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Illuminating ENGINEERING SOCIETY

IES DG-25-17

Design Guide for **Hospitality Lighting**



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Publication of this Design Guide has been approved by the IES. Suggestions for revisions should be directed to the IES

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Approved by the IES Standards Committee, June 16, 2017, as a Transaction of the Illuminating Engineering Society.

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Published by the Illuminating Engineering Society, 120 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005.

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ISBN# 978-0-87995-360-7

Printed in the United States of America.

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Contents

FOREWORD 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION 1
- 1.1 Key Elements of the Design Guide 2
- 1.2 Hospitality Segments 2

2.0 LIGHT SOURCES AND CONTROLS 2
- 2.1 Light Sources 2
- 2.2 Lighting Controls 3
  - 2.2.1 Local Control Systems 3
  - 2.2.2 Centralized Control Systems 4
- 2.3 Design Considerations 5

3.0 CODE COMPLIANCE 7
- 3.1 Code Requirements for Luminaire Energy Efficiency 7
- 3.2 Safety agency listing 8
- 3.3 Safety and Security with Track Lighting 8
  - 3.3.1 Track Lighting 8
  - 3.3.2 Track Lighting Systems 8
  - 3.3.3 Codes and Safety Requirements for Track Lighting Systems 8

4.0 EXTERIOR ENTRANCE AND ENTRY DRIVE 9
- 4.1 Lighting Design Considerations 10
- 4.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 10

5.0 LOBBY 11
- 5.1 Lighting Design Considerations 11
- 5.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 12

6.0 ELEVATOR LOBBIES 15

7.0 PUBLIC CORRIDORS 16

8.0 PUBLIC RESTROOMS 17

9.0 EMERGENCY LIGHTING 17
- 9.1 Lighting Design Considerations 18
- 9.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 18

10.0 BALLROOMS AND MULTIFUNCTION MEETING ROOMS 19
- 10.1 Ballrooms 19
  - 10.1.1 Lighting Design Considerations 19

This is a preview of "IES DG-25-17". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

10.1.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 19
10.2 Multifunction Meeting Rooms 21
10.2.1 Lighting Design Considerations 21
10.2.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 21

11.0 EXHIBITION HALLS 23
11.1 Lighting Design Considerations 23
11.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 24

12.0 FOOD AND BEVERAGE 24
12.1 Lighting Design Considerations 24
12.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 24

13.0 RETAIL 26
13.1 Lighting Design Considerations 26
13.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 28

14.0 BUSINESS CENTER 29
14.1 Lighting Design Considerations 29
14.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 29

15.0 SPA SERVICES 29
15.1 Lighting Design Considerations 30
15.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 31
15.2.1 Spa Lobby 32
15.2.2 Spa Treatment Rooms 32
15.2.3 Spa Lockers 32
15.2.4 Spa Makeup and Cosmetics 32

16.0 FITNESS CENTER 32
16.1 Lighting Design Considerations 33
16.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 33

17.0 GUEST CORRIDORS 34
17.1 Lighting Design Considerations 34
17.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 34

18.0 GUEST ROOMS 35
18.1 Lighting Design Considerations 36
18.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 36

19.0 GUEST BATHROOMS 38
19.1 Lighting Design Considerations 38
19.2 Design Criteria and Solutions 38

ANNEX A – ILLUMINANCE DETERMINATION PROCEDURE 40

ANNEX B – ILLUMINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS: INTRODUCTION 44

This is a preview of "IES DG-25-17". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

ANNEX C – ILLUMINANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMON APPLICATIONS 57

ANNEX D – COLOR CONSIDERATIONS 72

ANNEX E – ENERGY MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. 73

ANNEX F – AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (A.D.A.) CONSIDERATIONS (U.S.) 76

ANNEX G – EXTERIOR WALKWAYS AND BIKEWAYS 78

ANNEX H – BACKLIGHT, UPLIGHT, AND GLARE (BUG) RATINGS. 84

REFERENCES 85

This is a preview of "IES DG-25-17". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

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FOREWORD

This Design Guide has been developed to aid designers, facility managers, and owners in creating lighting systems for hotel applications. The intent is to address how all of the various components of hospitality lighting need to be an integrated system of layers as well as uniquely represented areas of illumination.

Lighting is critical to commercial success in the hospitality industry. Lighting is often the first feature that guests notice (see **Figures 1, 2**) and is the element that creates that all-important long-lasting positive impression. This first impression may form guests' opinions about the quality, character, convenience, and charm of the hotel even before they reach the front entrance.

This process of evaluation begins when the hotel is first seen from the street. During the day, it is based on the hotel's architecture and the surrounding area. At night, it is largely based on the way exterior lighting accents the building. Well-designed outdoor lighting identifies the hotel and its entrance and welcomes guests. It also reinforces a feeling of safety and security, and provides a first glimpse of the hotel's interior character and style.



Figure 1. Bright porte cochere lighting announces building entry and provides a sense of arrival.
(Photo courtesy of Peter Hugh)



Figure 2. Lighting reinforces building's identity and enhances architectural features.
(Photo courtesy of Lighting Design Alliance)

Once indoors, proper lighting is essential in making sure the guests' impressions continue to be positive. This same principle continues as the guests walk down the corridors, visit their rooms, and have their first meal. Creative and effective lighting in restaurants, bars, and shops attracts more patrons, increases sales, and contributes to revenue growth.

Quality lighting is of the utmost importance to business travelers who work in their rooms and/or in the hotel's conference facilities. Effective, well designed lighting will make their stay pleasurable and productive, entice them to return, and provide positive word of mouth references, which are excellent advertising. All these factors reinforce the brand and are critical to the success of the property.

In addition to the guest benefits, good lighting also helps the staff work more efficiently and effectively and perform their tasks safely. Here again, lighting can improve productivity and increase the hotel's profitability. Lighting controls add convenience and reduce energy use and operating costs. Light source and power supply, and luminaire efficiency, placement, and optical performance all affect operating and maintenance costs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Addressing every lighting issue of the hospitality industry would require a broader format than available here. Therefore, this Design Guide focuses on key areas in hotels and provides recommendations for the technologies and application designs available at the time it was written.

It is important to recognize that all documents are works in progress. While the main objective of lighting design is to serve human needs, and enhance the human experience with high quality lighting, ways to achieve the objective are constantly evolving. Lighting technologies are continually changing. Effective energy utilization and sustainability issues become increasingly important considerations that alter design parameters. Daylighting and controls are becoming increasingly more integrated and complex. Design styles, trends, and the degree of public sophistication continue to evolve, resulting in changes to the way lighting systems are designed.