

Light London: Case studies

Eindhoven, THE NETHERLANDS: population: 200,000



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Theme: creating a holistic vision for city lighting that includes street lighting, landmarks, art, advertising, interiors and exteriors as part of a sustainable approach.

Approach: masterplan update (2004) by Eindhoven Council - original masterplan from 1995 only dealt with public lighting and was based on technical pragmatics rather than a visionary approach. The updated masterplan is based on a long-term vision – focused on using light to improve and unify public spaces and public life as well as to create a vital 21st-century image for the city.

Current Programme: permanent programme currently focuses on sustainability (reducing energy consumption and light pollution through cutting edge ‘homemade’ innovation from the Eindhoven Region, known as Brainport; <http://www.brainport.nl/>). The main focus within the permanent programme is Strijp-S, ‘creating a public lighting experience’ for a new creative zone in the previously industrial inner city Eindhoven. The emphasis is on experimentation; a conceptual approach has been developed to be piloted over an initial three years, initially concentrating on housing in the area. (<http://www.strijp-s.nl/english/>). In 2006 Eindhoven realized the first GLOW Festival – an international exhibition of art and design installations in public space which relate to light as a material, a medium and/or an object.

Quality and Creativity: the City Council has appointed a specialist lighting manager to oversee the masterplan. For the main focus of their programme, the City Council often works in partnership with Philips Design, whose headquarters are based in Eindhoven. A curator is appointed each year for GLOW, which combines artists and designers and is intended as an opportunity for experimentation.

Funding: initial funding is from local government and after extensive advocacy, from developers. The permanent programme is funded by the local council for 1.1m euros for a starting period of 3 years (2008-2010). It is intended to initiate as many lighting projects based on the main principles (reducing energy consumption and light pollution) and to market the city as an internationally innovative city of light. The funding is not intended to realise complete projects and their running costs. To meet this shortfall funding is sought from Europe and from central government whose core priorities include sustainability and the environment. There are various private sponsors for GLOW.

Partnerships: in all lighting projects the City Council wishes to work closely with commercial partners and educational institutions such as the local University of Technology and its renowned Design Academy. The current Strijp-S project is being realised with Philips Design and Philips Lighting building on their city.people.light approach. Among the cooperative partners for GLOW are the municipality of Eindhoven, the Centrum Kunstlicht in de Kunst and the Van Abbe-Museum.

Benefits: GLOW 2008 was attended by more than 90,000 people from around the world. Strijp-S is scheduled to be reviewed under the LUCI City Under the Microscope Programme for 2012. The city will undertake evaluation of the programme in 2011.

Sustainability: a respect for darkness is a key tenet (from mid-2008 the city began requiring dramatically reduced advertising light in the later evening hours). The aim of lighting neighbourhoods rather than through roads has reduced energy consumption. A new biomass plant is being built.

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Lyon, FRANCE: population: 500,000



Theme: *long-term masterplan with permanent and temporary programme with a strong connection to regeneration projects.*

Approach: permanent programme with an annual Fête des Lumières from 1999. The initial masterplan (1989) focused on Lyon's heritage, history and geography and its unique topography. The updated masterplan (2004) focuses on the public realm and giving identity to places through lighting with an emphasis on proposing suitable illumination for city districts to underline the essential nature of urban life and activity. The updated masterplan's seven principles are: creating diverse atmospheres; emphasising city life and activity in the neighbourhoods; adapting light to the rhythms of city life; extending the creative reach; reducing light pollution; making room for experimentation; bringing together urban lighting expertise.

Current Programme: emphasis on pilot lighting of districts to link neighbourhoods under regeneration with the city centre; illuminating the rivers, hills, silhouettes and major traffic arteries; illuminating monuments; continuation of the annual temporary Fête des Lumières, to encourage innovation and experimentation, with December 8th the main focus of the celebration.

Quality and creativity: centre of excellence through LUCI for professional exchange and development (<http://www.luciasociation.org/>); training of lighting designers through higher education to nurture young talent; selection of temporary projects by specialist city lighting co-ordinators for the festival supports young artists and designers. For permanent opportunities the City of Lyon has a public lighting department of 107 who undertake the majority of lighting design for the streets and spaces. For large-scale projects they work with lighting designers or artists who are selected through legislative French competition procedure.

Funding: City of Lyon with private sponsors. The annual budget of the lighting department is approximately 11m euros out of which 3m euros are for electricity consumption, 3m euros are for human resources and 5m euros are for investment.

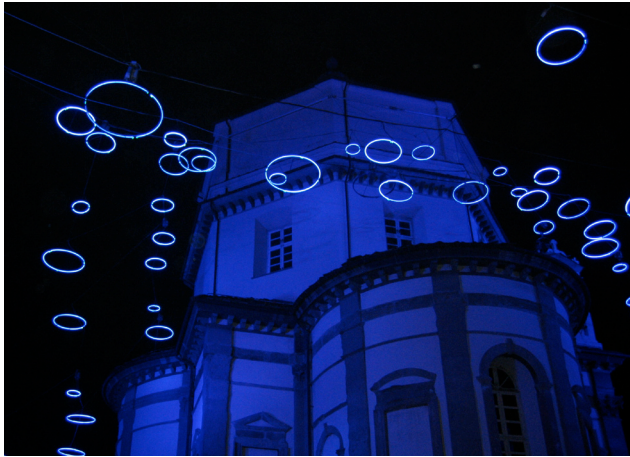
Benefits: international profile of the city; lighting used for safety, comfort and atmosphere. During the Fête des Lumières, there are approx. 3/4 million visitors each year; Lyon's hotels are fully booked (11500 rooms) with 40% of these reservations made by foreign visitors; 2m people purchased a metro ticket on December 8th (Lyon has a population of 500 000 people); the vélo'v public bike service increased its activity by 45% on December 8th.

Partnerships: develops programmes with public and private sector and community partners.

Sustainability: commitment to materials recovery, reduced consumption and pollution, use of green light sources. The total electricity bill is 3,000 euros for the annual Fête des Lumières, though the number of projects has doubled since 2005.

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Turin, ITALY: population: 909,000



Chiesa di Santa Maria al Monte dei Cappuccini, Piccoli Spiritti Bleu, Rebecca Horn, 2000

Theme: Turin's high quality Luci d'Artista commissions are by internationally recognised artists to 'create an occasion where art meets the general public'.

Approach: The Luci d'Artista began in 1997 when one Italian artist was commissioned to make a light installation for the central square to encourage footfall for the city centre's businesses during the Christmas season. In 1998 fourteen further artists were commissioned through the involvement of the two directors of Turin's contemporary art museums which still form the core of the Luci d'Artista collection. The project grew in scale particularly between 2001 and 2006 – between winning and hosting the Winter Olympics. The commissions are installed between the beginning of November to the end of January each year to take contemporary art to Turin's general public and visitors.

Current Programme: One or two new commissions are added each year, including work by international artists such as Joseph Kosuth, Rebecca Horn, and Jan Vercruyse.

Quality and Creativity: The Luci d'Artista project is currently curated by Ida Gianelli (Director of the Castello di Rivoli Museum), Pier Giovanni Castagnoli and Riccardo Passoni (Director and Assistant Director of GAM, Turin's Modern and Contemporary Art Museum) through an Artistic Committee. The project is managed by the City of Turin's Council of Culture. The Luci d'Artista are intended to significantly contribute to Turin's identity as a centre of contemporary art.

Funding: The cost of the current year's Luci d'Artista project is approximately 1.2m euros (plus communication costs). It is funded by the City of Turin in association with the Regione Piemonte (Piedmont regional authority), the Turin Chamber of Commerce, and the Turin-based banking institutions the CRT Foundation and the Compagnia di San Paolo; Italgas and other companies are technical sponsors of the project (Italgas, for example, was responsible for the production of Jenny Holzer's commission). A third of the operating budget comes from private sponsors.

Partnerships: The lighting installations are fabricated and stored at the Teatro Regio. Up until 2006 there was a parallel daytime event ManifestO, a series of 40-50 large format (3 x 6m) poster works specially created by contemporary artists, and funded by the City of Turin and GAM. Since 2007, Luci d'Artista has sat under the new umbrella of 'Contemporary Arts Torino Piemonte', which acts as a brand covering all the contemporary art initiatives in Turin from October – December.

Benefits: The Luci d'Artista were a key part of Turin winning the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Sustainability: As the project began ten years ago, sustainability has not been a key priority to date. However, this may be changing, with one of this year's commissions, Il Regno dei Fiori, by Nicola De Maria, using existing street lighting – saving on both energy and cost.

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Glasgow, UK: population: 580,000



'Radiance', We love Real Life, Ross Sinclair, 2005

Theme: permanent and temporary approaches to complement Glasgow's regeneration and draw attention to forgotten areas of the city.

Approach: Glasgow's Lighting Strategy advocates a co-ordinated approach to lighting the city, provides a context for implementing a series of lighting programmes and projects, and encourages innovative lighting, all aimed at enhancing Glasgow's distinctive character, creating interest and vitality after dark and enhancing safety. Four main themes have been identified in the Lighting Strategy: improving safety and reinforcing the hierarchy of roads and public spaces and improving safety; city enhancement – city landmarks and strategic views; art and community projects; design and innovation. Since the launch of the strategy in March 2002 some 90 projects have been implemented including major city landmarks, arts projects and smaller scale projects of local importance.

Current Programme: the main capital programme includes capital projects, winter lighting, the local project fund, and art and community projects. Current capital projects include Glasgow Cathedral and St. Andrews Suspension Bridge. Local projects include housing blocks and Glasgow School of Art. A temporary biennial festival, Radiance, across 3 days (2005, 2007 and planned for 2009) invites artists and lighting designers to create new installations for the historic Merchant City to encourage Glaswegians and visitors to explore the city.

Quality and Creativity: Lighting Design Principles for permanent projects have been developed to co-ordinate proposals and guide their aesthetic appearance. One principle focuses on 'light source and use of colour', specifying a white light source for traditional sandstone buildings.

Funding: in 2001 the City Council committed £2.65m to a three year lighting programme which was formally launched in March 2002 with the publication of the Strategy document and switch on of four pilot projects. The initial three-year tranche of capital money finished in March 2004 and another three-year tranche of £2.75m was allocated. Since 2007 the Lighting Strategy has been funded through Development and Regeneration Services capital budgets with a further investment of £1.2m.

Partnerships: the Local Projects Fund has been established to contribute to small-scale projects of local importance with the opportunity to apply for contributions of capital costs. Radiance is developed in association with Glasgow's visual arts organisations.

Benefits: 62,000 visitors to Radiance 2007, with a net additional expenditure of £999,624.

Sustainability: there is a focus on increased use of LED fittings and energy efficient technology.

Other issues: the Local Projects Fund requires a commitment from the funded organisation to maintain the project for at least five years, in order to justify Council spend.