

LIGHTING DESIGN

Broadgate Quarter © The Light Lab

Hannah Murphy, Graduate Lighting Designer, talks about her experience working in the lighting team.

“Creative, inventive, artistic.. “

Lighting is a crucial component to a well-designed space, it creates character and emotions and allows a person to complete their task at hand. We look into the use of artificial light for localised, task and accent lighting however daylight is just as important and where we can we look at how the use of natural lighting will enhance a space and a person's wellbeing.

I completed my degree in Interior Design, however within our team we have a range of backgrounds from electrical engineering to architecture, which allows us to learn from each other.

As a Lighting Designer, you should have an open mind and be imaginative. I have been lucky enough to work on projects that have required a bold and innovative design. My creative background has been a blessing in those cases however I have also needed to know how the lighting will work and therefore technical knowledge has also been key. When I started at Cundall, I had little technical knowledge and with the help of my colleagues, I have had the opportunity to learn whilst working.

My days can vary to a considerable extent. No two days are the same. At the start of a project, I will research precedent images on lighting, architecture, shapes, nature.. the list is endless when it comes to inspiration. Upon agreement of a lighting design scheme, I will then look into the light fittings we would use and complete calculations to comply with lighting standards. I am then required to finish lighting drawings, luminaire schedules and specifications. We also look at the emergency lighting system and lighting controls. Our primary concern, apart from having a good looking design, is that the lighting works, avoids glare and is at a comfortable and safe level to the end-user.

While I am primarily office based, my days include attending project related meetings at the beginning of a project and site visits near completion of the project. At meetings, I will sit with the architect and client to discuss concept design ideas; how the lighting can associate with the architecture and what we would like to achieve. We then take the ideas through to a detailed design stage where we develop our ideas into an achievable lighting design scheme. Upon a site visit, I will check the lighting components and ensure the layout is as per our issued design. I will also be required to complete a commissioning for the lighting controls, ensuring that the lighting is set at the correct degree of lumen output for each scene.

I have been lucky enough for Cundall to allow me to begin a masters course in Light and Lighting at UCL. This is something that will allow me to grow within the lighting industry and develop a higher knowledge of the more technical side of lighting design, something which I lack more than creativeness. Having a masters will also make becoming chartered an easier application process.

A few recent projects that I have worked on are; The Maggie's Centre in Manchester where I worked alongside Foster and Partner's, A+E Networks and Broadgate Quarter, assisting in designing a set of three 11 storey chandeliers which were interchangeable in colour.



HANNAH MURPHY

Joined 2013
Lighting Designer