



Out now!

AN ODE TO DARKNESS DESIGNING NIGHTSCAPES

We are proud to announce that, due to the importance of the subject matter, 'scape #2 (2023) is now also available as a book edition. It has a bright new cover and the content is the same: we dive into the fascinating world of light and darkness. It is an ode to darkness, and it explores all kinds of aspects related to it. This book looks for the beauty and significance of darkness, and how to incorporate darkness in the layout and design of our surroundings.

'It is important that we preserve the experience of magical darkness and starry skies for future children to experience'

Pernille Bech-Larsen, SLA

In our minds, darkness is the harbinger of something bad. We tell our kids not to go outside after dark, and in books and films it is usually the prelude to a scary or evil plot twist. We have armed ourselves against the threat that is posed by darkness, by human-made illumination, especially in cities. But this excess of illumination all over the world is also the cause of light pollution, threatening the world of humans, insects, animals and to the whole ecological system associated with it – in the cycle of day and night, sleeping and activity, illness and well-being. At night, we as humans produce the hormone melatonin, but when this is disrupted by exposure to light, we develop sleep disorders. Also, it negatively impacts our immune system and causes depression, obesity, diabetes, stress and even hormone-related types of cancer. Next to health-issues, the experience of looking up to a clear, dark sky of infinite numbers of stars, contemplating, in the words of Bettymaya Foott of DarkSky International, 'how [you] fit in the grand scheme of the universe', is becoming ever more exceptional.

How design is increasingly inspired by the need for and the beauty of darkness

Recent developments in lighting technology caused designers to focus more on light quality instead of mere form, with efficiency, sustainability and energy consumption as some of the top priorities. But beyond the principles of this human-centered light, the increasing awareness of the decline of our natural environment is catalysing innovation in another realm of lighting design: eco-centric lighting. The realization that every action we take, including what is designed and how, has an irreversible impact on the planet is becoming ever more prominent.



As Perry Maas, public space and lighting designer, states in an interview in this issue of 'scape: 'I am increasingly incorporating ecology and biodiversity into my lighting plans as a theme because it is relevant and enriching.' Maas is not the only one. Roger Narboni, a successful lighting designer since the 1980's, advocates for the need to rediscover the pleasure of night and darkness in our cities. And Pernille Bech-Larsen, lighting designer at the Danish office SLA, states in an interview: 'If we really want to make a change, the strategy for lighting should be part of the early stages of a project. Light is a very powerful tool for wayfinding and placemaking and it is the layer that decides what you see and how we experience city scapes at night.'

This book edition contains exciting and above all urgent projects all over the world that explore light design as primarily enhancing biodiversity and interactions between humans and their surroundings. This prioritizes questions such as: what if we design with moonlight? What if we use big data to analyse movements throughout the city at night? What if we consider night blooming plants? But also: what is the effect of artificial light on the behaviour of nocturnal animals, such as insects, bats and birds? Exploring the natural features of our nocturnal ecosystem and using artificial lighting design to strengthen and support nightly, environmental needs, the designers and projects in this issue show new ways in which lighting design may respond to the far reaching consequences of light pollution, and the decrease in biodiversity – by taking a healthy, sustainable planet for both humans and non-humans as their central point of focus.

/ with **projects in lighting design** that take a healthy planet and the nocturnal landscape and its inhabitants as their point of departure

/ with **essays and interviews** with lighting designers, and dark sky advocates from the US and New Zealand

/ a collection of **impressive photos** showing the dark skies of the US and Australia

'I am increasingly incorporating ecology and biodiversity into my lighting plans as a theme because it is relevant and enriching.'

Perry Maas, Strootman Landscape architects



#NIGHTSCAPES
#LIGHTPOLLUTION
#DARKSKIES
#LIGHTINGDESIGN
#ECOLOGY
#BIODIVERSITY





For who is this book?

/ For those interested in research and design innovations focussed on a healthy planet for all its inhabitants, human and non-human, that serve the needs of the natural environment

/ For landscape architects, lighting designers and urban planners focussed on designing for a sustainable future planet

/ For those interested in the topic of light and darkness, day and night, and ways in which the experience of light and dark guide you through an environment

/ For those interested in night sky photography

An ode to darkness -

Designing nightscapes

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