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Lighting Characteristics and Design Considerations to Facilitate Placemaking for World Heritage Sites

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Abstract: This paper aims to establish lighting as a key facilitator in the placemaking processes for World Heritage Sites. Placemaking is a process of designing, managing, planning and programming the development of shared public spaces within the urban fabric. Research methods inspired from ethnography such as interviews, observations and questionnaires are used to gather data from three main groups of people related to the lighting of World Heritage Sites namely: heritage experts, lighting designers, and locals and visitors. Two UNESCO designated World Heritage Sites are investigated as case studies: Saint-Avit-Sénieur in Dordogne, France and Naghshe-Jahan-Square in Isfahan, Iran. Thematic analysis of the data collected from these investigations reveal key lighting characteristics and lighting design considerations that can facilitate the placemaking process for World Heritage Sites. The lighting characteristics include: avoiding over-lighting, overly theatrical lighting and uniform lighting; balancing floodlighting; preventing glare; providing flexible and harmonious lighting. The lighting design considerations include: accounting meanings and values; amplifying narratives; balancing genders; building attraction and excitement; creating layers; enhancing atmospheres; ensuring safety; improving functionality; offering interpretations; and supporting activities.

Keywords: Historical sites; Placemaking; Urban lighting criteria and design considerations; World Heritage Sites

1.0. Introduction

Placemaking is defined as a creative yet intentional process of designing, developing, managing, planning, and programming shared-use spaces by bringing together people to improve a community's cultural, ecological, economic, and social situation.¹ Peoples' experiences of emotional and physical wellbeing are influenced by built environments that provide a sense of belonging.^{2,3} Historic sites are examples of built environments that provide this sense of belonging by promoting communication and shaping social life.^{4,5} Experts argue that historic sites must not be treated solely as historical objects or lifeless antiquities but should instead be used as a means of generating activity.⁶ These historic sites constitute the core of many projects engaged with the aim of regenerating urban spaces by significantly improving the economy and generally resulting in the development of the broader region by strengthening peoples' experiences.⁷ Historic sites play a vital role in placemaking wherein certain values extend across cultural, ecological, economic, and social realms in transforming spaces into places.⁸

Lighting constitutes an essential part of day-to-day activities and social interaction in urban spaces, by serving to attract, direct and enchant people within the urban context.^{9,10} While urban spaces can provide a place for social interaction amongst people regardless of the time of day, there is a general reduction in the level of social engagement and contributions made by people during the night-time.¹¹ The concept of night-time lighting for urban spaces is therefore considered an essential factor in engaging people such that they can make full use of these spaces at night: lighting plays a vital role in improving the quality of urban spaces as it has the ability to facilitate different perceptions within public

spaces at night-time.¹² Lighting historical sites during night-time therefore becomes fundamentally important given their potential in cultivating a sense of place amongst people with meaningful cultural and social activities.¹⁰ Lighting should comprise not only energy-related statistics and quantitative lighting performances, but also consider peoples' experiences and perception of the urban space.¹³

There are a number of lighting design guidelines and codes that include measurable indices to indicate the quality of the urban night-time environments.¹⁴⁻¹⁷ However, very little evidence has been found on the impact of lighting on human psychology and the basic mechanics of social engagement in historic sites. Therefore, this paper asks the following questions: Can lighting be a key facilitator in the placemaking processes for historic sites? If yes, what are the key lighting characteristics and lighting design considerations that can help facilitate the placemaking processes for historic sites? The paper specifically investigates the impact of lighting on peoples' experiences and perception of historic sites that have been designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Although lighting includes several quantitative characteristics, the paper limits its scope to the qualitative characteristics and design considerations required for placemaking, by focusing on the impact of lighting on the cultural, ecological, economic, and social situations of World Heritage Sites.

2.0. Methods

Two UNESCO-designated World Heritage Sites namely Saint-Avit-Sénieur in Dordogne, France and Naghshe-Jahan-Square in Isfahan, Iran are selected as case studies. Research methods inspired by ethnography, which include interviews, observations, and questionnaires are used for gathering data about peoples' day-to-day engagements, experiences, opinions, and usual activities in relation to lighting within these case studies. Ethnography enables the development of theoretical guidelines based on data gathered through participant interviews and observations within settings.¹⁸ Given the large populations of people required for undertaking ethnographic research in a comprehensive manner, representative portions of these populations were sampled using both probability or nonprobability methods.¹⁹⁻²¹

2.1. Case Studies

The award-winning lighting installation at Saint-Avit-Sénieur in France is selected as the first case study exemplifying best practice in lighting design: best example relative to alternatives usually having been designed to fulfil certain purposeful ends.²² The site being designated as a World Heritage Site enabled easier access to information from the local government regarding visitor demographics to the site before and after the lighting installation. Additionally, the permanent nature of the lighting installation enabled better site access to gain deeper insights into the status of the installed lighting system. Saint-Avit-Sénieur is a commune located in the department of the Dordogne in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region of southwestern France. The most prominent attribute of the village is the large church dating back to the 11th or 12th century. An abbey dedicated to the hermit Avitus was constructed adjacent to this church. Illumination of the western side of the abbey is achieved using projectors. These 250W LED projects are intended for extended use in outdoor environments and are capable of producing appropriate chromatic lighting and projecting "gobos" for tracking particular objects. The video projectors display a fresco of animated images, which portray the myth of Saint-Avit-Sénieur and the history of the place as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Western side of the abbey at the Saint-Avit-Sénieur site.



Figure 2: Lighting projection of calligraphy and palimpsests at the Saint-Avit-Sénieur site.

DMX LED cutting projectors are used to project calligraphy and palimpsests onto the wall of the abbey as shown in Figure 2. Soundtracks comprising extracts from the rules of the chapter in Latin are played using speakers in the water well. The well's surface is covered by a metal lock with laser cutouts that tell the story of the legend. A 5-minute video montage displays dreams on the wall of the cloister and the transept of the abbey, where these light whispers are accompanied by sound creations.

Naghsh-e-Jahan-Square in Isfahan, Iran is selected as the second case study given its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes existing lighting schemes for the surrounding bazaar, buildings and landscape.²³ Naghsh-e-Jahan (literally translates to 'Image of the World') is an open urban square located in the centre of the city. It is one of the largest urban squares in the world and is highly representative of both Islamic and Iranian architectural design. Spill light from the surrounding historic structures and shops as shown in Figure 3 along with bollards in the landscape as shown in Figure 4 serve as the main source of lighting in Naghsh-e-Jahan-Square site.



Figure 3: Shop windows light the peripheral areas of Naghshe-Jahan-Square site.



Figure 4: Bollards light the landscaped areas of Naghshe-Jahan-Square site.

Floodlighting is the main lighting technique used for lighting all the historic buildings. Although each of the historic buildings within the site has their independent light source, there is a lack of uniformity in characteristics. For instance, some parts of domes are lighted using LED luminaires, with other parts are lighted with metal halide luminaires. Pole-mounted high-pressure sodium luminaires serve as the main source of lighting for the square. Shops are located all around the site, and every shop is lit with various qualities and quantities of indoor and outdoor light.

2.2. Observations

Observation is considered as one of the main methods to gain an understanding of peoples' behaviours within different settings.^{24,25} Each of the two case studies made use of behaviour observation with a view to develop an understanding of people's behaviours within the historical sites. One of the researchers participated as a marginal participant in this observation process by merging into the research field of both the case studies, thereby making it less likely for the people at these sites to notice that they were being observed.²⁶ This behaviour observation provided information and understanding about the existing lighting scheme and how this influences people's connection and interaction amongst themselves and within the site. After the process of behavioural observation, a process of focused and selective observation was developed to support this observational data through interviews.²⁷ The people visiting the site were made aware of their status as

research participants and interviewed to collect additional data about their personal experiences and perceptions about the two sites.

2.3. Interviews

Interviews are qualitative data collection methods that involve extensive discussions where participants provide flexible, free and spontaneous answers about their personal perceptions and experiences about particular topics.^{28,29} Semi-structured interviews have been conducted across four different stages of this research. The first stage, conducted before visiting the case studies, involved interviews with eight lighting designers to gain their opinions on the lighting of urban historical spaces and how lighting in these spaces can result in a sense of place amongst locals and visitors. The second and third stages, conducted during the visit of these two case studies, involved interviews with the locals and visitors. The fourth stage, conducted after visiting the two case studies, involved interviews with four heritage site experts in relation to historical sites and cultural heritages. None of the lighting designers or heritage site experts were required to visit any of the case studies, and the same researcher interviewed all the participants.

Table 1: Participant demographics for the four-stage interviews.

Interview Stage	Participants Group	Number of Participants
1 – Before case study visits	Lighting designers	8
2 – During case study visit	People visiting case study # 1	26
3 – During case study visit	People visiting case study # 2	30
4 – After case study visits	Heritage site experts	4

The first and fourth stages of interviews involving lighting designers and heritage experts respectively were inspired by the snowball sampling method where the first set of participants are recruited from known acquaintances.³⁰ Lighting designers and heritage experts with relevant experience and portfolios were approached and invited to participate in the interview. During the course of the initial interviews, these participants were requested to refer other designers or experts in the field to initiate a gradual snowball-like process.³¹ This method is less time consuming while providing better opportunities for communication with the participants. The second and third stages of interviews involving locals and visitors of the two case study sites was inspired by a random sampling method so as to remove any bias while selecting a representative sample.³² This random sampling method was convenient considering the need for generalizing the results of this research to a wider population. Table 1 illustrates the participant demographics for the four-stage interviews. A written questionnaire in French language was used for interviewing participants of the first case study considering the fact that most participants’ native language was French. Given the interviewing researcher’s non-proficiency in French, the only method of interviewing participants was to write and present pre-designed questions in their native language. Therefore, a questionnaire with a series of questions was formulated in the native French language. All the four-stage interview questions are presented in Appendices A to D.

2.4. Data Collection and Analysis

All the qualitative data collected through behaviour observation and interviews is collated and categorised based on applicable and evident themes using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a broadly used method for analysing data in qualitative research and remains a relatively underappreciated method in comparison to ethnography, grounded theory and phenomenology, which can be used widely to respond to a range of research

questions.³³ This method is designed to identify, analyse, organise, describe and report on themes, and establish patterns that are found within a data set. Themes are identified by transcribing the interviews with the lighting designers so as to establish best practices in lighting design for historical sites in the first stage. Subsequently, patterns about how the lighting schemes for such sites should be approached are established from the behaviour observation and interviews with visitors of Saint-Avit-Sénieur and Naghshe-Jahan-Square in second and third stages respectively. Finally, these patterns are validated by transcribing the interviews with the heritage experts in the fourth stage.

3.0. Results and Analysis

The data collected from the first stage of interviews with lighting designers enabled the identification of two broad sets, namely: lighting characteristics and lighting design considerations. The lighting designers mentioned several lighting characteristics and lighting design considerations that can be altered in relation to historic sites. No regulations have been suggested as it is recommended that the application of these characteristics should be completely dependent on the historic sites' architectural and cultural features as well as location. The data collected from the observations and, second and third stage of interviews with people visiting the two case study sites enabled the identification of several other lighting characteristics and lighting design considerations that can be applied across all historic sites. Finally, the data collected from the fourth stage of interviews with heritage site experts is used to validate these lighting characteristics and lighting design considerations for facilitating placemaking process in World Heritage Sites.

3.1. Lighting Characteristics

The lighting characteristics obtained from the thematic analysis include: avoiding over-lighting, overly theatrical lighting and uniform lighting; balancing floodlighting; preventing glare; providing flexible and harmonious lighting.

3.1.1. Avoid over-lighting

Over-lighting of elements other than the historic site can adversely affect the perception of the site. One lighting designer expressed concerns relating to over-lighting by stating that: "For me, with a lot of historic cities, sometimes the lighting is too much. Where that sort of element of surprise and delight [is] lost by the way in which the illumination [is] carried out." Another lighting designer also expanded on these concerns by stating that: "We are sometimes confronted with projects where the expectation is to make things very strong and very bright to show that it's an affluent society." It was observed that the shop entrances at Naghshe-Jahan-Square site were overly bright, which made the landscape appear dark and unsafe for many participants. Over-lighting can result in people perceiving neighbouring areas as unsafe due to the reduced illumination.³⁴

3.1.2. Avoid overly theatrical lighting

Overly theatrical lighting can be misinterpreted at historic sites. In this regard, a lighting designer explained this type of lighting has the potential to "completely change the identity, character and expression of [the] building." It can be interpreted as lighting that comprises an exaggerated or as another the lighting designers defines as "excessive use of colour or dynamic lighting." While yet another lighting designer mentioned this type of lighting "often destroys any sense or place." Although such lighting may seem exciting and interesting to tourists, it can adversely affect the authentic sense of place in historic sites.²³ It is important to strike a balance because little colour variation can result in a dull space while too much variety across different colours and moving lights can also result in visual clutter.³⁵ Too much sensory stimulation in a setting can result in sensory exhaustion.³⁶

3.1.3. Avoid uniform lighting

Uniform lighting should be avoided at historic sites. Participants of the Naghshe-Jahan-Square site mentioned that uniform lighting is not appropriate, as it does not add anything positive to the historic site as one the participant mentioned, “the uniformity in lighting here makes me feel there is no design to it. It’s just lights to make [the site] visible”. People generally tend to prefer non-uniform lighting.³⁷ Although uniformly projected lighting on building facades recreates the appearance of the building in daylight by enhancing the details of the architecture,²³ uniform lighting in urban environments is not an ideal option because contrast and non-uniformity is preferable in terms of the ability to enhance experience and visibility.³⁸

3.1.4. Balance floodlighting

In historic sites, it is important to emphasise certain points and highlight specific features for creating an atmosphere while focusing attention and interest by balancing floodlighting with other forms of lighting. One of the lighting designers described the use of floodlighting as a bad choice for historic buildings: “Bad lighting is usually old-fashioned floodlighting, using either very cold or very warm light sources. This might [illuminate] a building but [it] is likely to lose its character and materiality”. Floodlighting results in a portrayal where the character, identity, and materiality of historic sites are lost as shown in Figure 5. Floodlighting was introduced by UNESCO to historic sites in the 1970s, when the aim of illuminating such sites were very different.³⁹⁻⁴¹ Natural white floodlights are suggested for buildings even by UNESCO, for allowing as much of the site to be presented as possible by brightening the entire site and enhancing the architecture.⁴² However, the interviewed lighting designers are generally of the opinion that floodlighting is largely old-fashioned. Lighting in historic sites should be constructed so as to illustrate the unique and valuable characteristics of the identity of the site.⁴³ Floodlighting alone is not suitable for historic sites as it merely brightens the entire space.⁴⁴ Many of the floodlighting schemes have been or are in the process of been phased out because of their poor efficacy and non-compliance with European Directives due to the tendency of being replaced with LED systems.⁶



Figure 5: Pure floodlighting without layering of light diminishes the details and special characters of Islamic architecture of the Royal Mosque entrance at the Naghshe-Jahan-Square site.

3.1.5. Prevent glare

Glare must be prevented at all costs. Participants in Naghshe-Jahan-Square had several views about glare such as: “We try to find a light to sit close to, but then it’s causing so much glare that we have to cover it”; “The light sources are too bright, in this dark place, they literally blind your vision and don’t let you see further on.” There are two different types of glares, namely: discomfort glare and disability glare.⁴⁵ Disability glare occurs when the visibility degree of objects is reduced as a result of an extreme bright light source in the field of view.⁴⁶ Disability glare seriously impacts visibility by negatively affecting peoples’ ability to see objects. Glare arising from the bollards is a major source of annoyance for the participants of Naghshe-Jahan-Square site as shown in Figure 6.



Figure 6: A piece of cloth is used to cover the luminaire for reducing glare at the Naghshe-Jahan-Square site.

3.1.6. Provide flexible lighting

Flexible features offered by modern lighting technologies provide the option of radically changing what is projected on a site project, which can be used as a lighting feature for historical sites on special occasions. Participants across both case studies are very appreciative of such flexible features offered by the lighting. Many participants interviewed in Saint-Avit-Sénieur mentioned that they appreciate the fact that, every now and then, the lighting of the site changes: “It makes you look forward to seeing something new in the next visit”; “It keeps you coming back.” Modern lighting technologies lend the desired flexibility over the design, resulting in better integration of light with the building and more dynamic lighting environments.³⁵

3.1.7. Provide harmonious lighting

Harmony in lighting should be with the meanings, narratives, and values presented in connection with the site. One of the heritage experts suggested the following: “All the design elements must have harmony together to build a great place. So, the architecture, the materials used, the colours, the light, they should all be relevant and in harmony. [...] This doesn’t necessarily mean using the exact same colours for instance, but even if different colours are used, they should not destroy the harmony and visual aspects of the architecture.” However, this may limit the use of light colours in the historic site and prevent taking full advantage of the range of opportunities that light can offer to build new experiences during the night as shown in Figure 7. Harmony has a positive influence on peoples’ behaviour in a space as it increases meaning and the understanding of the space,

resulting in an increased sense of pleasure.⁴⁷ Lighting strategies should focus on building spaces that combine brightness, harmony, and wellbeing. Such lighting provides aesthetic improvement resulting in higher quality of life.²³ Colour of light should be in harmony with the material used in the architectural settings.⁴⁸



Figure 7: Multiple contrasting reflections of different colours (as represented at the bottom of the image) created from the colourful shop windows at the Naghshe-Jahan-Square site.

3.2. Lighting Design Considerations

The lighting design considerations obtained from the thematic analysis include: accounting meanings and values; amplifying narratives; balancing genders; building attraction and excitement; creating layers; enhancing atmospheres; ensuring safety; improving functionality; offering interpretations; and supporting activities.

3.2.1. Account meanings and values

Meanings and values of historical sites can be accounted and presented with the lighting. One heritage expert was of the opinion that the meanings within places should be considered in the process of placemaking: "People love their spaces. And they have real meaning to them. And I think [...] the temporary events that take place should be [conducted] to try and reflect those." While a lighting designers raised the specific claim that we should have "awareness of meanings before designing." Even literature reveals that the design process should account the meanings and values of the specific site.⁴⁹⁻⁵² However not much information has been found on how lighting should account these meanings and values in the design process. The interview responses from participants of Saint-Avit-Sénieur and Naghshe-Jahan-Square sites reveal that both sites hold rich cultural or religious meanings and values for the people. And accounting the meanings and values of Saint-Avit-Sénieur site has led to much success with its lighting installation. Therefore, lighting designers should consider the deep cultural and religious meanings and values of the historical site by studying the people and their behaviour with the site so as to account them in the design.

3.2.2. Amplify narratives

Narratives of historical sites can be crafted and presented in the form of stories through lighting. One lighting designer explains, "light has the ability to help tell stories."

While another lighting designer cites examples such as, “there may be a poem in your literature that talks about this place. I bet there is a story or a legend. If there is a legend that talks about this place, you could use that as a basis of your lighting time [and] amplify the narrative. [...] Maybe there's some visions in this legend. Maybe there's [...] a story that includes this place.” A heritage expert also commented that “lighting has significant potential for providing narrative and drama.” Lighting is an excellent storytelling tool;⁵³ and if used in the form of a compositional system like poetry, can influence what is been perceived.⁵⁴ Spaces that define humans’ historic preferences create a narrative theme; daily requirements create a descriptive theme; and future aspirations create a suggestive theme.⁵⁵ Amplifying the narrative of Saint-Avit-Sénieur site has led to much success with its lighting installation as shown in Figure 8. Therefore, amplifying the narratives of historical sites should be a fundamental consideration in the lighting design process.



Figure 8: Murmurs of light are created by the distinctions between light and dark, past and present, reality and poetry, and culture and nature at the Saint-Avit-Sénieur site.

3.2.3. Balance genders

Gender requirements can vary especially in terms of lighting historical sites. Data obtained from both case studies reveals that illumination levels that allows women to feel safe is different from that for men. All participants interviewed in Naghshe-Jahan-Square emphasised that women felt unsafe due to the many dark spaces within the site. Even literature reveals that young women’s mobility can be limited or restricted to certain areas during the night due to lighting.²³ Therefore, balancing gender requirements should be an important considering while lighting historical sites.

3.2.4. Build attraction and excitement

Attraction and excitement within historical sites can be built with lighting. Making the site attractive and exciting was emphasised by the participants interviewed across both the sites. Majority of the participants interviewed in Naghshe-Jahan-Square mentioned that the current lighting scheme does not add any attraction to the site, while also voicing that lighting should bring something new and exciting to the site at night. One participant commented, “The lighting here is really dull. It doesn’t make anything here more attractive than it is during the day, I mean, it could make the place more attractive, couldn’t it?” Majority of the participants interviewed in Saint-Avit-Sénieur, on the other hand, mentioned the uniqueness of the lighting makes the site attractive and worth visiting at night: “We love the site anyway, but I can’t hesitate [in stating] that one of the rea-

sons we come here at night is how exciting it looks now with the lighting.” Physical features within historic sites influence whether the site can become attractive or not for visitors.⁵⁵ Therefore, it is an essential consideration for making sites enjoyable and vibrant through lighting design schemes.⁶

3.2.5. Create layers

Creating layers within a historic site can lead to highlighting interesting architectural features that attract more attention while other features can be left in the dark, thereby providing a fresh portrayal of the site as shown in Figure 9. One lighting designer explains, “We will accentuate [a specific part of the building] if we light this up. It brings importance. It brings respect. If we light this up, it brings importance. If we don't light this up, we've decided it's not so important. So, you're going to create a *scenography*.” Another lighting designer suggested the following: “Pick out historic features with the lighting, that [are] less prominent during the day, so you [are] creating a totally different scene.” Lighting of a site is achieved through the composition of multiple layers of light, resulting in a complex lighting scheme that concurrently develops a three-dimensional narrative, descriptive and suggestive theme.⁵⁵ Lighting in urban spaces needs to have contrast to make the space more interesting.⁵⁶ Lighting should create a visual hierarchy, which can be realised through creating contrasts amongst the brighter and shadowed areas with light, the creation of layers with light, as well as the link between the lit and the adjacent areas.³⁵ Shadows also play an important role in the lighting of historic sites.



Figure 9: Layers are created with different luminous colours at the Saint-Avit-Sénieur site.

3.2.6. Enhance atmospheres

Atmosphere of a historical site can be enhanced with lighting. One heritage expert emphasised that lighting should “enhance the atmosphere of the built environment and change the nature of the place.” While another heritage expert contributed further to this idea: “By creating a good atmosphere with light at night, we can [transmit] information to visitors.” Lighting is capable of enhancing atmospheres.⁵⁷ Atmospheres can influence people by harmonising their mood and simultaneously extending that mood.⁵⁸ Being absorbed into joyful atmospheres facilitates an experience that is more cooperative, emotionally participative and socially integrated.⁵⁹ The lighting in Naghshe-Jahan-Square not only fails to enhance the atmosphere, but also dulls the original atmosphere of the historic site due to the inappropriate lighting poles and old-fashioned floodlighting. Therefore, lighting designers should have extensive knowledge about creating atmospheres that can transform the setting through light.⁶⁰

3.2.7. Ensure safety

Safety is always an important consideration while designing lighting schemes for historic sites. Participants from both case studies expressed the opinion that as well as providing actual safety, it is also important to make people experience a sense of safety in these sites. A participant in Naghshe-Jahan-Square stated the following: "I always only use the main streets to reach the square, although the historic ones on the southern side have lots more character. But you don't know what you might see in the dark as you go through them!" Safety was the primary reason for lighting urban spaces and streets until the 1970s.⁶¹ An important feature of lighting is to provide a feeling of safety within spaces.^{13,52,56,57} Safety of a space is an important parameter for cultivating a sense of place.⁵⁶

3.2.8. Improve functionality

Functionality of historical sites can be improved with lighting. One of the heritage experts commented: "We need to know exactly what is surrounding the site. Say, if the site is historic, is it surrounded with handicraft shops? restaurants? Greenery? These need to be studied so we know what we need to consider within the site as well." Although, the Naghshe-Jahan-Square site is situated in a busy part of the city with many linking streets, only two main streets from either side were observed to have sufficient lighting for people to enter the square. The remaining streets with a more historic character were mainly observed to have insufficient lighting. The interviewed participants expressed their reluctance in using these remaining streets due to the insufficient lighting. A key attribute of successful places is the accessibility to their surroundings and any other important places nearby.⁶²

3.2.9. Offer interpretations

Interpretations are offered by the lighting of historical sites. One lighting designer mentioned, "As soon as you are lighting a space, you create a place because you are interpreting it." Another lighting designer commented, "You can interpret the site in a new way, it's not daytime." Another a lighting designer commented, "You're making statements about what is valued by people, what's valued by different people, and what is valued... you're interpreting at me." Every lighting scheme conveys a message from its designer, client and site, and people interpret this message based on their culture, expectations, and the context.⁶³ People perceive environments differently based on the architectural features as well as cultural backgrounds, and thus the manner in which the same lighting design of a site is interpreted may differ.⁵⁴ Accordingly, when specific features are lit and others are left dark, the lighting conveys that some parts are more important than others.⁴⁰ Therefore, lighting design should consider the architectural features of the historic site as well as the cultural backgrounds and expectations of the people visiting these sites.

3.2.10. Support activities

Activities within historic sites can be supported with lighting. One lighting designer voiced the belief that a bad lighting scheme fails to reflect the activities that will be engaged in on the site in question. A few other lighting designers also stated that special events within the city are activities that may inform the practice of lighting historic sites. The observations and interviews with participants in Naghshe-Jahan-Square site revealed night-time picnicking as a popular activity especially amongst families and younger generations as shown in Figure 10. However, the lighting of this site is not designed to facilitate such activities as it was observed that many people covered the bollards to prevent glare or used portable lighting sources while seated in the unlit areas. Lighting must be designed for supporting peoples' daily activities.⁹ When peoples' activities are facilitated within a space, this provides them with a sense of place and reasons to re-visit that place.⁶²



Figure 10: Night-time picnicking is a popular activity at the Naghshe-Jahan-Square site.

4.0. Discussion

Placemaking process for historic sites can be facilitated with various lighting characteristics and lighting design considerations as shown in Figure 11. Lighting can contribute to the composition of various elements within the built environment to convey a narrative. The narratives that lighting should present in the historic site should be derived from the history of the site. This story can influence how bringing or enhancing the meanings lying within the stories that relate to the historic site, thereby enriching the experience of visitors, perceives the site. Historic sites have specific meanings and values for people, and these must be considered in the design process. It should be noted that lighting design can convey an interpretation of the historic site. The architectural features of the site as well as the cultural background of the people influence the interpretations conveyed through the lighting. Thus, in addition to choosing a relevant and meaningful narrative presented by the lighting, the architectural and cultural features must be carefully studied to ensure that the projected narrative is in line with the desired meanings and values of the site. The lighting design should be crafted to create an atmosphere within the historic site. The overall mood can be harmonised to merge with the atmosphere created through the lighting design.

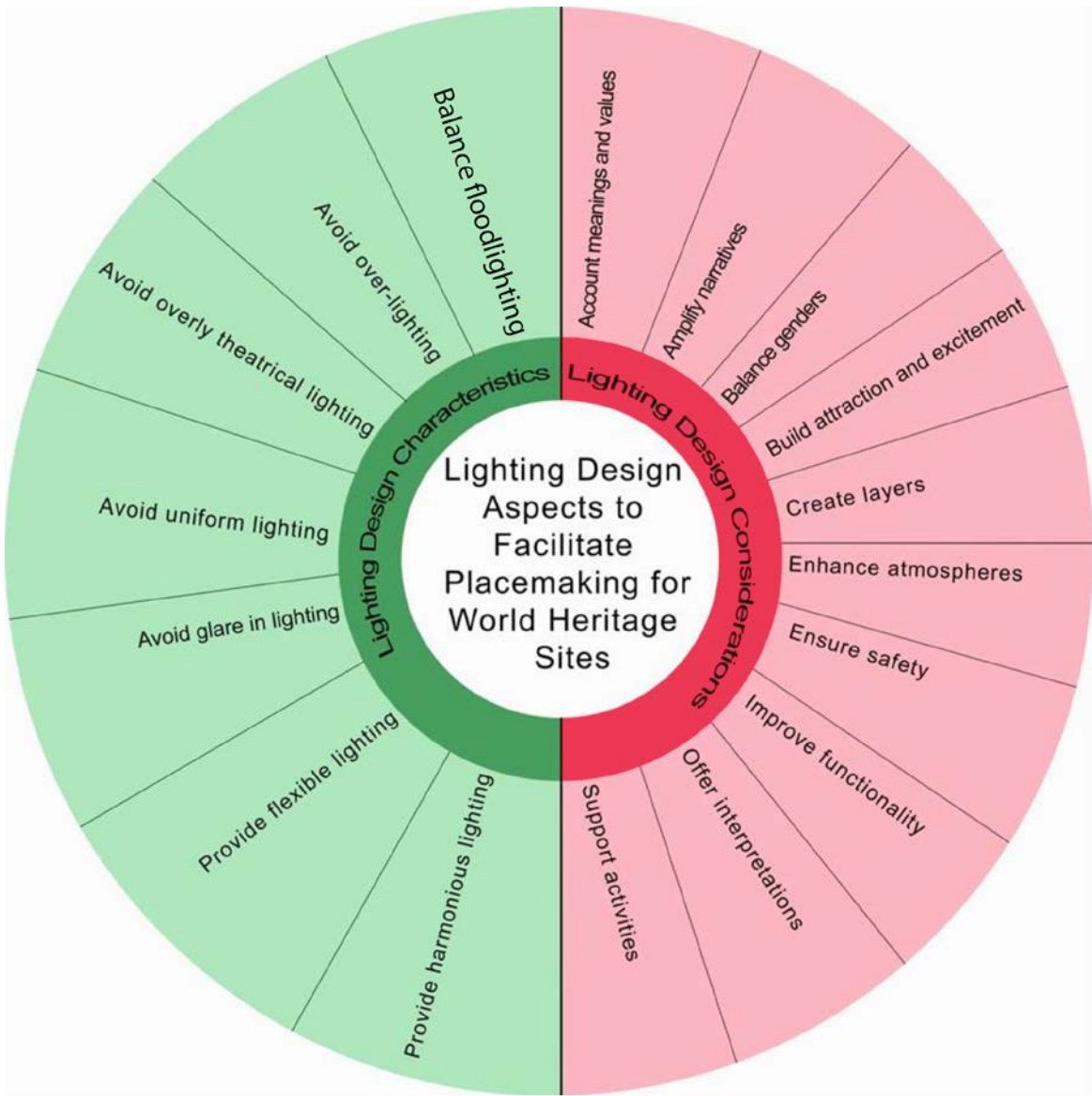


Figure 11: Lighting design characteristics and considerations to facilitate placemaking for World Heritage sites (please change the title of “Avoid floodlighting” to “Balance floodlighting” in the graphic

World Heritage Sites were chosen for this study is to make sure that both sites had already undergone certain evaluation criteria of historic sites necessary for this research. However, it should be noted that the placemaking aspects found as a result of this research can be applied to any other historic site. In fact, other historic sites do not necessarily have to follow the strict regulations of World Heritage Sites enabling more freedom for the lighting scheme. While both Saint-Avit-Sénieur in France and Naghshe-Jahan-Square in Iran are UNESCO designated World Heritage Sites, both have contrasting lighting schemes: Saint-Avit-Sénieur demonstrates best practice in lighting design; Naghshe-Jahan-Square on the other hand is judged as a less successful lighting scheme. Such contrast allows for a better understanding of the influence of lighting on historic sites. It is important to note that the two case studies were in two different contexts with obvious differences in terms of the people’s cultural backgrounds, the populations approaching the site, the usage and aim of visiting each site, and even the different architectural features of the site. These aspects might have influenced the responses of the participants. For instance, many participants in Naghshe-Jahan-Square were accustomed to using the site for night-time picnic, and accordingly wanted lighting to facilitate such a usage. On the other

hand, Saint-Avit-Sénieur was used as a place to walk around, so the lighting requirements and expectations were different. Also, the two groups of participants had different cultural backgrounds and approaches about lighting. Light colour even had different meanings and values in the two different groups. These said, both groups with all their differences still pointed to very similar aspects in terms of the basic expectations from a successful lighting scheme they would expect in such setting.

5. Conclusions

The lighting characteristics and design considerations show that floodlighting and over-lighting cannot create a unique atmosphere for a historic site and will likely fail to provide any remarkable aesthetic or emotional response. Although half a century ago the general consensus was to light historic sites in a bold manner so as to enhance the architecture and draw as much attention as possible to these sites, the results of this study demonstrate that over-lighting the site and all its architectural features using floodlights must be avoided. Such an approach can also result in the historic building losing its character, identity and sense of materiality. Additionally, uniform lighting tends to undervalue the specific features of a historic site. Instead, lighting must be used to create layers within the historic site. Lighting should enhance certain parts of the site using contrast between light and shadows so as to present the space in a more visually interesting manner, providing a place for people to explore and discover. A layered lighting approach can make the historic site more attractive and exciting for visitors. However, overly theatrical lighting is not recommended as excessive use of coloured or dynamic light can destroy the authenticity of the place by harming its sense of identity and character. Therefore, the attractiveness of a site should be built with lighting in a responsible manner by respecting the authenticity and values of the site. Flexibility of modern lighting features can also facilitate various outcomes without the need to change fixtures.

Lighting should be in harmony with the historic site as this yields an improved understanding and appreciation of the setting. However, harmony in lighting does not necessarily entail repeating the same colours that already feature within the architecture; rather, it involves developing a lighting scheme that is in harmony and in line with the meanings and values of the site, helping to convey the appropriate narratives. Lighting features should not result in glare. It is important to ensure that the installed lighting minimises the cause of any physical or visual discomfort for the visitors. Additionally, lighting should be designed to support peoples' activities to ensure successful placemaking. It is also essential to consider functional aspects of the surrounding area and ensure that the site is accessible. Ensuring safety within the historic site is also a key consideration within the placemaking process. Additionally, feeling safe differs in a gender-informed way, with women visitors often voicing a preference for brighter spaces than men.

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Appendix A: Semi-Structured Interview for Lighting Designers

1a- Are you aware of how lighting schemes can be used in historic sites to enhance the environment?

1b- Does lighting have to represent the historic function of the site as it was used in the past?

2 - Should the experience at night replicate the daytime experience or should it offer something different?

3a- Do you think light can influence the identity of historic sites?

3b- Please explain how light can impact on the identity of historic sites?

3c- can you give me an example please?

4a- Do you think it is the role of the lighting scheme in historic sites to work as interpretation?

4b- Can lighting provide narrative and drama? In other words, can it tell a story or act as a theatre?

4c- can you give me an example?

5 -What do you think should be the priority in lighting for historic sites (Social, cultural or political)?

6- In the lighting of historic sites, which do you think is more important, lighting to create a space or lighting to create a place? Why?

7 -Which characters of light have the potential to change the identity of place?

8a- Do you think the lighting scheme for historic sites should be different from that for public spaces?

8b- If yes, what is the main approach to lighting schemes in historic spaces which makes this difference?

9 -Do you think light can influence the behaviour or mood of people? How?

10 -How important is the opinion of the local community and their culture in lighting design? Why?

11a- What do you think is the potential of lighting in historic sites?

11b- Can you think of some good examples?

12- Do you believe there is such a thing as bad lighting for historic sites? If yes, please explain.

13a- Do you think there is anything I should be asking?

13b- is there someone else I should interview?

Appendix B: Semi-structured Interview for Visitors of Case Study # 1 in Dordogne

Madame Monsieur

Abbaye de Saint-Avit-Sénieur

Bonjour

Je suis étudiant en design light à l'université Napier en Ecosse le sujet de ma thèse est le design light en monument historique de patrimoine mondial enregistré à l'Unesco d'où l'église de votre village est enregistrée à l'Unesco en tant que patrimoine mondiale et ce site a un programme pour design light peut être un bon exemple afin de voir les avis sur design light vos réponses peut m'aider beaucoup dans mon analyse de thèse je vous sollicite de bien vouloir répondre au questionnaire très attentivement. je vous remercie par avance pour le temps consacré pour répondre à ce questionnaire.

1- quel âge avez vous ?

2- sexe ? Femme homme

3- quelle est votre profession?

4- À quelle fréquence visitez-vous ou passez-vous sur le site pendant la journée ? Pourquoi vous visitez dans la journée ?

5- À quelle fréquence visitez-vous le site pendant la nuit ? Pour quelle raison vous visitez le site pendant la nuit ?

6- Quel est le temps préféré de l'année pour vous de visiter ce patrimoine ?

7- avez-vous une implication professionnelle dans les décisions d'éclairage ? Si oui, veuillez expliquer quelle implication?

Désign

1- le concepteur de l'éclairage vous a-t-il déjà approché pour obtenir votre avis sur l'éclairage du site? Oui Non

2- Souhaitez-vous que les concepteurs aient votre opinion sur l'éclairage du site?

4- pensez-vous que l'éclairage contribue à l'atmosphère du site? Oui Un peu Non

5- pensez-vous que l'éclairage sur le site affecte l'autencité du site? Oui Un peu Non

6- comment l'éclairage change le site?

3- veuillez montrer quelles parties de l'éclairage sur le site vous intéresse le plus en numérisation les images ci-dessous de un à cinq.



Site

1- pourriez-vous décrire l'atmosphère du site au cours de la journée ?

2- pourriez-vous décrire l'atmosphère du site la nuit ?

3-est ce que l'éclairage de site a une experience à part pour visiter le site pendant la nuit par rapport de visite dans la journée ? Oui Non

4- est ce que l'éclairage sur le site vous a encouragé à le visiter plus la nuit ? Oui Non

5- pensez-vous que l'éclairage de site a changé l'identité de site? Si Oui comment l'éclairage change le site?

6- pensez-vous que l'éclairage du site est conçu pour un genre spécifique ? Non Oui si Oui lequel sexe ?

7- pensez-vous que l'éclairage du site est conçu pour être apprécié par un âge spécifique ? Non Oui si Oui lequel période d'age Moins 15 ans 15 à 30 ans 30 à 45ans 45 à 60 ans 60 ans et plus

8- Pensez-vous que la musique et le son sur le site pourraient améliorer l'effet du système d'éclairage? Or Or do you prefer the lighting schrne without the music

9- vous sentez-vous en sécurité sur le site? combien de ce sentiment ou ne pas se sentir en sécurité peut être attribué à l'éclairage ?

a l'éclairage sur le site la nuit vous donne une expérience différente sur le site la nuit par rapport au jour

10- Combien pensez-vous que les installations d'éclairage sur le site ont encouragé les touristes à visiter ce site ?

beaucoup

quelque peu

neutre

pas tant

pas du tout

11- quel aspect de la vie pensez-vous qu'un système d'éclairage devrait prendre en compte lors de l'allumage de ce site ?

Social, politique, historique, culturel, religieux, tourisme

Esthétique

1- veuillez indiquer lequel des éclairages ci-dessous vous plaît le plus



2- quelle couleur aimez-vous utiliser à l'éclairage de ce site ?

Rouge

bleu

blanc

vert

jaune

3- Aimez-vous l'ensemble du site à allumer ou préférez-vous seulement des pièces telles que des colonnes , des murs, des entrées, des statues ?

a-à allumer des pièces entières du site

b-à allumer seulement des pièces .

4- avez-vous déjà lu les notes qui sont projetées sur les murs ? Oui Non



5- pouvez-vous montrer quel type d'éclairage vous souhaitez utiliser pour allumer ce site en choisissant parmi l'image ci-dessous. choisissez autant que vous voulez

6- Pensez-vous que l'éclairage du site crée ou raconte une histoire ? si oui, que pensez-vous de

l'histoire?

7- À quel point pensez-vous que l'éclairage de ce site devrait avoir un sens?

a-je ne me soucie pas de la signification

b-je pense qu'il devrait inclure un sens profond

c- l'aspect esthétique est important et ça devrait être sans signification

8- À quelle fréquence pensez-vous que l'éclairage du site devrait changer avec le temps?

a- ça devrait changer chaque année

b- ça ne devrait pas changer du tout

c- il devrait être changé toujours

Si oui, pourquoi pensez-vous que le changement est nécessaire?

9- pensez-vous que l'éclairage est aussi important que l'architecture dans cet environnement? si oui pourquoi?

Je vous remercie de consacrer votre temps pour répondre à cette questionnaire.

Appendix C: Semi-structured Interview for Visitors of Case Study # 2 in Isfahan

THE PARTICIPANT

- 1 OCCUPATION_____
 - 2 AGE_____
 - 3 WHERE DO YOU LIVE IN THE CITY? (AREA)_____
 - 4 HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT OR PASS THROUGH THE SITE DURING THE DAY? WHY DO YOU PASS THROUGH?
 - 5 HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT OR PASS THROUGH THE SITE AT NIGHT? WHY DO YOU PASS THROUGH?
 - 6 WHAT TIME OF YEAR DO YOU MOST OFTEN PASS THROUGH OR VISIT THE SITE AND WHY_____
 - 7 DO YOU HAVE ANY PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN LIGHTING DECISIONS_____?
- IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT CAPACITY_____

THE DESIGN

- 1 DID THE DESIGNERS OF THE LIGHTING EVER APPROACH YOU TO GAIN YOUR OPINION FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE SITE? (Y/N)
- 2 WOULD YOU LIKE THE DESIGNERS TO GAIN YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE LIGHTING OF THE SITE? (Y/N)
- 3 PLEASE SHOW WHICH PARTS OF THE LIGHTING ON THE SITE INTERESTS YOU MOST OF ALL BY NUMBERING THE BELOW PICTURES FROM ONE TO FIVE (1 MOST LIKED AND 5 LEAST LIKED)
- 4 HOW SUCCESSFUL DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING SCHEME IS IN RELATION TO MATCHING THE SITE'S ENVIRONMENT ?
- 5 DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING CONTRIBUTES TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SITE ?
- 6 HOW DOES THE LIGHTING CHANGE THE SITE?

THE SITE

- 1 COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SITE DURING THE DAY?
 - 2 COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SITE AT NIGHT?
 - 3 HAS THE LIGHTING ON THE SITE ENCOURAGED YOU TO VISIT IT MORE AT NIGHTS?
 - 4 DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING ON THE SITE AFFECTS THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE SITE?
- IF YES, PLEASE EXPAND ON HOW.
- 5 DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING OF THE SITE IS DESIGNED FOR A SPECIFIC GENDER?
 - 6 DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING OF THE SITE IS DESIGNED TO BE APPRECIATED BY A SPECIFIC AGE?
 - 7 Do you feel safe in the site? (y/n) HOW MUCH OF THIS FEELING OR NOT FEELING SAFE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE LIGHTING?
 - 8 HAS THE LIGHTING ON THE SITE AT NIGHT GIVEN YOU A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE AT THE SITE AT NIGHT COMPARED TO DAY? (Y/N)
 - 9 HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS ON THE SITE HAS ENCOURAGED TOURISTS TO VISIT THIS SITE?

VERY MUCH

SOMEWHAT

NEUTRAL

NOT MUCH

NOT AT ALL

- 10 WHAT ASPECTS OF LIFE DO YOU THINK A LIGHTING SCHEME SHOULD CONSIDER WHEN LIGHTING UP THIS SITE? CULTURE, POLITIC, RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL, HISTORY, TOURISM,

AESTHETICS

- 1 PLEASE SHOW WHICH OF THE BELOW LIGHTINGS YOU LIKE MORE (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE) (THIS QUESTION IS ABOUT COOL AND WARM LIGHT)
 - 2 WHICH COLOURS DO YOU LIKE TO BE USED IN THE LIGHTING OF THIS SITE?
RED BLUE WHITE GREEN YELLOW...
 - 3 DO YOU LIKE THE WHOLE SITE TO BE LIT UP OR WOULD YOU PREFER ONLY PARTS SUCH AS COLUMNS, WINDOWS, WALLS, ENTRANCE, CELLING,.... OF IT TO BE LIT?
- WHOLE SITE
SITE'S PARTS (WHICH)

-
- 4 HAVE YOU EVER READ THE NOTES THAT ARE PROJECTED ON THE WALLS? YES/ NO
- 5 CAN YOU SHOW WHICH SORT OF LIGHTING YOU LIKE TO BE USED TO LIT UP THIS SITE BY CHOOSING FROM THE BELOW PICTURES (CHOOSE AS MANY AS YOU WANT)
)SHOULD INCLUDE FOLD LIGHTING, SPOT LIGHTING, 3D MAPPING(...,
- 6 DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING OF THE SITE CREATES A STORY?
IF YES, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE STORY IS?
- 7 HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING OF THIS SITE SHOULD HAVE A MEANING BEHIND IT?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MEANINGS
I THINK IT SHOULD INCLUDE A DEEP MEANING
IT SHOULD BE MEANINGLESS
- 8 HOW OFTEN DO YOU THINK THE LIGHTING OF THE SITE SHOULD CHANGE OVER TIME?
IT SHOULD CHANGE EVERY YEAR
IT SHOULDN'T CHANGE AT ALL
IT SHOULD BE CHANGED....
IF YES, WHY DO YOU THINK CHANGE IS NECESSARY?
- 9 DO YOU THINK LIGHTING IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE ARCHITECTURE IN THIS ENVIRONMENT?
IF YES, WHY?

Appendix D: Semi-Structured Interview for Heritage Experts

1a- Are you aware of how lighting schemes can be used in historic sites to enhance the environment?

1b- Does lighting have to represent the historic function of the site as it was used in the past?

2 - Should the experience at night replicate the daytime experience or should it offer something different?

3- Do you think light can influence the identity of historic sites?

4a- Do you think it is the role of the lighting scheme in historic sites to work as interpretation?

4b- Can lighting provide narrative and drama? In other words, can it tell a story or act as a theatre?

5 -What do you think should be the priority in lighting for historic sites (Social, cultural or political)?

6- What do you think is the potential of lighting in historic sites?

7- Do you think there is anything I should be asking?

8- is there someone else I should interview?