

outdoor lighting



These path lights have either mains or low-voltage energy-efficient fluorescent lamps.

ability to reproduce colour accurately.

"In commercial landscapes we tend to use high-discharge metal halide, high-pressure sodium and fluorescent lamps to give longevity and ensure energy efficiency, with LEDs used mainly as accents. The scale of these projects may require a different solution than we would employ with a residential setting but the objective is the same."

Switching can sometimes provide the largest single opportunity to make the system energy efficient. We don't walk into our homes after dark and switch on *all* the lights with one switch — each room has several switches and, perhaps, also dimmers. There is no reason why the landscape lighting can't be switched on according to the task at hand or the area to be used. To maximise the efficiency of the switching it needs to be planned ahead and, if possible, provision made for it during construction.

A good lighting designer will know what to put together on the same circuit and what can be dimmed, as well as the light level required. There is no point "painting" a scene with too much light or rendering an area dangerous by providing insufficient light. When looking at energy-smart design the answer lies in the efficiency of the whole package, not



the individual components. A good lighting designer with landscape experience can interpret how the space will be used and light it accordingly, using a blend of light sources depending on the application.

Wall and area lights should fall into the scope of the landscape designer. Again, energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps have been used.

