Light! Design Expo

JUNE 25 2026

Seminar Series

Four FREE AIA and IES Accredited Seminars

12PM RP-46-25 is Here, Now What?

Robert Soler, Founder of BIOS Lighting

CEU Credits:
1 AIA HSW LU
1 IES CEU

Circadian supportive lighting is an innovative approach to lighting design. However, traditional lighting practices often require very high light levels and energy consumption to meet the standards outlined in RP-46-25. This session will delve into the design parameters necessary to meet the requirements of RP-46-25 and introduce a formula for achieving this standard, known as application efficiency. This will provide practical insights for professionals implementing circadian lighting. It is essential to recognize that measuring circadian supportive lighting differs from measuring conventional lighting. It is crucial to consider the role of color and spectrum, as different light colors and spectrums impact circadian rhythms.

Learning Objectives

1. An understanding of the profound importance of circadian rhythms for health and well-being. Learn how lighting influences these natural cycles and how to incorporate these strategies into design.
2. Summarize the key requirements outlined in the RP-46-25 guidelines and discuss their implications for traditional lighting practices in various environments.
3. Evaluate circadian supportive lighting by considering application efficiency, including assessing the role of light color and spectrum in design.
4. Utilize a novel formula to achieve RP-46-25 criteria in your projects, enabling you to create effective circadian lighting solutions for diverse spaces.

Bio: Robert Soler, Founder of BIOS Lighting

Robert Soler is a leading expert in circadian lighting and its effects on human health and performance. He has served as a subject matter expert for NASA and has advised organizations such as the Los Angeles Dodgers and the U.S. Olympic Ski and Snowboard Team, providing strategies to combat jet lag. Additionally, he collaborates with the International WELL Building Institute™ to enhance global health standards related to lighting.

Through a National Science Foundation (NSF) fellowship, Robert conducts research on circadian rhythms and works with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on various studies in this field. He has also partnered with Cincinnati Children's Hospital to develop specialized lighting for neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), improving outcomes for premature and newborn babies.

Recently, he received a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for his work on circadian lighting strategies in retrofit lighting applications.

2PM Inclusive Design: Sensory Sensitivities & Light… from Neurodivergent to Aging Eye Populations

Patricia Rizzo, Kenall Lighting, Sr. Healthcare Product Marketing Manager

CEU Credits:
1 AIA HSW LU
1 IES CEU

Across populations that experience sensitivity to visual stimuli, there may be similar responses to light, but often nuanced solutions. The term “Inclusive design” has been at the forefront of design approaches for several decades, addressing accessibility for those with physical challenges. These last couple of decades, however, has increased awareness of sensory challenges, and lighting's impact.

These last couple of decades, however, has increased awareness of sensory challenges. It is well known that most older adults suffer from a series of aging eye issues – requiring lighting that minimizes glare, provides more light but more shielded light for older adults, and uses matte versus glossy finishes on surfaces. For both adults and children, neurological conditions such as ASD and ADHD have increased significantly. A recent study has shown that the number of children and adults diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) has increased by 175% over a decade1. In the U.S., about 11% of children and 6% of adults have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Light sensitivity – or photophobia – is one symptom commonly experienced, causing a range of effects from discomfort to increased anxiety to migraines and more. Bright light, flicker, and spectrum all contribute. Poor lighting in general can lead to circadian disruption. What are the underlying causes in each of these population’s conditions, and which lighting strategies can mitigate negative effects and improve daily life?

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the common thread of photophobia, an increased sensitivity to light, that runs through ASD, ADHD, and Aging Eye populations
2. Review research studies that explain color and light preferences for children with autism, including key features of autism friendly lighting
3. Look through the eyes of an ,older, adult, how do retinal changes affect their response to light and alter their perception of a space
4. Explore ways to create a comfortable sensory environment for each group

Bio: Patricia Rizzo, Kenall Lighting, Sr. Healthcare Product Marketing Manager

Patricia Rizzo is Senior Healthcare Product Marketing Manager at Kenall Manufacturing, leveraging over 25 years of expertise in lighting to advance healthcare and behavioral health environments. She draws on research and relationships to create patient-centered products that enhance experience and elevate design aesthetics, while continuing to educate on the silent but significant impact lighting has on our everyday lives.

Previously, Patricia served as Healthcare Segment Manager at Axis Lighting and Senior Healthcare Lighting Applications Developer at Philips Lighting. Her background includes roles as Lead Research Specialist and Design Program Manager at the Lighting Research Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she was also an Adjunct Associate Professor. Patricia holds an M.Sc. in Lighting from RPI and is EDAC certified.

4PM The A, B, C's of Power Over Ethernet Lighting + Controls

Panel Discussion

CEU Credits:
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1 IES CEU

Akram Khalis, CEO, MHT Technologies | Principal Owner, Digital Building Solutions
David Robinson, President, PoE Consortium – Vice President of Automation – Mecho | Shading
Joe Herbst, CTO PoE Texas – Entrepreneurial Executive
Jim Simpson, Director with the Electrical Training Alliance and PoE Consortium Member

This Expert Panel Discussion will enlighten and energize Architects, Engineers, Designers, Consultants, and Contractors, alike about the Feature-Packed potential of Universal Power Over Ethernet [UPOE]* to deliver Operational Grade DC-power and communications - to all essential building systems on a unified network. Listen and Learn from perspectives of PoE-lighting, automated shading, and intelligent network-switching experts about the abundant benefits UPOE - as a single platform - brings to Developers, Owners, Facility Managers and Occupants as a future-resilient, holistic, and sustainable Operational Technology platform for 21st century Smart Buildings.

Learning Objectives

1. Gain an appreciation and understanding for how POE optimizes lighting, automated shading, furniture and other systems as a unified OT [Operational Technology] network platform to enhance operational efficiencies and occupant experience for commercial office, healthcare, education and hospitality environments.
2. Learn how PoE enabled technologies help meet sustainable objectives for lighting, automated shading, occupancy, security and other PoE based environmental systems, contribute towards prerequisites and credits of both LEED and WELL Standards.
3. Understand how common components of PoE-based OT platform simplifies infrastructure, and offers a future resilient alternative to legacy Building Automation Systems [BAS] , to support forward-thinking client expectations and building operational requirements as a reliable, adaptable, and resilient international standard.
4. Recognize the features and benefits of PoE as a ubiquitous OT standard to enhance designs, reduces waste, trims construction costs*, and improves the overall performance of buildings, businesses, people, and places alike.

Bio: Akram 'AK' Khalis, CEO, MHT Technologies | Principal Owner, Digital Building Solutions

Akram Khalis (AK) serves as MHT's Technologies' Chief Executive Officer and Inspextor Co-Founder.AK was appointed CEO after previously serving seven years at Chief Technology Officer at MHT, leading the development and implementation of MHT's award-winning Inspextor hardware and software platform. Well regarded as an innovator and thought leader for his work developing PoE systems for lighting and smart building automation, AK has scaled and accelerated the growth of innovative technology for more than a decade. AK has extensive experience in software and hardware development and currently holds three US technology patents. In addition to his vast industry experience, AK holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the NJ Institute of Technology.

Bio: President, PoE Consortium – Vice President of Automation – Mecho | Shading

David Robinson is the Vice President of Automation at Mecho with over 35 years experience in the lighting and controls industry and currently also holds the position of President of the PoE Consortium. He is responsible for developing the sales and marketing strategies of the automated PoE shading solutions with SolarTrac® and has delivered numerous papers informing the design community of the importance of the synergy between automated shades and automated lighting control systems in the delivery of Smart Sustainable Building designs.

Bio: Joe Herbst, CTO PoE Texas – Entrepreneurial Executive

Joe has worked in several rapidly evolving markets over his career. His accomplishments include the creation of the world's first power management laptop chipsets, design of semiconductors that were the engine in Cisco's switches, the growth of digital video technology from CRT's to flat screen TVs, and recently the development of a PoE lighting control platform. Joe has founded 4 startups with 3 successful exits.Joe holds 16 patents, has a BSEE from the University of Delaware, MSEE from Purdue University and an MBA from Santa Clara University.

Jim Simpson, Director with the Electrical Training Alliance and PoE Consortium Member

Jim Simpson is a Director with the electrical training ALLIANCE, (etA) and based in Palisade, Minnesota. In his role, Jim oversees curriculum development for Telecommunications, Fiber Optic, Data Networks, Fire Alarm Systems, Lighting, Security and Access Control Systems, Video Surveillance Systems, Residential Technologies, and other online curriculum. The Electrical Training ALLIANCE, Bowie, Maryland - The Electrical Training Alliance (etA) is a joint training program by NECA and IBEW that provides the largest apprenticeship and training system for electrical workers in the U.S. and the leading publisher of education materials for the electrical industry etA is designed to train highly skilled electrical workers for the industry - with instructor training resources, regionalized curriculum and advanced learning technologies, bringing a new level of education to the classroom, to elevate the training of those entering the electrical and related trades.

6PM Mass Lighting in Mass Timber: Tales of Integrating Lighting within Mass Timber Architecture

Alec Buxton, Pritchard Peck Lighting, Senior Designer

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Sharing the complexities of lighting design in working with a new material (Cross Laminated Timber) as a company, after completing 5 Mass Timber projects with different Architects. Will describe techniques for photometrics, sustainability, color quality, detailing, power infrastructure and future proofing. Will share lessons learned and strategies for coordinating with Architect, EE, and Construction Team. May team with Architect for Q&A.

Learning Objectives

1. Considerations for lighting a mass timber building at SD, DD and CD phases.
2. Impacts mass timber has on photometrics and lighting sustainability.
3. Case study of methods for concealing lighting infrastructure within the constraints of mass timber.
4. Implications mass timber has for design and color quality.

Bio: Alec Buxton, Pritchard Peck Lighting, Senior Designer

Alec Buxton has been a designer with PritchardPeck Lighting for 8 years and in the lighting design field since 2014. His background in Architectural Engineering gives him a sound technical foundation and keen understanding of the science of light. His passion for the natural world is a core tenant of his design philosphy. Whether it be creating outdoor environments that are respectful of native ecology or pushing the limits of energy efficiency to bring us closer to a zero carbon future, this philosophy shapes all of his work.

GREEN MARY
ZERO WASTE EVENTS

At Light!, we take pride in our efforts to reduce waste at our event each year. We hope that you will join us. Our "Green Team" will show you how!

green team

- We print badges on compostable paper. We reuse all returned lanyards, so please drop them in a collection receptacle on your way out.
- Our show guides and seminar handouts are recyclable.
- All food, water and coffee stations serve in compostable containers.
- Bar drinks are served in recyclable cups.
- Soft Drink Containers are plastic free and recyclable.
- There are 3 Water Refill Stations located near each bar. Please use your own refillable water bottle or reuse your compostable cup.
- Provide "Greening Stations" managed by Green Mary, a woman owned business committed to promoting waste-free events.
- Green Mary's GREEN SERVICE for Light! includes:
  - EcoEducation, sharing with inquiring attendees what goes where at this event, in SF and around the Bay Area and WHY!
  - Greening, Waste Diversion, Composting & Recycling

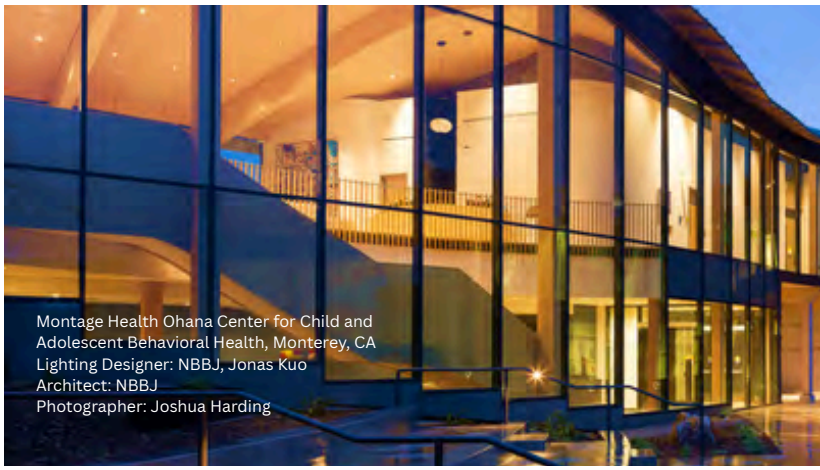
Project Gallery

Each year, Light! displays a stunning photo gallery of the most current local lighting projects featuring the collaborative work of local designers and manufacturers.

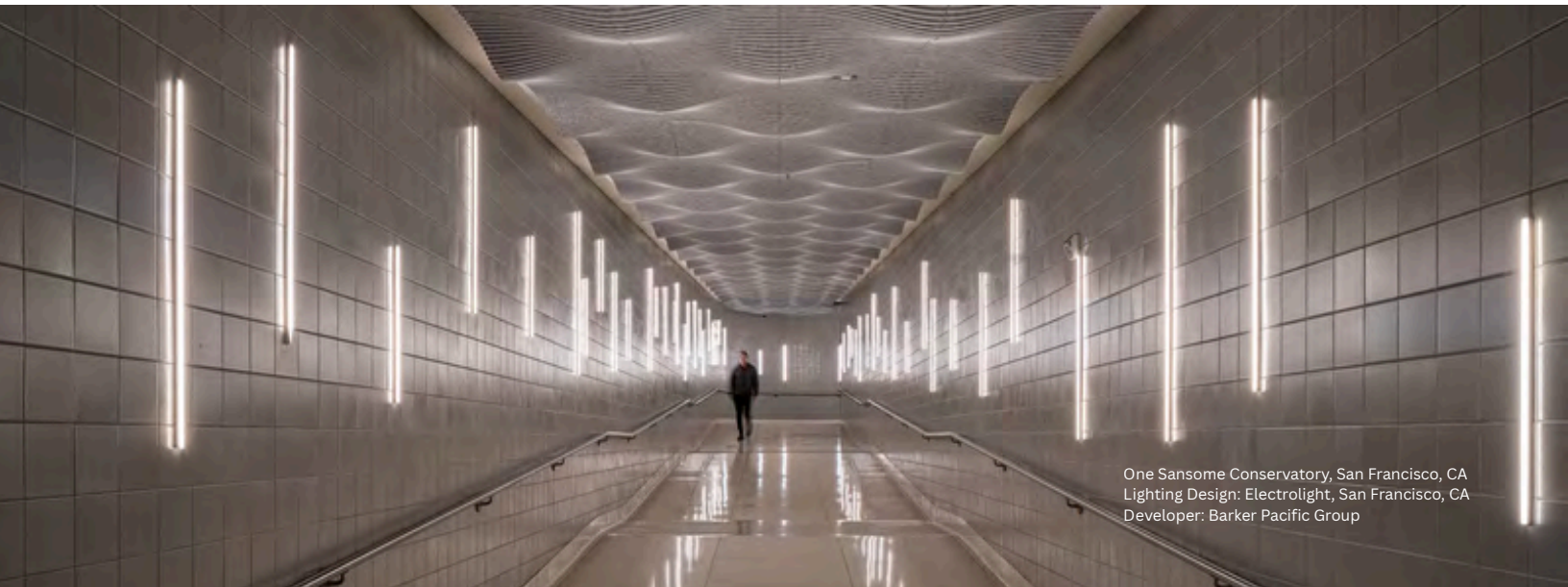
Inquire about submitting your work or your favorite S.F. Bay Area projects for 2027 by filling out the Submission Form on the Light! “Attend” page.
LightDesignExpo.com/Attend-Light/

Supernal, Laguna Canyon
Architect: RMW Architecture and Interiors
Interior Designer: RMW Architecture and Interiors
Photographer: Garrett Rowland

Alameda Realty | Suite 150, Menlo Park, CA
Interior Design: AP+I Design
Architect : AP+I Design

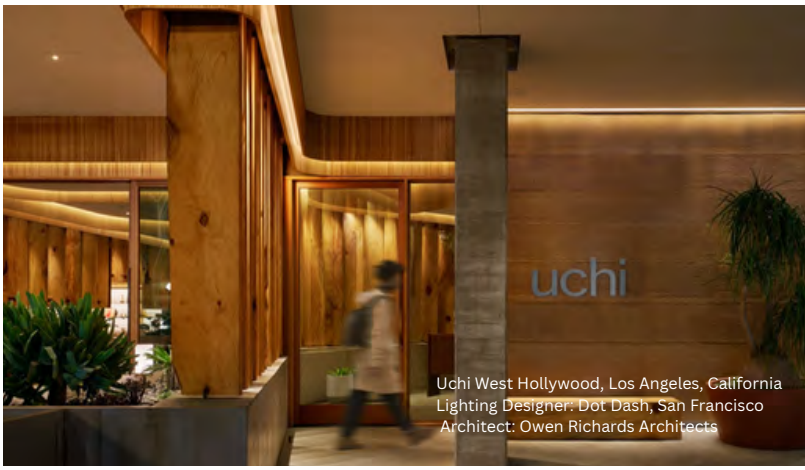


Montage Health Ohana Center for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health, Monterey, CA
Lighting Designer: NBBJ, Jonas Kuo
Architect: NBBJ
Photographer: Joshua Harding



One Sansome Conservatory, San Francisco, CA
Lighting Design: Electrolight, San Francisco, CA
Developer: Barker Pacific Group

Anser HQ, Arlington, VA
Lighting Designer: FORM Architects
Architects: FORM Architects
Photographer: Spielmann Studio



Uchi West Hollywood, Los Angeles, California
Lighting Designer: Dot Dash, San Francisco
Architect: Owen Richards Architects

Greece Library, North Greece, NY
Lighting Designer: Quality Lighting Systems, Peter Brincka LEED AP
Architects: HMC Architects & Group 4 Architecture
Landscape Architect: Passero Associates, Emily Connors
Photographer: Don Cochran

THANK YOU!

To Our Incredible Agency and Industry Partners.

And to You for Making 2026 Another Amazing Year!

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