

# LEDA

The magazine of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America

## Trees In The City

LIGHTFAIR 2015  
Preview

Detroit's Crown Jewel

Are Your LED  
Products Obsolete?

April 2015 [www.ies.org](http://www.ies.org)



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the challenges of lighting design,” Cawley says.

One can involve all parties in the rebuilding process through “patience, creating and delivering trust, and educating key people,” Cawley says, as well as “linking different parties—first individually, then collectively, in meetings so that they understand lighting is not just lights.”

It’s also important to recognize that environment is just as important as lighting design. “In other words,” Cawley says, “streets, buildings, statues, squares, monuments, gardens and amenities require a collective approach, not a singular, ‘Let’s light the tree approach.’”

One can apply the lessons learned in Christchurch to other projects. A vision for a city should also embrace multiple viewpoints to stimulate debate and avoid homogeneity. “Don’t allow regulation, gatekeepers and status to stifle the new vibrant city that can evolve through allowing difference and creative thinking,” Cawley says.

*Leonora Desar*



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M.**

## BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

“Zero-based budgeting” requires department managers to work off a blank sheet of paper as they develop revenue and expense projections. No more working off of last

year’s budget and simply adding or cutting 10 percent. “**Base Zero Lighting Design**,” the topic and title of a seminar from **Mark Loeffler** of Atelier Ten, would do much of the same. Using this concept, design would be driven by human visual needs rather than by codes or what’s been done before.

“A ‘base zero’ approach means creating from scratch,” Loeffler explains. “By beginning from darkness and zero energy consumption, a lighting design can enhance the visual experience of building occupants while using the least amount of equipment and energy. By treating light as a precious environmental resource, the fewest, most effective sources, luminaires and controls can be selected, contributing to the ‘dematerialization’ of buildings.”

It seems obvious: starting from darkness as the essence of lighting design. But it doesn’t happen often enough. “Lighting design should be an additive process, at least in my opinion. I came up with the term a couple of years ago as a reminder that lighting design is not an all-you-can-eat buffet, especially if you want to support sustainable or ‘net zero’ design. [But] simple, minimal lighting can be risky. It means being selective, non-uniform and visually stimulating using the fewest luminaires and the least energy. It is easier to overdesign, then whittle down to meet code.”

Most important, base zero lighting design requires a paradigm shift. Says Loeffler, “It would be wonderful if no one ever designs ‘general’ illumination again. Instead, we would all focus on providing the right amount of light that is optimized to the visual and aesthetic requirements of the particular owners and occupants of each project. Generic standards are limiting. New, organizationally specific guidelines informed by best practices could liberate us from faulty metrics like minimum footcandle requirements and maximum lighting power densities.”

Get your blank sheets of paper ready.

*Paul Tarricone*

