Basic Lighting Techniques

Path and walkway lighting is one of the most important functions of low level lighting. These fixtures should cast a symmetrical light pattern and be mounted at a low enough level as not to be a glare to the eyes and direct visitors where to walk and highlight plants and shrubberies along the walkway.

Spread lighting is used for illuminating ground cover and low shrubberies. Bring out the dazzling colors at night for a more stunning effect. Highlight areas of interest to focus attention on those special plants which are your pride and joy.

Security lighting is achieved by placing strategically located spot and flood lights at key locations around the premises to deter would-be intruders and to add a more dramatic nighttime depth of field appearance to the premises.

Silhouetted or back lighting adds a dramatic effect when lights are projected onto a wall or flat vertical surface from directly behind an interesting object or an exceptionally shaped plant or shrubbery. The light source should be concealed on the ground directly behind the object being silhouetted.

Shadowing creates mystique and is very similar to silhouetting. Shadowing is created by placing the light source in front of an object, projecting an image onto a wall or other flat vertical surface.

Spotlighting is used to project a beam of light onto interesting objects such as statuaries, trees, buildings or shrubberies. The lighting should not be overpowering but rather subtle and used in conjunction with other lighting.