

Indirect lighting

What is Indirect Lighting? Indirect lighting is where the source of light is hidden and the light spreads through various elements of a room via reflection on the ceiling, floor, or wall, as such eliminating glare and sharp shadows.

Indirect lighting provides a pleasant ambience and allows you to frame the room with light. Architectural forms can be reinforced and heavy or cumbersome constructions can be toned down thanks to the floating effect, so that all the elements come into their own. This creates long and shadow-free indirect lighting strings giving an extra sense of spaciousness.

The light which reflected through large walls and ceiling surfaces is quite soft, which also leaves the room with little contrast.

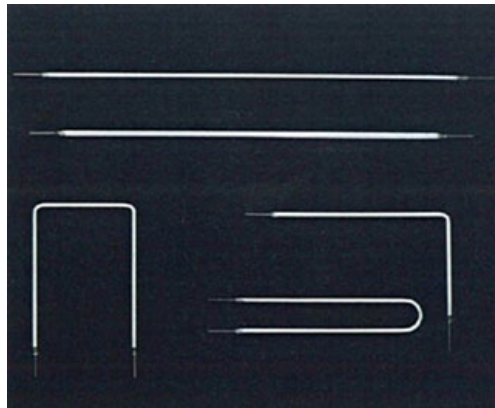
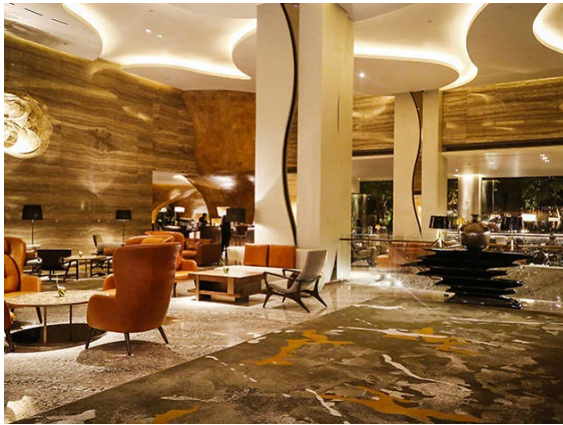


Project – Hilton Colombo Refurbishment Phase 1
Lighting Designer (Phase 1) – Neolight Design UK (Ms. Nilusha Rajapaksha)
Architect – SWA Architects (Mr. Nuwan Dias)
Lighting Solution Provider – PROLighting Group's Team through Intec Systems and Solutions (Mr. Minoj Silva)

When designing indirect lighting for ceilings, you can simply place fixtures in a pit, which can be in any size, on the whole perimeter of the ceiling or on a single wall. Ceiling coves are the most common method of indirect lighting. You can also put the indirect lighting inside a tray of width or height of a room in accordance to the dimensions of the room and the effect the owners would like to get for it.

Coming to indirect lighting for walls, the easiest way is to install lighting fixtures hidden behind a screen wall decorative applique, tray or any special structure within the room.

The Hilton Hotel Colombo Lobby is one of the best examples of indirect lighting where custom bent/shaped Cold Cathode Fluorescent Tubes were used for the indirect lighting rather than the traditional LED Strips or profiles. Cold cathodes were used by the lighting designers in this case to get a much warmer and richer color tone as well as to use its main benefit of the light output being omnidirectional giving the best light effect to a curved ceiling cove preventing abrupt shadows but giving a smooth diffusion.



For a proper and balanced use, it is essential that indirect lighting is planned into the project right from the start. Indirect lighting also includes using wall washers, table lamps and floor lamps as well.



A few tips on Indirect Lighting

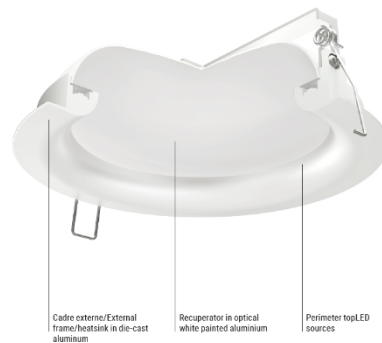
Have a purpose in mind: Throwing any design element into a space without carefully considering the feel is bound to lead to a room that clashes. If an area has to be brightly lit so all the fine details can be seen, direct lighting might be better suited to this area over indirect lighting. Indirect lighting isn't suited for spaces where you prepare meals, read magazines or books, or work on the computer for long periods of time.

Consider the fixture: Many indirect lighting fixtures have decorative aspects built right into them.

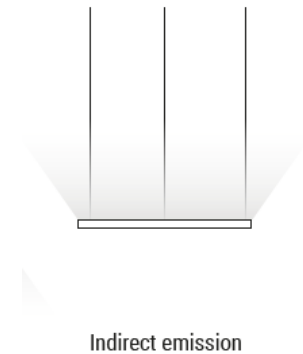
When picking out a new source of indirect lighting then, be sure to think about how the design of the fixture itself is going to contribute to the style required.

Visual comfort

The perimeter LED circuit, placed in the inner part of the circular frame and concealed from view, directs the light upwards; this is collected by the dome reflector made of optical white painted aluminium, which redistributes it in the environment. The final effect corresponds to an indirect and diffused, very soft lighting. The total absence of glare allows direct observation of the product without any discomfort for the eyes.



Downlight with an indirect light output



A pendant light with indirect light emission

Mix and match carefully: A well-lit room (both in terms of illumination and style) is accomplished with a mix of both direct and indirect lighting.

Having said that, indirect lighting can easily be washed out completely there is already a fair amount of direct lighting. Finding the right balance of the two is key to getting the lighting just right.

