



Sound and light column

Light/sound technology: Lighting and sound effects are becoming increasingly desired by the client. They enhance the effects of a water feature and give the experience a new dimension, especially in the evening and at night. It is essential to investigate the existing light and sound situation of the site, in order to assess their influence.

In many cases no elaborate electronic systems are needed. The interaction of air and water alone produces all sorts of sound patterns that can be used to good effect within a spatial concept. The rush of water has other qualities to offer than traffic noise, for example, and can be used deliberately to dampen or mask unpleasant noises and at the same time offers the opportunity to create a special atmosphere in a particular place.

Water cannot be lit like other objects. If artificial light is used, care has to be taken that the water itself can direct the light, and here reflected light is crucial. Before choosing a light source it is essential to conduct experiments to establish the desired effect of light on the water.

This effect is crucially dependent on the reflection of light from the surface of the water: it is only this that makes the water visible. Skilful light installation can also achieve these effects in twilight and at night.

If lighting is to be effective it is essential that the source points are positioned correctly. Lighting the water directly is not recommended, as the light would be reflected only at certain points. It is better to draw the observer's attention to adjacent objects. They will be reflected from the surface and will produce the fluctuating images associated with water

with even a very little movement.

Lighting devices should be chosen in such a way that insects are not attracted in greater numbers, and to avoid increased weed growth in the water. This means that halogen lamps with a large UV output are not suitable; metal vapour lamps tend to be most used today.

Fibre-optic technology is particularly suitable for underwater lighting. The key feature here is that the light source can be placed at a safe distance from the body of water, and the fibre technology can take the light wherever it is wanted.

