politicians with an interest in the public realm or social housing. We have raised the profile of lighting with New London Architecture and CABE Space, the part of CABE that deals with public space (CABE is the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space) and other influential organisations.

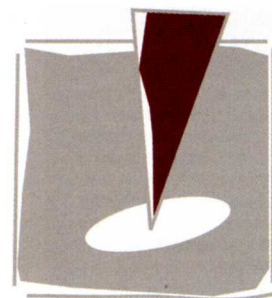
Our journey has also taken us to France, Belgium and collaboration with LUCI (Lighting Urban Community International) the organisation representing lit cities across the world; and now the movement has gone international with the recent formation of the Social Lighting Movement (SLM), organised through Facebook, which now has 374 members worldwide. Extracts from its manifesto are featured on the right. All those interested in these issues should sign up and share their thoughts, as well as gaining the opportunity to see details of projects and workshops. As countries such as Sweden, Belgium and France are ahead of the UK in the implementation of this type of work, including the integration of social lighting concepts into their strategies and master plans, there is a great

potential for us in the UK to learn from their experiences.

So we have moved a long way in just two years but where will we go now? The SLM Facebook page is a great success but influences predominantly designers and will have limited direct access to many of the decision-makers and politicians who we would still like to inform. Our access to the UK Parliament undoubtedly made progress but with a new Government and an era of austerity in public finance, we are unlikely to move much further in the foreseeable future.

Although the UK 'lighting for social identity' campaign has probably come to a natural end, the progress we have made and the interest we have stimulated is indicative of a fundamental change in the way we approach lighting and lighting design. Designers of all kinds – lighting designers, engineers and urban designers – are now approaching lighting design from a contextual viewpoint, as will be discussed in greater depth in a later issue of *Lighting Journal*.

Lighting for people rather than places or codes is far more commonplace now than it was a few years ago and these issues are becoming more relevant and widely understood – as demonstrated by the two MSc dissertations on domestic and residential lighting in this issue. That said, we should not be complacent and those of us in a position to continue to educate and discuss the importance of lighting design and good lighting for all, particularly in this time of the 'big society,' must continue to do so.



PLDA

The Social Lighting Movement Manifesto

'Light is a right not a privilege'...
'People before places'.



The Social Light Movement is a philanthropic movement and has been founded in order to create a network for lighting designers and other interested parties to collaborate on the issue of improving lighting for people – particularly those who are unlikely to have access to good quality illumination within their environment.

The SLM exists:

- To demonstrate and to design well lit environments for social and underprivileged housing areas and people
- To involve the community in the actual design of their own environment
- To encourage other designers to work in similar environments and use similar methodologies
- To educate housing associations, housing management teams and social housing ownership bodies about the benefits of good lighting
- To gain the support of city administrations, urban planners, architects, landscape designers, electrical engineers, lighting designers and other associated disciplines
- To create attention, arouse public opinion, influence politicians and decision makers
- To promote responsible energy use within lighting design
- To persuade people that they have the right to expect good lighting
- To never use sodium

Vive La 'Light Revolution'!