

Although veiling reflections are usually considered a negative outcome of lighting that can cause discomfort, they can be used positively, but when they are, they are conventionally called highlights. Physically, veiling reflections and highlights are the same thing. Display lighting of specularly reflecting objects is all about producing highlights to reveal the specular nature of the surface.

2.12 Shadows

Although shadows can cause visual discomfort, it should be noted that they are also an essential element in revealing the form of three-dimensional objects. Techniques of display lighting are based around the idea of creating highlights and shadows to change the perceived form of the object being displayed. Many lighting designers insist that the distribution of shadows is as important as the distribution of light in achieving an attractive and meaningful visual environment.

The number and nature of shadows produced by a lighting installation depends on the size and number of light sources and the extent to which light is inter-reflected around the space. The strongest shadow is produced from a single point source in a black background. Weak shadows are produced when the light sources are large in area and the degree of inter-reflection is high. See Figures 27, 28.

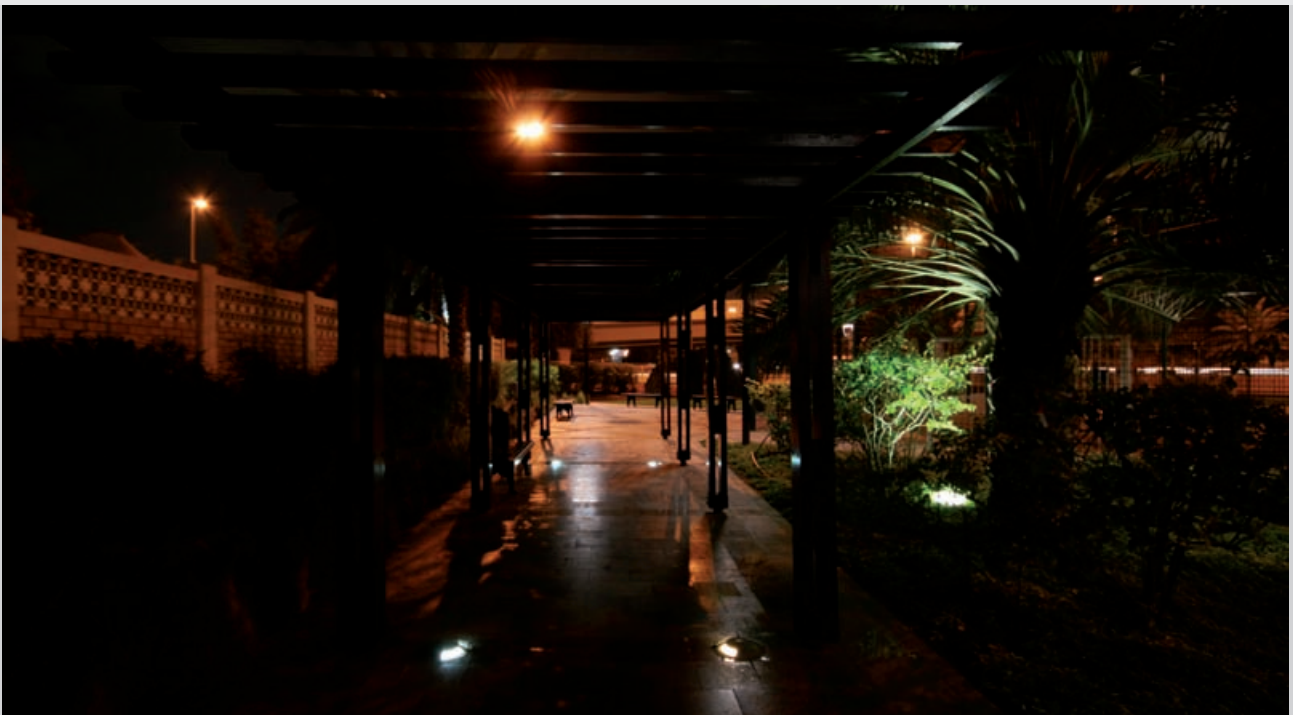


Figure 27
Shadows hiding light from above, safe walking is made more difficult.