



Jane Gosney,

shares with us
what inspires
her work.

Be inspired

As designers we are constantly bombarded with information on new technology and products which celebrate electric lighting as a marvellous tool to model and colour architectural space. Is lighting design just a response to technology?

I have chosen to reflect on what inspires me as a lighting designer when I work. For me knowledge of the tools available is essential but my primary inspiration is in the sky: daylight. Natural light provides the ultimate variety of moods and the colours in the sky make a dramatic palette.

The most important moment in a project for me is the time to stop and reflect however brief. Inspiration is more likely to come from looking out of the window than through flicking through equipment catalogues. My designs include daylight consideration with electric lighting.

Electric light has its own special qualities and should not be seen as an imitation of daylight but more as a complimentary media. I have always been amused by the terms

daylight and artificial light as though the latter is somehow not related to the light in the sky.

It is important to me to recognise that light (whether daylight or electric) affects not just our visual sense but our emotions. The sky should be a point of reference to remind us to appreciate constant variety which depends upon the seasons and time of day.

The academics have been arguing about the "quantity" of light we provide from either a natural or electric source. They constantly seek to define lighting by numbers but it is more difficult to assess the more elusive "quality" of a good scheme: does it inspire and stimulate the user? That is perhaps the more noble aim.

The colours and the long shadows of sunset will always be my inspiration.