

Figure 10-1. Lighting quality: the integration of human needs, architecture, and economics and the environment.

HOW TO USE THE IESNA LIGHTING DESIGN GUIDE

Previous editions of the *Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Lighting Handbook* have discussed important criteria for assessing and designing the visual environment, but a formal system for considering these criteria had never been developed by the IESNA. However, the IESNA has always recommended illuminances for specific applications or visual tasks. As a result, lighting specifiers often mistook the IESNA system of recommended illuminances as the primary or even sole criterion for lighting design. This edition of the *IESNA Lighting Handbook* introduces a new, formal system for considering a wide range of lighting design criteria. If followed, the recommended design criteria will increase the quality of the visual environment throughout North America. In engineering terms, the goal is to raise the “minimum standard of care” required of lighting designers.

LIGHTING QUALITY

Patterns of light and dark affect both our perceptions of the world and our emotional and physiological responses, and thus they are essential in gathering information about the physical world. Good-quality lighting can support visual performance and interpersonal communication and improve our feelings of well-being (Figure 10-1). Poor-quality lighting can be uncomfortable and confusing and can inhibit visual performance. This chapter defines and discusses lighting quality.

The overall purpose of lighting is to serve the needs of people. The role of the lighting designer is to match and rank the needs of the people using the space with the economic and environmental considerations and the architectural objectives, and then to translate the results into a workable design and functional installation. The human needs served by lighting are identified in Figure 10-2.

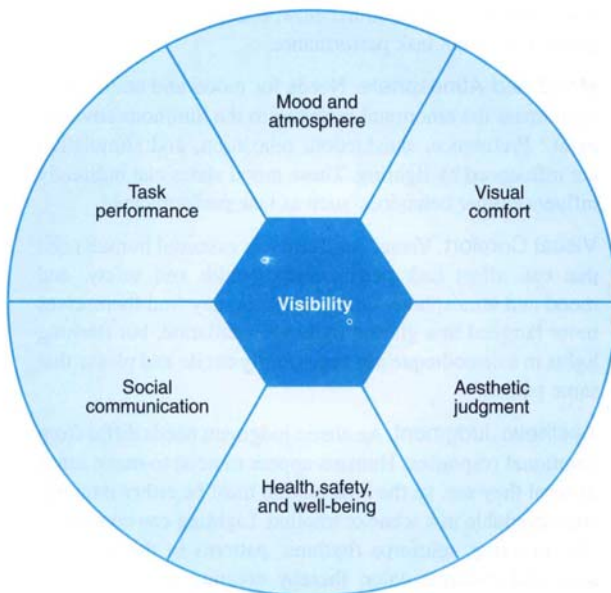


Figure 10-2. Human needs served by lighting.

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