

"3 Absolute Must Haves in Landscape Lighting!"

Luna LightScape
LunaLightScape.com
386-944-5527



Bart Teracino

"3 Absolute Must Haves in Landscape Lighting"

Transcript of a Live Interview

Bart Teracino
Luna LightScape

By
Ed Rose

Luna LightScape
Bart Teracino
LunaLightScape.com
386-944-5527
Bart@LunaLightScape.com

This is a transcript from an interview of Bart Teracino of Luna LightScape by Ed Rose. The topic: "3 absolute must haves in Landscape Lighting."

Ed

Bart, you said earlier that a homeowner has to get three things right if they're considering a landscape lighting system.

Bart

Ed, I call them the big three. Two of the three are technology driven and the third is timeless. It's as true today as thirty or forty years ago. But the big three is just where you would need to start. Get any of them wrong and you're behind the eight ball.

ED

OK... lets take them in order of importance.

BART

It's not that clear cut. I'll take care of the technology based issues first then finish up with Mr. Timeless. Number one is LED lamps. There's no reason not to install LED's in all your outside lighting.

ED

LED's have certainly been in the news along with compact fluorescent. I've hesitated to make the switch. I tried a couple LED's in my house a few years ago and they didn't look right. I stay away from the compact fluorescent because of the mercury that's in them.

BART

You're right about compact fluorescent having mercury.

We don't use them in landscape lighting so that's not an issue. But let me say, I use plenty of compact fluorescent at home. Just handle them carefully. LED's don't have that issue. LED stands for "Light Emitting Diode." They use semi-conductors that convert electricity to light. Very efficient.

ED

What about the quality of the light? When I tried them in my home I felt like I was on the milk aisle at Publix. White, white, white.

BART

Since then there have been major improvements in LED quality. I'm not saying all LED's, you have to do your research. Through trial and error I've settled on LED's that I have full confidence in. When I install an LED lamp I am certain about its quality and Color Temperature.

ED

Color Temperature?

BART

Yes. Color temperature. For the purpose of the interview I wont go into technical details. The easiest way to think about color temperature is to think: Warm White, Cool White and Daylight. Most people are familiar with those terms. Warm White produces a calm or elegant light. Cool White produces a friendly inviting light. Daylight produces a crisp vibrant light.

ED

So the quality of the light has improved, what else?

BART

The two most important things to know about LED's are.... One... Quality LED's last a minimum of 40,000 hours. I install LED's that have a lifetime manufacturers guarantee. They're that confident in their product. The second point... Energy savings. The typical LED lamp in Landscape Lighting will use 80% less energy than a halogen lamp.

ED

Sounds almost too good to be true.

BART

It's true and documented. This type of technology has created enormous energy savings in almost every area of our life. It's big. Anyway, back to landscape lighting. LED savings come many ways: energy savings, replacement lamp savings, labor to change lamp savings, less wear and tear on fixtures. I will not install a lighting system without using LED's. We've also had tremendous success converting existing systems from halogen to LED. It's a no-brainer.

ED

What's number 2 on your list?

BART

Astronomical timer... It sounds like something out of Star Wars but it's down to earth.

ED

Astronomical timer? That's a new one for me.

BART

Most people typically want their Landscape lighting to turn on around sunset and then go off sometime before sunrise. Some will want it to turn off when it's bedtime for the household. It sounds pretty simple. Set up a timer for the desired times.

Unfortunately it's not that simple. Every day is shorter or longer depending on the season. You could be adjusting your timer every few weeks. To get around that the Landscape lighting industry started using photocells to make adjustments automatically. Photocells are typically mounted in out of the way locations near the transformer. Because of this they are not precise. Even worse... when you have one transformer for the front yard and one for the back, you have two separate photocells. It could become a source of irritation.

ED

I could see that. I would want the whole system to come on at the same time and not have to adjust timers.

BART

Exactly. That's where Astronomical timers come into play. An Astronomical timer uses a pre-programmed database of times for sunrise and sunset to tell your system when to turn on and off. All you have to do is tell the timer where you are in the world (Zip code), the time, date, and when you want your lights to shine. That's about as easy as it comes - set and forget. It even automatically adjusts for Daylight Savings Time. By the way, we handle the setup.

ED

I've seen different timers at Home Depot, do they have one there.

BART

They don't have the one I use. I only use professional quality. It makes a big difference. I almost forgot, when you lose power, the timer will automatically reset itself. That covers two of the big three. Any questions on the first two?

ED

No, it all makes sense... lets get to number three. The one that's timeless.

BART

As night follows day a landscape lighting system is subject to corrosion. Especially if you're located within 25 miles of a salt water coastline. Fixture quality is very important when you're installing outdoor lighting. The fixtures are exposed to the elements and are close to the ground where moisture can threaten their lifespan. Lighting fixtures are prone to corrosion which will hurt the electrical connections in the long run.

ED

I live on the beach side and maintenance is an issue... What's your answer to that problem?

BART

Our fixtures and transformers are made from Copper, Brass, Bronze and/or Stainless Steel. That's all we use... the manufacturers warranty them for life. That's my kind of insurance policy against corrosion.

ED

I've see some nice fixtures at Home Depot and Lowes.

BART

They don't have the professional quality or warranty. You would be buying a maintenance headache.

ED

LED's, Astronomical Timer and quality fixtures... Any last words?

BART

That's where you need to start. The Big 3. A quality, "Lights for Life" system STARTS there but it doesn't end there.

ED

If anyone wants to reach you what's the best way to make contact?

BART

They can call the office:

386-944-5527

LunaLightScape.com

Or

email: bart@LunaLightScape.com