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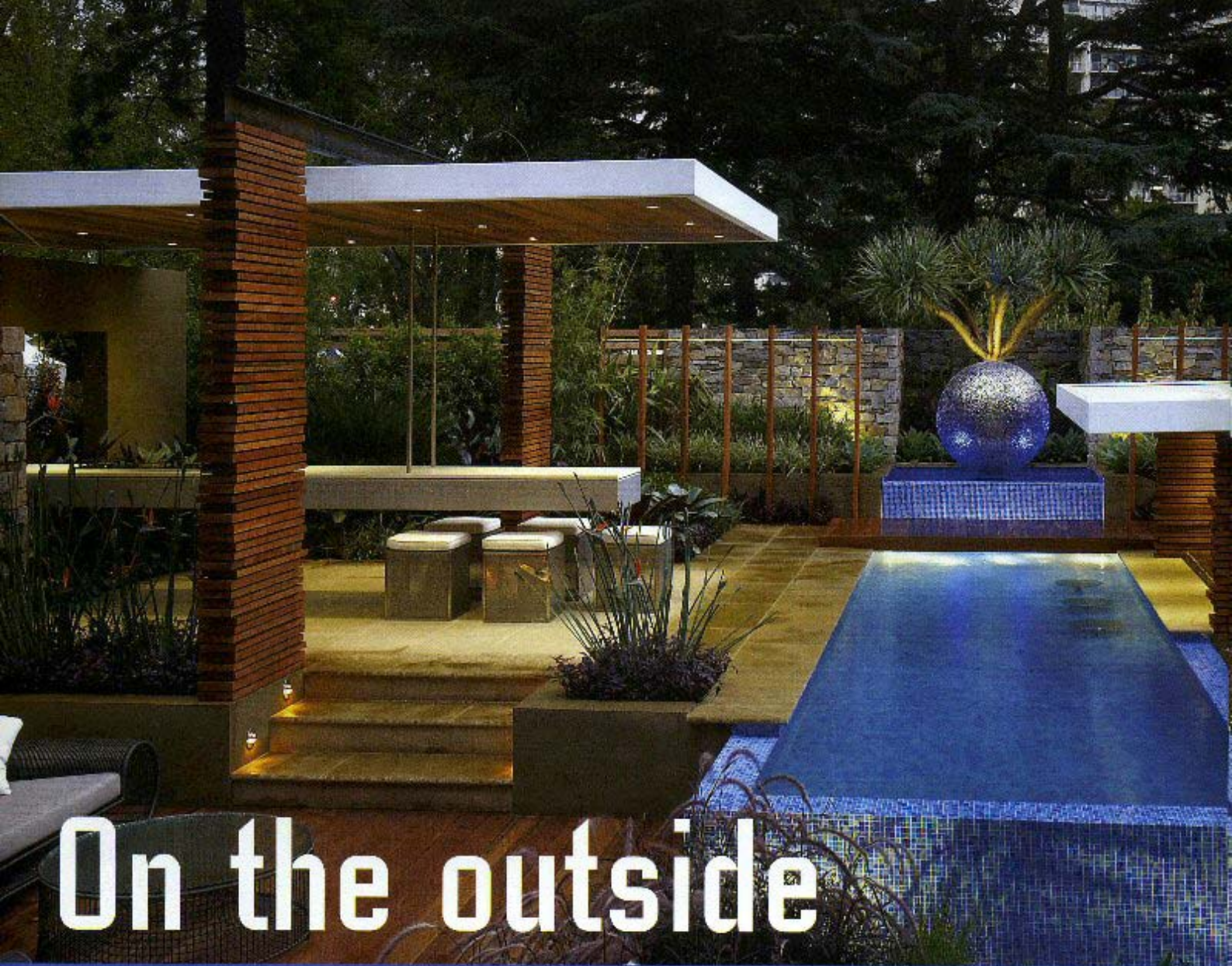
Heathrow Terminal 5

On the outside

Garden lighting

And the winner is...

Lighting Design Awards



On the outside

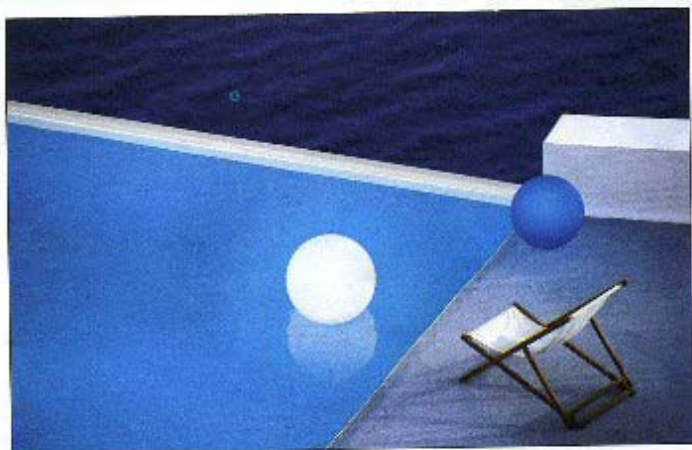
As summer approaches, Gemma Emslie looks at lighting for gardens.

For some time now the garden has been considered a true extension of the home. It has become an additional living space that can be used for relaxing, dining and entertaining in the warmer months – and even in the not-so-warm months with the aid of patio heaters. As a result, more time and money is being invested in garden design. In fact, according to statistics given by Micromark, consumers spent 50 per cent more on products that enhance the visual aspects of the garden in 2007 than in 2001. The outdoor lighting market in particular is growing annually and is now estimated by Micromark to have a 20 per cent share in the total domestic lighting market.

While lighting is essentially used to extend the hours of the day, garden lighting designer John Raine insists that this is only part of the

story when it comes to outdoors: 'Outdoor lighting can provide a totally different view from the daylight perspective, be it for the summer barbecue, or as an alternative to closing the curtains on cooler, damper evenings'. Exterior lighting has a multitude of uses in garden design, from functional purposes on patios and walkways to accentuating features such as plants, trees and ponds. A well-planned lighting system can quite literally transform a garden by night.

Raine is a leader in the field, having designed lighting systems for more than 2,000 gardens of all shapes and sizes, including a show garden at the Melbourne Flower Show last year. 'The scheme included downlighting the alfresco dining area using recessed adjustable 5W LED downlights, 5W LED underwater spotlights and spike spotlights and LED eyelid-



Facing page & top: John Raine's work at the Melbourne Flower Show. Left: Pillar Lite from Hunza. Above: Smoon Collection by Beau&Bien, available from Inspired By Design.

style steplights.' The designer is also working on two gardens for this year's Chelsea Flower Show, as well as a new country house in Hertfordshire.

Raine provides a creative garden lighting design service, as well as an extensive range of products, through his company Lighting for Gardens. Speaking on the quality and affordability of garden lighting products available today, Raine says: 'As far as cost goes, you expect to get what you pay for. Our business prospers because we concentrate on providing a high quality level, which you don't find in the sheds or in the ordinary lighting shops, and at affordable prices.' The company has recently redesigned the 240V versions of its spotlights to accept a wider range of GU10 compact fluorescent spot lamps. 'The wide beam they provide – typically 100-120 degrees

– is very suitable for many diffuse downlighting applications in gardens, especially lighting patios and providing threshold lighting outside French windows,' says Raine.

A survey conducted by the Lighting Association in May 2007 illustrated that exterior and garden lighting has been one of the key consumer development areas in the last few years. Furthermore, the survey demonstrated that energy efficient lighting has shown the largest change in any category and is predicted to show further growth in future years. This should not really come as too much of a surprise considering the emphasis that has been placed on climate change and the environment in recent years. Micromark, in particular, has noticed a marked increase in demand for solar fittings in the last 12 to 24 months, as consumers seek more



Clockwise from bottom left: Micromark's MM70321 fitting; the company's MM70386 solar lights; JCC's Galena wall light; JCC's Petworth Lantern; Micromark's MM70394 solar LED steplights.

environmentally friendly fittings. In response to such demand, the company will be launching its new SolarSystem range of high performance solar lighting kits next month. Each kit contains a remote solar panel that can be positioned separately from the luminaries in the kit to capture maximum sunlight and optimize performance.

Micromark is not the only manufacturer to be jumping on the eco-friendly bandwagon. Hunza Europe is using 2008 to launch its new Eco Series range of products, including SafeTouch. This new range provides the power and low running costs of a metal halide or white SON lamp, mounted in a design that runs cool enough to touch. 'This is certainly the way forward and appreciates the necessity for a more green environment,' says Richard Heath of Hunza Europe. The company is the sole European importer of Hunza products, which are engineered by hand in New Zealand

and come with either a five or 10-year guarantee, depending on the finish. 'I feel that people are moving away from low-quality fittings as most clients have now experienced rapid deterioration and poor performance when using such products,' says Heath. 'Quite a large percentage of the total cost of a project is installation, and it can be a costly exercise to have to revisit to repair or worse still replace after a short period of time. While we do not offer an installation service ourselves, we strongly recommend that time is taken when selecting an installer with experience in low voltage outdoor lighting systems' continues Heath.

Finding an experienced installer is paramount, especially since it is no longer legal for consumers to carry out the task themselves. As given by Roger Beckett, director at Light Projects Group, 'all systems must be installed by an electrician with a

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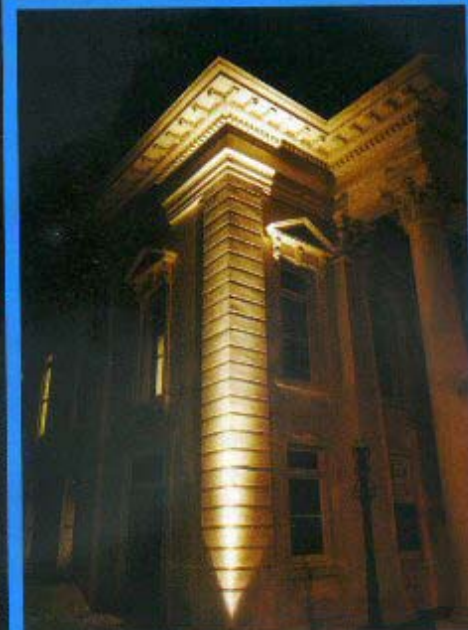
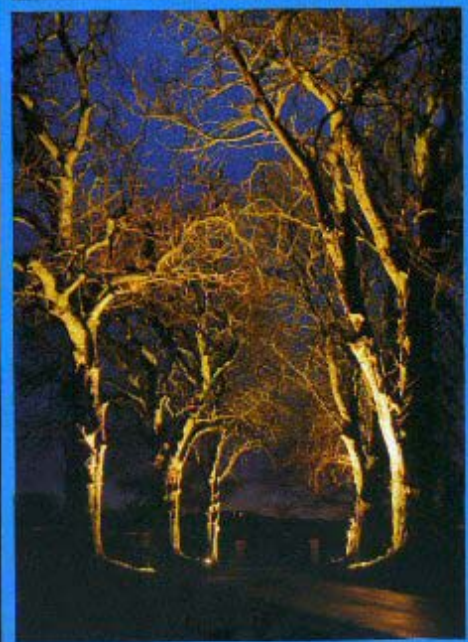
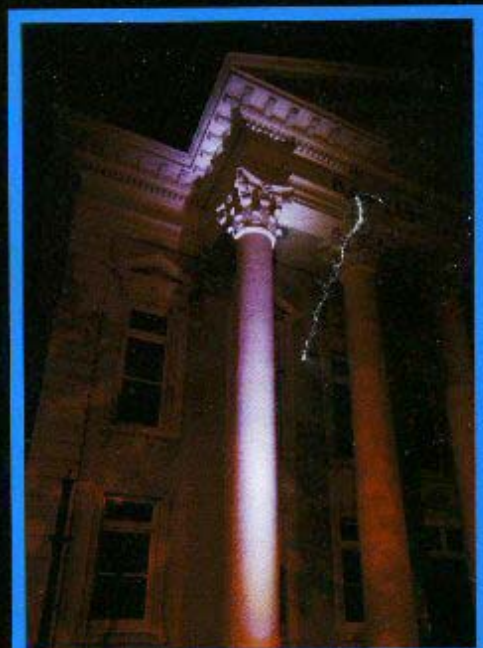
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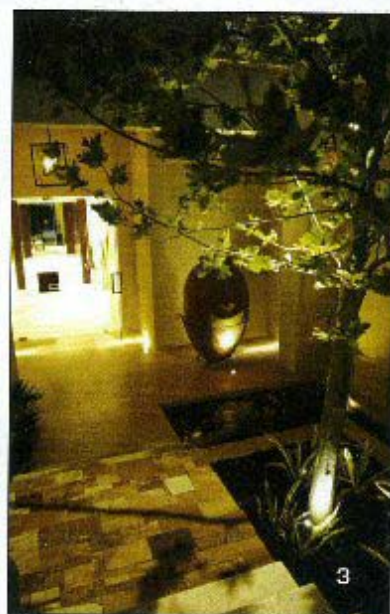


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1, 3 & 4) Lumascape Lighting, exclusively available in the UK from the Light Projects Group.
 2) The new rechargeable Neoz Candle, exclusively available in the UK from the Light Projects Group.

minimum of an NICEIC accreditation, and all installations should be safeguarded by a RCD Breaker'. Light Projects Group offers more than 1,200 exterior fittings that are suitable for everything from private residential projects through to large commercial schemes. The company is also taking the issue of carbon emissions seriously and is on hand to offer advice on how consumers can reduce their carbon footprint with efficient lighting control systems. 'A simple dimmer can have a dramatic effect on lowering the carbon footprint of the lighting scheme by simply burning less power,' says Beckett. 'With conventional low voltage and filament lamps, dimming by 10 per cent can up to double the lamp life.'

The garden lighting sector is clearly enjoying year-on-year growth. All that we need now is a warm and dry summer for 2008.

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