



# Seminar Summary Handout

## “How to Avoid the Common Landscape Lighting Design Flaws”

Great Lakes Trade Expo—2024

### Introduction

- Understand and know how to Identify the Common Flaws.
  - **What are Flaws?** They are the aspects of design that cause **Confusion** and/or **Questions**.
  - **Confusion** leads to **Mental Fatigue** (a form of Stress).
  - **Why do Flaws occur?** 3 reasons: Lack of Awareness or Understanding or Caring.
- Once you understand these flaws, then you can begin to correct your methods and techniques.

### 6 Common Landscape Lighting Flaws

- **Poor Aiming and/or Placement** (light fixtures located/placed incorrectly, as well as poor aiming).
- **Glare and/or ‘Hot-Spots’** (offensive, bothersome, or debilitating use of light that’s problematic).
- **Improper Illumination Levels** (over-illumination or under-illumination).
- **Improper Fixture Use** (wrong fixtures used for the wrong applications).
- **Poor Color Use** (not using color properly—color theory & mixing, and over-use).
- **Poor Composition** (not knowing the principles of composition).
  - **Balance**—visual interpretation (weight) of elements in a space. Front to back for depth and side to side.
  - **Contrast**—relates to visual perception. The difference in color or brightness of an object against other objects in the same field of view. 2 types: Light/Dark and Cold/Warm.
  - **Emphasis**—the focal point within an artwork or space that draws attention. The interruption in the fundamental movement of the viewer’s eye.
  - **Pattern & Rhythm**—(pattern) the combination of elements used repeatedly to create a feeling of organized movement. (rhythm) implies movement or action and achieved through the repetition of lines, shapes, colors, and more.
  - **Movement**—the impression of action in your work. Dependent on the other compositional elements and rules of art (shape, form, texture, pattern, color, and space).
  - **Unity**—the feeling or sense of cohesion in the design. Includes ‘wholeness’, harmony, and consistency with the compositional elements.

### Closing Thoughts

- Understand what exists in the space to be designed—**Awareness** and **Observation**.
- **Slow down your process** so you can see or experience these subtleties.
- Take photos of the space and/or draw it—this will allow you time to see/understand things.
- **Ask Questions:**
  - 1) **How is the space to be Used?** (Public-use or Personal-use) (Action or Inaction).
  - 2) **What Mood or Feeling should be experienced in the space?** (Activities/Joy vs. Relaxation/Contentment).

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