



Figure 136
Sample of glare from high pole luminaire which is used to light the road but supplies high level of light to the pedestrian underpass area.

1.5 Visual Amenity

There is no doubt that lighting can add visual amenity to a space, which can give pleasure to the occupants, but whether this provides a tangible increased performance benefit is uncertain.

Studies have shown that people respond to the lit appearance of a space on two independent dimensions:

- visual lightness
- visual interest

Visual lightness describes the overall lightness of the space, which is related to the average luminance of vertical surfaces. Visual interest refers to the non-uniformity of the illumination pattern or the degree of 'light and shade'.

People prefer some modulation in the light pattern rather than an even pattern of illumination, and is it the magnitude of the modulation depending on the application. There is some evidence that visual lightness and visual interest are inversely correlated (Figure 137).

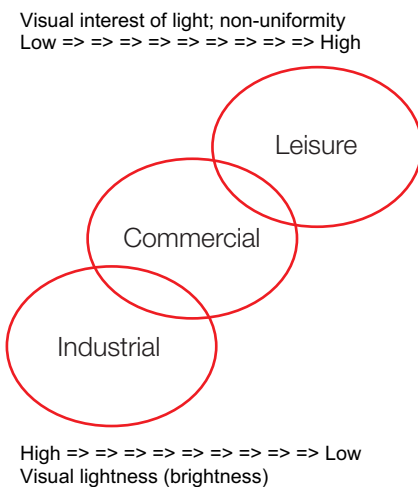


Figure 137
Map showing the possible locations of three application areas on a schematic diagram linking subjective impressions of visual interest and visual lightness.