

Intelligent lighting

Technology has strongly developed over the last decades so that it is now possible to adapt light to our rhythms. Today's buildings can be modulated, particularly in terms of lighting, to suit a specific ambiance and to conserve energy. Controlling both daylight and electric light is thus a wonderful advantage for comfort and energy savings.

Indoor lighting appears to be slightly ahead of outdoor applications, but the light sources and electronic devices offer similar possibilities, and dimming is becoming common practice. The latest devices allow switching from on to off with a range of intermediate light levels which can be controlled in many ways. Moreover, operating a lighting installation has become possible over a large territory thanks to communication technology, bringing new optimisation opportunities (immediate exchange between the manager and the installation over a wide area, giving the possibility to optimise maintenance operations for example).

In a word, lighting is becoming intelligent — but it will only be as intelligent as our understanding of the needs of the people it is installed to support.

Our multimedia society is also characterized by digital images surrounding our environment, especially with the advent of low-cost devices as well as powerful processing software, which allows a wide use of displays. The use of these devices has given the ability to drastically improve communication, education, culture, science, technology, medicine and much more. Digital images cover a technological field (from acquisition to realistic rendering and quality assessment), which is strongly evolving years after years.