

# Outdoor Lighting Useful

Outdoor home areas can look better at night than in the daytime.

Carefully planned, creative lighting of these areas puts them at their best advantage, according to D. Vernon Glick, professor and associate director of urban planning and landscape architecture at Michigan State University.

Outdoor lighting need not be expensive or elaborate to be effective. Single covered bulbs placed in the proper places can make an unusual and attractive setting, he said.

Areas and scenes that aren't usually visible after dark can become useful and attractive with the proper lighting, Glick said. A flick of a switch can produce a charming garden scene out of a sea of darkness.

Beauty is only one use for outdoor lighting, Glick said. Work, play, family entertaining, safety and protection are all legitimate uses for exterior lighting. He pointed out that many activities of work and play are more comfortably done after sunset during spring, summer and fall when the air is cooler.

FOR PLAY, Glick recommended a light source well above eye level of the players to keep direct light out of their eyes. Lights can be placed on a building or pole for this purpose.

He said intruders are less likely to enter lighted areas than dark ones and suggested placing light switches in bedrooms and other convenient places so that outdoor lights may be turned on quickly.

Whether outdoor lighting will be useful or solely decorative it can always be attractive, Glick gave some pointers for planning lighted areas outside:

-Accent the most interesting features of your garden; hide the less attractive areas by leaving them dark.

-Side or back lighting can be dramatic; front lighting is more likely to produce flat, uninteresting effects.

-PLAN FOR year-round effects. Every season provides interesting material for outdoor lighting.

-Create interesting patterns with light. Watch reflections, shadows, shades of foliage for their best uses.

-Vary the light strength and use indirect lighting whenever possible. An evenly lighted area seldom creates an interesting picture.

-Control the amount of light. Do not try to produce a daytime appearance. Too little

## Bad Light Plants

Where there is little light, potted dieffenbachia or philodendron will do quite well.

A large schefflera, or Australian umbrella plant, will decorate a dimly lighted foyer or entrance hall.

Sedentary individuals, especially those who are consistently heavy cigarette smokers, appear to be especially prone to lethal heart attacks, says the Michigan Heart Association.

lighting is better than too much since a soft glow is better than a glare.

Glick noted that consideration must be given to neighbors when outdoor lighting is to be installed. He suggested placing shields on lights or, better yet, placing them where they will not disturb others.

IN THE ENTHUSIASM of beautifying a home's exterior features many people neglect basic safety precautions.

"Underground circuits are the most permanent and satisfactory for outdoor lighting, but must be protected from insect and rodent damage, be capable of withstanding freezing and thawing weather and must be protected against damage from moisture and digging," he said.

Circuits above ground are less attractive and less permanent than the underground type but are easier to install and maintain. These circuits

may consist of overhead wires supported by posts, trees or buildings, or of wires hidden in the bushes, walls and fences. For temporary use, specially treated extension cords may be used but are not recommended because of the danger to people and equipment when wiring is exposed, Glick said.

HIS SUGGESTIONS for would-be outdoor lamp-lighters included:

- Ground all outdoor lighting with three-wire cords, a three-pronged plug and a grounded electrical outlet box.
- Install separate circuits for outdoor use rather than overloading existing indoor circuits.
- Hire an electrician for permanent installations or when several lights are to be installed.
- Be sure switches, sockets, outlet boxes, splice boxes and all other equipment is weather-proof and installed correctly before they are used.

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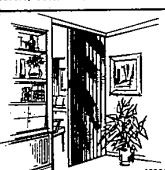
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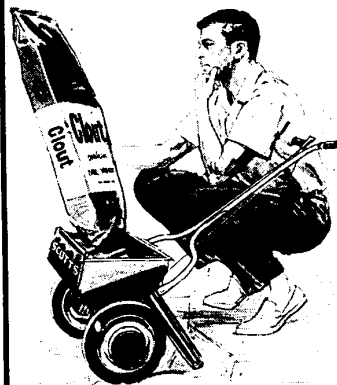
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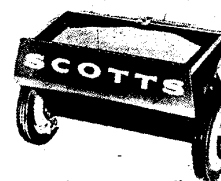
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