

Creative Garden Lighting

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The glow of sunset enhances the vibrant scarlet of this acer to perfection. In order to create a comparable visual feast when night has fallen, artificial lighting of this tree will be crucial, not only to do justice to its beauty but also to reinforce the sense of boundary at the end of this roof terrace.

The Show Begins

This is the moment when a feeling of anticipation and glamour envelops the garden. The blazing sky slowly turns various shades of violet and lights are switched on in preparation for the evening. In some gardens, a control panel inside the house triggers complex combinations of illuminations that create different atmospheres; in others, the owner may walk round with a remote control setting off various areas, depending on the desired mood or the latest acquisition to be displayed. Before guests arrive, candles can be lit to complete the picture.



At nightfall this wonderful roof terrace in Queens, New York, is prepared for the evening. The festoons of lights dotted on the vast Queensborough Bridge have just come on, and the lights of Manhattan are starting to glitter in the background. The roof terrace has been divided into several well-proportioned areas, all paved with textured concrete slabs, and a central fountain



is set among black pebbles and slate. Richly planted containers and a wooden pergola further define the space. All the different lights on the terrace have been switched on ready for a dinner party, but in this moment of fading light, when a grey haze seems to envelop everything, their full effect is still only to be guessed at.



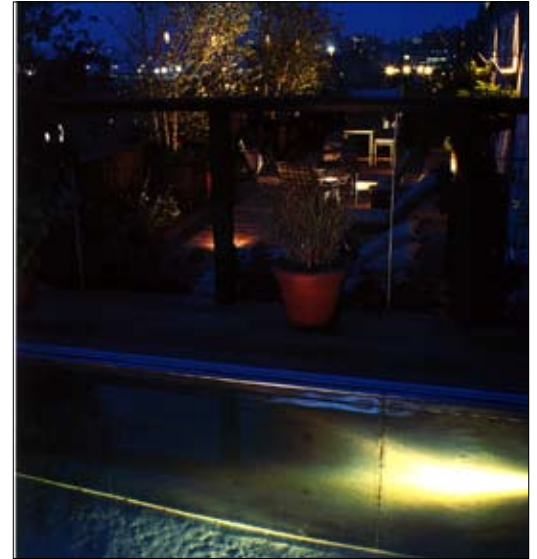
Now that the sky is darker, the lights can truly shine out. In the sitting area, small uplighters in the planters accentuate the shape of the shrubs and their lush underplanting. Spotlights focus the eye on the striking fountain planted with papyrus, enhancing the texture of the concrete paving. Meanwhile, the soft glow of candles seems to be everywhere – in storm lamps, in little candlesticks with shades, and in metal lanterns – making the space even more inviting for the owners and their guests. This terrace has been carefully designed for use through the day and night. What makes it truly remarkable, though, is how the lighting has been cleverly designed to link the intimate setting to the potentially overpowering urban backdrop of industrial chimneys, gigantic bridge, and numerous skyscrapers.



In daylight, this roof terrace in Tribeca, New York, reveals its impressive, clean design. The pale decking with its inset of dark slate is a perfect foil for the modern furniture and its crisp white cushions. The timber containers along the parapet walls are painted rich brown and planted with birches and pristine stachys, foxgloves, and grasses at their feet. Buddleias and cornus against the building complete the picture. A large BBQ gleams at one end, and the Hudson River shimmers beyond it.



Night has now fallen on the same terrace. The lighting brings a sense of privacy and comfort to a space that could easily feel exposed. Little spotlights placed in the plantes pic out the row of tall birches opposite the apartment, and create a visual barrier and the feeling of a garden. Long tubes fitted with light bulbs hang in the trees, throwing tiny shards of light through star-shaped perforations. Directional lights fixed to the building set the sitting and dining areas firmly in focus. Bespoke wall sconces act as reflectors to enhance the planting against the building, while diffused interior lighting adds an atmospheric glow. The end of the terrace has been left open, so that the lights of the city become part of the décor.



This lap pool occupies a raised area at one end of a New York roof terrace. Although protected on two sides by walls it is overlooked on another side by very tall buildings. The aim of the lighting here, therefore, is to provide a safe but discreet environment when using the pool at night/ Underwater lights simply throw beams onto the shallow floor and the sides of the pool.





This picture beautifully illustrates how a carefully designed garden scheme of candles combined with electrical lights results in an atmosphere of utter seduction. On this terrace in New York, the table is set under a large pergola. Billboards reveal the city beyond, yet the tall cypresses remain in the shadow and the lit-up shrubs enclose the space and create intimacy. The glamorous lighting effect is mainly produced by an intricate game of reflections. The pergola is fitted with only two downlighters, which shine on the metal table and the lustrous shells in the centre. Amber-coloured candles in tall storm lamps match the napkins and are reflected in the bottle holders, while all the lights and candles arranged in the planters nearby are also mirrored in the elegant drinking glasses, cutlery and dark glazed bowls.



This small fitting hung from the branch of a birch tree on a roof terrace in New York boldly demonstrates how lighting conjures up different planes of vision as well as defining space. When pitched against the grid of lit-up windows in the skyscraper beyond, the regular perforations on the metal lantern accentuate in the most startling fashion the contrast between finite private garden and the vast surroundings.

