

**LIGHT NATURE ARCHITECTURE:
A GUIDE TO HOLISTIC LIGHTING DESIGN**

ULRIKE BRANDI

Introduction

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IAN RITCHIE

Spinning at 1,700km/hr as we hurtle through the universe at 107,000km/hr, anchored to our sun we have no sense of them, yet sometimes conscious of the lengthening and shortening of shadows, and perhaps very occasionally from live cameras in space the of a line of light continually sweeping across the surface of the Earth.

Philosophers, scientists and artists sought, and still seek, to remove the blindfolds on our minds to illuminate the world around us. The sunbeam breaking through the clouds of obscurity provides an emotional metaphor for how our knowledge has danced over the centuries with moments of brilliant insight.

Jean Le Rond d'Alembert, in his preliminary discourse in the original edition at the beginning of the first volume of the Encyclopaedia of Diderot & d'Alembert in 1751 wrote of the one single experiment on the refraction of light that 'produced the mathematical explanation of the rainbow, the theory of colours, and all of dioptrics. It has brought us to the 'stationary' James Webb telescope's segmented 'eye' looking at the universe 'through' a 6.5m diameter mirror positioned 1.5 million kilometres from Earth, and 'seeing' through infrared wavelengths further back in time than ever before. And the 2-photon microscope Our knowledge and experience of the world here and out there is through light, and with it the atmosphere of our emotional existence, from the 480nm wavelength in the morning sky that triggers our biorhythm, to the romantic candle lit dinner or campfire.

Enough of light, what of darkness itself, without which no discourse on light is possible? It brings every other sense we have to the fore, and it slows us down - to reflect, to sleep. A reminder that our bodies are not simply functioning to allow us to 'see' our way through the world.

We have so illuminated the physical environment within and without that experiencing darkness outdoors while standing is almost impossible. We have lost touch with the cosmos, our rotation with it, and perhaps in many ways ourselves. The cosmos is all darkness lit with glimmers of light.

We can write or draw at a desk by one candle, we do not need three hundred.

We have an energy crisis, and what on Earth are we doing?

We are still at the stage of homo faber, the maker. When will homo sapiens begin to express individually and collectively his sapiens? Will he ever be able to? Perhaps we need to learn to stop making so much and to dream more, to enjoy dwelling a little longer in twilight so that we can better appreciate both darkness and light far more.

Ian Ritchie, London 1st April 2022