



A great outdoor living space not only adds value to your home, but enjoyment and value to your life.

Light up your outdoors



LINDA MAZUR
DESIGNED
FOR LIVING

The warm weather has finally arrived, and the sunshine has returned to bring our backyards to life once again!

Your backyard oasis will now be rewarding you with beautiful lush gardens and a great space to relax and enjoy, but is your new outdoor living space truly complete without proper lighting?

As a designer, and lover of gardening, I find there's always a lure to working outdoors. A great outdoor living space not only adds value to your home, but enjoyment and value to your life.

Our time outdoors in the summer is so short-lived, however, with the addition of proper lighting you can extend your outdoor living to really soak in the relaxation and pleasures the summer months have to offer.

Proper illumination is key for the obvious reasons of safety and easy mobility.

Whether it's an entryway, pathway lighting, recessed deck lighting, a security light or beautiful sconces outside your doorway, we do require the basics to assist us in the dark.

However, good outdoor lighting can also enhance the exterior aesthetics of your property.

With proper planning, exterior

lighting can highlight architecture features, at the front or rear of your home. There are a multitude of styles and lighting options available from contemporary to traditional.

First, you will need to decide which styles best suit your home's architecture and then consider the placement options. Wall sconces are most suitable or perhaps a ceiling mounted fixture, or combination of both.

Popular recessed soffit lights may be another option and are the perfect way to "wall-wash" your house, casting a warm glow and highlighting architectural detail on your home.

Accent lighting is also important when planning the illumination of your outdoor space and is usually used to highlight particular features. When applying accent lighting to the outdoors, consider up-light for your garden beds, trees, architectural features like pergolas or water feature.

Once attention has been given to all your key areas, it's time for the small finishing touches of decorative lighting to accessorize.

A grouping of multi-level lanterns or torches could be just the thing to complement your space, or perhaps you complete the look with the addition of beautiful outdoor fireplace from Kastle Fireplaces or a vintage find chandelier that you could hang in your pergola or gazebo.

Whatever your inspiration for the finishing touches may be, you are

sure to find that the home and property will be enhanced by the addition of outdoor lighting!

— Linda Mazur is principal of the Linda Mazur Design Group and is known for designs that reflect a rich elegance, timeless style and optimal functionality. Visit www.lindamazurdesign.com.

Keep in mind

- Remember pathway lighting should be staggered and well balanced to avoid the "landing strip" effect.
- For narrow stairs one step light centered in each riser may be sufficient, for wider steps you may require a series of lights along each riser.
- Plan your lighting outdoors, but do not forget to consider the view from inside also.
- Outdoor lights can be solar, or have basic timers, or better yet, look at adding Control4 app to control all your external lights with one single touch
- Lighting may seem a daunting task, consider hiring a professional like myself or a landscape designer to help you "light the way."



Whether it's an entry way or beautiful sconces outside your doorway, good outdoor lighting can also enhance the exterior aesthetics of your property.



With proper planning, exterior lighting can highlight architecture features



When applying accent lighting to the outdoors, consider lighting up your garden beds, trees, pergolas, gazebos or water features.