

lighting design and a low-energy future

The UK has a commitment to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050. Its a staggering target that, if it wasn't for the importance of the task, I'm sure most of us would just shrug our shoulders and walk away from it.

But there's a harsh reality that can't be ignored; you can choose to doubt the climate change scientists, but it's impossible to ignore the energy crunch that's coming our way. More institutions are reporting findings tht suggest energy prices could double within the next five years - with massive consequences for all of us.

And where does lighting design come into this?

Well, I'd like to think that we can hold onto the vestiges of a decent visual aesthetic in our homes and at our places of work; a low-energy future does not have to mean grey, lifeless, spaces. I believe that we can still have fun.

jb-ld and low-energy design

The starting point for good sustainable design has to be in the way that we approach the subject, and that is down to the designer's creativity with a great palette of new light sources.

Each of the designs shown on the side of the page were created using low-energy technology, or can now be retro-fitted to attain a low-energy result.

Its simply not the case that high-energy tungsten halogen lamps are irreplaceable, and lighting design does not begin and end with the ubiquitous downlight.

but what's this about sustainability

The lighting industry is well-used to low-energy lighting; compact fluorescent lamps have been around for over thirty years and LED technology is maturing well.

Sustainability is the next step forward. Environmental degradation is something that tends to happen in other parts of the world - though the cause of that degradation often ends up in our own homes. But we've also come to learn that everything is connected. Massive oil leaks across the Atlantic will affect us both now and for years to come. Unsustainable manufacturing processes will come back to bite us sooner or later.

In lighting design, its important that the industry plays it's part. The lamp manufacturers are reducing the amount of mercury and other toxic materials used in florescent lamps because of the risk to our local environment when old lamps are carelessly thrown away. And that's for starters.

How the client benefits

Good, sustainable, lighting design looks beyond the immediate excitement that a well-developed creative scheme brings. It looks ahead and helps the client towards a design that is manageable and cost effective; that does not burden the client with high running costs; that retains its quality over the passing years and does not hold the client as a hostage to an uncertain future.

'Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

Find more details at
www.jb-ld.co.uk

