

Lighting Strategy

5.13 - Conceptual Lighting Designs for Key Locations...

This section comprises sketch concepts for a number of the schemes proposed within the PRDG lighting strategy, including both public spaces and buildings. The schemes included have been chosen to demonstrate the range of possibilities available and the diverse techniques that can be applied.

These concepts are indicative, no detailed surveys of the buildings having been undertaken and the building owners / occupiers not having been approached regarding these schemes. Trials have not been undertaken - something that will be critical for the development of designs, especially those on historic buildings.

The schemes included are:

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| 1) Chester Cross and the Bridge Street, Eastgate Street and Waterstreet Junction | 8) The Grosvenor Museum |
| 2) The Town Hall Square | 9) St Mary's Centre |
| 3) Black and white buildings (Northgate Street and St Werburgh Street) | 10) The Roman Amphitheatre and St John's Church and Ruins |
| 4) Eastgate Street/St Werburgh Street space | 11) St Werburgh's Church |
| 5) The Eastgate Clock | 12) The riverside and the walls |
| 6) The Guildhall | 13) Abbey Square |
| 7) Heritage Centre and the Bridge Street /Pepper Street Junction | 14) The canal bridges |
- All the highest priority schemes are included.



Good example of architectural lighting

1. Chester Cross and the Bridge Street, Eastgate Street and Waterstreet Junction

This is a key public space at the heart of the city and at the centre is the cross, a nationally important monument and iconic symbol of Chester.

Existing context

The space is defined by the buildings that surround it. It is not possible or appropriate to light all of these buildings individually and this is an area where white light street lighting will contribute significantly to the public realm. The shops in and under the rows provide a background ambience, however the Cross and St Peters are unlit at night and the termination of the view up Bridge Street is dark.

The Cross is a national monument and the church a grade one listed building. This will make these schemes difficult, but their significance to Chester makes it important that an acceptable solution is found to implement these lighting schemes.

Concept proposals

- The Cross will need to be lit by in ground luminaires or possibly by luminaires set into carved masonry blocks if it is not possible to bury fittings in this archaeologically important location.
- The church tower could be lit by luminaires mounted on the roof.
- Lighting the church's façade will be difficult as there are no locations for installing luminaires. However, luminaires concealed within the church

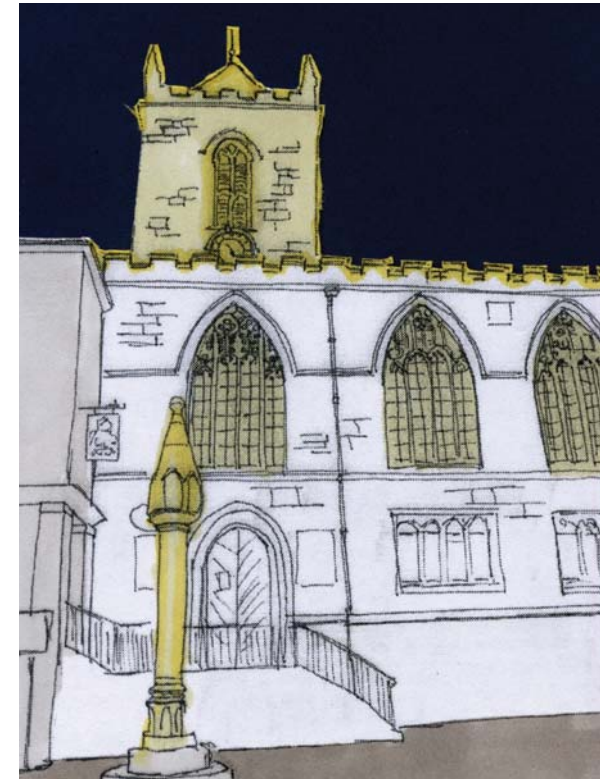
could light the windows from within which would be very dramatic. This technique has been used on a number of churches in the past for similar reasons. Due to the status of this church any luminaires mounted within the building will need very careful consideration to ensure no fixings to the building are required. This will be difficult, but collaboration with the church authorities, conservation officers and English Heritage will hopefully allow an acceptable solution to be identified.



Plan view



The lighting of St Peters and the Cross will provide an important termination to the view up Bridge Street at night



Both the cross and St Peter's Church should be lit

2. The Town Hall Square

Existing Context

The Town Hall Square is currently disjointed and the space feels undefined at night. Lighting can help to make sense of the space and give identity to the three smaller sub-spaces that make up the square, whilst bringing it together as a single public space.

As well as being a destination in its own right, it is also an important link to seven other city centre spaces or routes.

These conceptual proposals do not make specific reference to the Northgate development. However they will be compatible, albeit with some minor adjustments depending on the final design.

Concept Proposals

The principle components of a lighting scheme to the square are:

- The Town Hall
- The Library
- The two elevations of the building containing Barclays Bank
- The Cathedral
- The Dublin Packet Pub and adjacent corner building
- The monuments and sculptures
- The trees
- The Abbey Gateway
- The Odeon Cinema
- Opportunities for illuminated public art

All of these should be lit in order to create an attractive night-time setting. Vertical illuminance to buildings will help to define the space itself.

Secondary elements that also contribute to the square, but do not need significant intervention are:

- 15) The Forum
- 16) The row of shops opposite the Library and other retail outlets.

Public lighting proposals:

- Public lighting within the square itself.
- The link through to Hamilton Place.
- The route to the bus station.
- Lighting integrated into street furniture.



Plan View (showing three subspaces: the southern end, the central space (outside the Town Hall) and the northern space (outside the library))

The Town Hall

- This impressive building would benefit from a close offset lighting scheme to pick out features and give the building depth.
- This could be combined with a gentle floodlighting scheme to give the entire building presence.
- The tower is an important feature on the night-time skyline and could look very attractive as well as aiding orientation.



Proposed lighting of Town Hall tower

2. The Town Hall Square (Continued)



Proposed lighting scheme to entire Town Hall using combination of close offset lighting and gentle floodlighting

The Library



Existing library facade

- A close offset lighting scheme should be used to pick out architectural detailing, particularly the frieze.
- Up-lighting could be used to pick out the arches to the windows.
- The interior could be lit with a colour changing scheme, which would illuminate the huge glass windows like coloured lanterns. This would make an exciting and dynamic contribution to the night-time public realm.



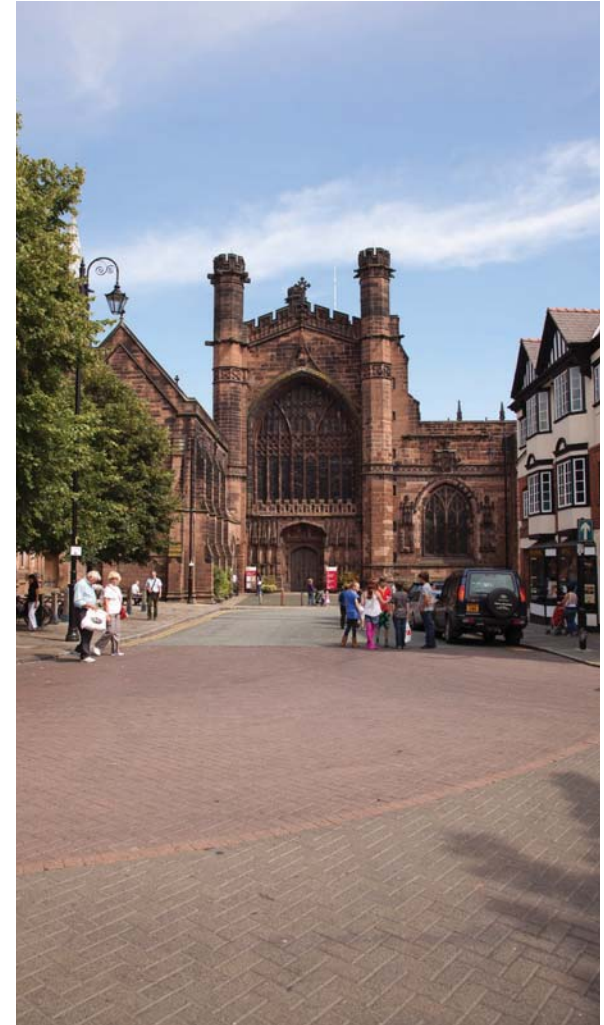
Example of coloured interior lighting to windows



Proposed lighting of library facade

The Cathedral

This important and iconic building is subject to a new lighting scheme as part of a separate design commission. The lighting to the façade, shown below, will contribute to the Town Hall Square and provide a bold and important focal point.

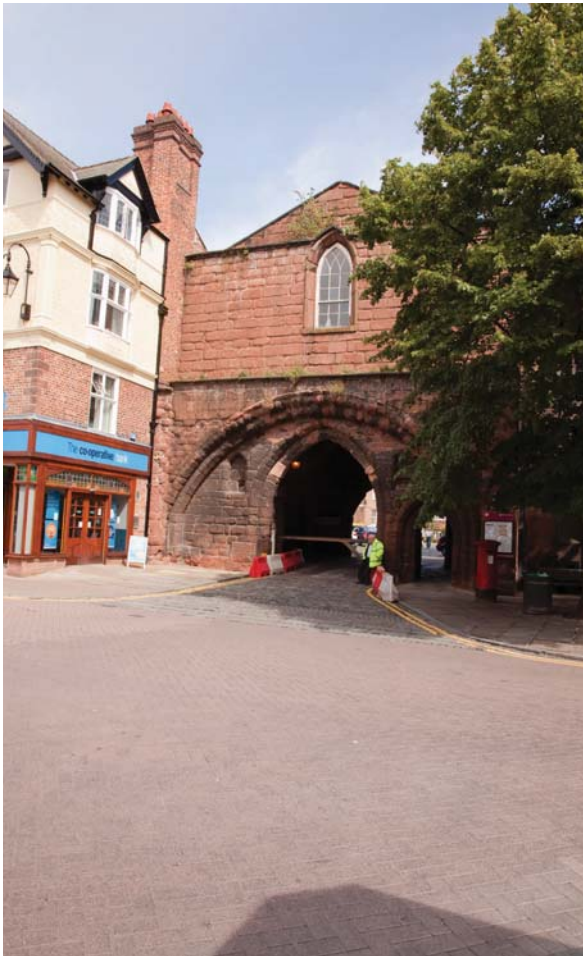


Cathedral façade visible from the Town Hall Square

2. The Town Hall Square (Continued)

The Abbey Gateways

It is proposed that both gateways be up-lit with in-ground luminaires. This will highlight the beautiful texture of the stonework, with light and shadow bringing some drama to the space, and draw attention to their age and historic importance.



Existing Abbey Gateway

Other Buildings

The other buildings that form the edges of the Town Hall Square can be treated relatively simply and effectively.

- The Barclays bank building could be lit with a gentle wash, with accent lighting shooting up the piers. The trees in front should also be up-lit.



Barclays Bank building

- The Dublin Packet should be lit to a higher standard than it currently is, contributing to the Town Hall Square and highlighting the link to Hamilton Place. As it is not a building of great architectural merit any scheme should be subtle. Architectural details on the adjacent building could be lit as an example of much better quality architecture.
- The Odeon Cinema should be lit as it is a fine landmark and will also contribute to the legibility of the square.



The Dublin Packet Pub

- The independent shops windows opposite the library provide an illuminated boundary completing the square.



Independent shops opposite the library

- The central sub-space between the Town Hall and the Cathedral will be defined by the buildings and the up-lighting to trees.
- The northern sub-space in front of the Library will feel very different due to the strong colours spilling from the library.
- The southern sub-space could be defined by illuminated benches or public art.

2. The Town Hall Square (Continued)

Ideally the space should be lit without the use of columns which contribute to street clutter, however due to the nature of the space it is unlikely that adequate lighting can be provided using other techniques alone whilst ensuring a low glare and sensitively lit environment. The use of columns should be considered very carefully and the minimum number used so as not to contribute unnecessarily to street clutter. Any new scheme should attempt to reduce the intervention of lighting equipment into the space compared to the existing situation.

All of the spaces described above could be integrated into the wider public square by using a common method of public lighting. The periphery of the square could be lit by wall mounted lanterns mounted to buildings and heritage lanterns would be appropriate mounted to the older buildings. As described above it is likely that some columns will be required to light the central space and these columns if carefully integrated with the public realm design can help to pull the three spaces together.

Heritage columns would not be appropriate within the square and it is therefore proposed that contemporary, yet simply designed, pedestrian-scale columns and lanterns are used. These would run the full length from the Forum to the Library, providing continuity throughout the wider square. The aesthetics of these columns need very careful consideration and will need to integrate fully with the wider public realm design so that they look good by day. An opportunity exists for this element of public lighting to incorporate a public art element,

for example specially designed columns integrated with street furniture and incorporating the facility for lighting sculptures or temporary events could possibly take the form of public art. As this is a unique space they will be different from any of those proposed elsewhere within this document and as such proposals for these cannot be included at this time.

3. Black and White Buildings (Northgate Street and St Werburgh Street)

Concept Proposals

Lighting the Tudor-style black and white revival buildings is very difficult without obtrusive luminaires mounted to the façades. Even if mounted luminaires are used, the construction of the buildings (where the upper storeys protrude further than the lower ones) means that this technique will not work in many instances. This again highlights the importance of using warm white street lighting.

Spill and reflected light will be picked up by the white elements of these buildings giving them a stronger presence at night. With this subtle background light, architectural details such as the carvings shown below can be subtly picked out. This will require very minimal intervention, but will result in interesting and attractive lighting.

Very small low power LED luminaires could be mounted discreetly to pick out architectural details (or in some places completely concealed) making the installation invisible by day.



Example of architectural detail picked out using discreetly mounted LED luminaires

4. Eastgate Street/St Werburgh Street Space

Concept Proposal

It is proposed that three key buildings are highlighted at the Eastgate Street/St Werburgh Street junction.



Conceptual lighting proposal

- The lighting of the portico façade of the bank building to the corner of St Werburgh Street would be relatively easy to achieve by highlighting the pillars, capitals and pediment. This will create an impressive and bold statement by night.
- The black and white building opposite St Werburgh Street could be lit with a gentle wash to balance with the building opposite and provide a focus when walking along St Werburgh Street towards Eastgate Street from the Cathedral. This scheme could be achieved using luminaires mounted on the roof of the bank building opposite.
- The Browns of Chester buildings would also be relatively easy to light to good effect and are included in this proposal.

5. The Eastgate Clock

Concept Proposal



Eastgate Clock concept proposal

Chester's iconic clock must be lit to maintain its presence as a focal point. The concept proposal suggests the following:

- Existing wall mounted luminaires should be replaced with white light luminaires that are well shielded and discreet. This will allow the gilt details to become visible and the beautiful detailed ironwork to sparkle.
- In-ground luminaires could be used to up-light the underside of the arch, adding dimension and creating a grand entrance for those arriving in the city centre at night.

6. The Guildhall

Existing Context

The Guildhall tower is visible from many parts of the city and is a great aid for orientation. It is also a beautiful building and marks a pedestrian gateway into the city centre.

Concept Proposal



- It is proposed that the whole of the tower be lit on all sides.
- The façade of the main body of the building on Watergate Street should be lit.
- A very simple scheme should be used on the rear of the building in order to improve the lighting to the link along Trinity Street.

A mixture of washes and accent lighting to details will make this building as important a part of the skyline at night as it is during the daytime.

7. Heritage Centre and the Bridge Street/ Pepper Street Junction

Existing Context

This is a busy junction for traffic and also for pedestrians accessing nearby bars and restaurants. There is a need to make this space more legible for pedestrians at night. The space currently feels as though it is on the periphery of the city and a lighting scheme is needed that addresses this.



Plan view of concept proposal

Concept Proposal

- The Heritage Centre is an important landmark in a strategic location, which has the potential to look very impressive at night. The tower could be washed using discreet luminaires mounted to street lighting columns. To add contrast details around the windows / openings, the clock and

the top of the tower could be highlighted by luminaires mounted on or within the building. A simple scheme to the Heritage Centre façade on Pepper Street will help with continuity leading towards the Amphitheatre.

- The trees should be lit and there is potential within this public space for illuminated public art. This should be a vibrant and dynamic installation to revitalise this city space. This could also complement the night time economy on Lower Bridge Street and Pepper Street.
- The lighting scheme on the Falcon pub should be enhanced to provide balance to the scheme and define the opposite side of the junction. The lighting of this building will also improve visual links and connectivity across the junction for pedestrians.



Illustrative view of concept proposal

8. The Grosvenor Museum

Existing Context



The Grosvenor Museum facade

The Grosvenor Museum is a beautiful building of historic importance and as a public building it presents an excellent opportunity for a lighting scheme.

Concept Proposal



Grosvenor Museum concept proposal

As a tourist and education attraction, it is one of the few buildings within the city that could be lit with a scheme that forms part of a public art project. An example of the type of lighting that could work on this building is a dynamic scheme that uses colour and movement and lights the building from within (subject to a practical solution that does not over expose sensitive material to too much light). This could incorporate an interactive element that enables people to affect the way the light behaves. This scheme could utilise the blocked out windows by creating light-boxes within them, alternatively if this proved to be impracticable the building would look good lit with a close offset scheme – lighting the building with discreet luminaires mounted to the façade.

9. St Mary's Centre

Existing Context

St Mary's Centre is one of the most visible buildings in the city. The tower can be seen from many locations making it an excellent aid to orientation. As a public building used by the community, it again provides an opportunity for public art. However, it is important to note that the tower is very visible and should be lit in a sensitive and sympathetic way.

Concept Proposal

The existing floodlighting should be replaced with a white light scheme supplemented with accent lighting on-board the building.



Concept Proposal for St Mary's Centre

10. The Roman Amphitheatre and St John's Church and Ruins

Existing Context

As well as being a significant historical site, the Roman Amphitheatre is located at a key node at the end of John Street. It is also strategically important in linking the city centre to Grosvenor Park and the river side. For this reason this concept proposal also covers St John's ruins and the public space in between. The opportunities for lighting the amphitheatre itself are relatively limited.

Concept Proposals



Plan view of concept proposal

Proposals for Amphitheatre:

- The rear rendered wall and the proposed mural should be lit. This could be done using luminaires mounted from the hand rail on the walkway running along the top of the wall.
- If possible low profile luminaires, such as linear LED fittings, could be set into the ground at the base of the remaining Roman walls to up-light and pick out the surface texture of the walls at night.
- The path running around the periphery of the site should be lit using pedestrian scale columns. These will also spill light into the main space keeping it as clear as possible of other lighting equipment. These post top luminaires should be flat field and not lanterns to avoid any glare that will interfere with the view of the site from further afield. Discreet spotlights could be mounted to these columns for lighting of the reconstructed walls or other features.
- Infrastructure for events should be provided from these columns and also from the walkway hand rail to allow temporary luminaires and other equipment to be installed and powered.
- The raised area around the edge of Little St John Street could be lit using luminaires integrated into benches or other street furniture. This would avoid the need for columns that would be incongruous in this area. Alternatively, lit bollards could be used.

Proposals for the wider area:

- The Chester Visitor Centre building contributes to the space and is a landmark for tourists and visitors to the city. As such it should be re-lit in white light to a higher standard.
- The entrance and end elevation of St John's church should be lit. This will help to define the space, providing vertical illuminance and bringing the church into the public realm. Lighting will help to link the church to the road and will also help to link the Amphitheatre to St John's ruins and the city to the river. If budget allowed it would be beneficial to extend this scheme to light the whole of the church.
- St John's ruins should be lit. A new scheme using in-ground luminaires would be appropriate and there is an opportunity for a public art scheme based on an interpretive theme.
- The existing layout of the small heritage columns running between Vicars Lane and the River Dee should be reconsidered and supplemented in order to link the Amphitheatre to the ruins. The light source should be white light and it may be suitable to renew the lanterns or fit road lighting optics for better distribution. Better levels and uniformity are important to improve safety and the perception of safety, encouraging use of this route at night.
- Tree up lighting should be used in the area between Grosvenor Park Grosvenor Park and the Amphitheatre in this area. This attractive, vertical illuminance will further strengthen the links between the city centre and the river.



Concept proposals showing Amphitheatre

11. St Werburgh's Church

Existing Context

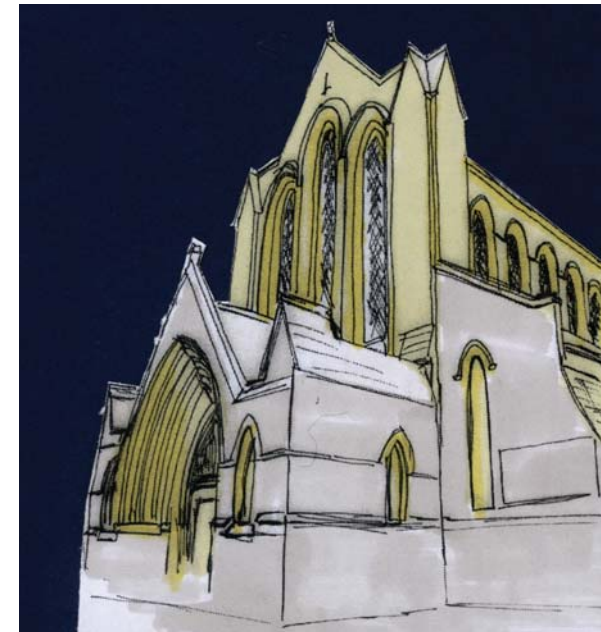
St Werburgh's Catholic Church is a prominent landmark on a primary traffic route entering the city centre. The side elevation is also visible from City Road and provides a visual link with the Railway Station.



Existing view of the church from the end of City Road

Concept Proposals

The building should be floodlit with a gentle wash and some details picked out (using close offset lighting) to add contrast. This scheme should not be over elaborate with the aim of making the church visible, without it being too prominent.



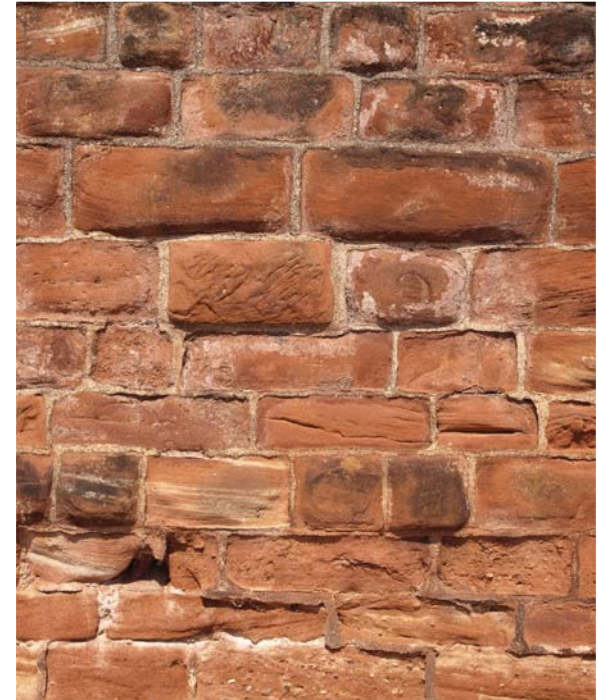
Concept proposals for St Werburgh's Church

12. The Riverside and the Walls

Concept Proposal

- There are opportunities for the wall to be lit along the riverside, contributing to the public lighting of this area. Close offset lighting will highlight the texture of the wall, providing contrast with the shadows created by the mortar lines.

- Up-lighting some of the trees along the riverside route will add to the lighting, creating a pleasant environment to be in and walk through at night.



Existing photos of the walls

13. Abbey Square

Concept Proposals



Plan view of concept proposals

The Abbey Square is a special place and a surprisingly busy through-route, that if better lit would be better used at night.

- The two entrance arches should be lit as described in the section on the Town Hall Square.
- Relighting the ways into the space in white light is essential to identify these as safe routes.
- The inside of the main gateway as well as the alley leading to the top of the square should be lit to a high standard. The latter using wall mounted lanterns and the former by reflecting light off the dramatic arched ceiling within the gateway.
- In the square itself minimal intervention is suggested. The oval wall is a central feature and its geometry defines this space. Subtle lighting could be concealed under a ledge on the inside of the wall bringing its geometry to the night. If

lighting the wall is not possible, then gentle flood lighting of the buildings around the square using concealed or discrete luminaires would be very attractive (that is assuming that these buildings are not residential). If budget allowed it would be good to include both elements within the scheme, the lighting to the buildings could be discreet and subtle giving the impression that they are lit by spill light from the street lighting columns.

- The existing lanterns should be converted to white light and special care should be taken to ensure that these produce a diffuse light with minimal glare.
- Lighting to the end wall of the refectory building would also be an attractive addition.

14. The Canal Bridges

Existing Context

The canal side walk, where it passes under some of the canal bridges, presents an opportunity for lighting in combination with public art.

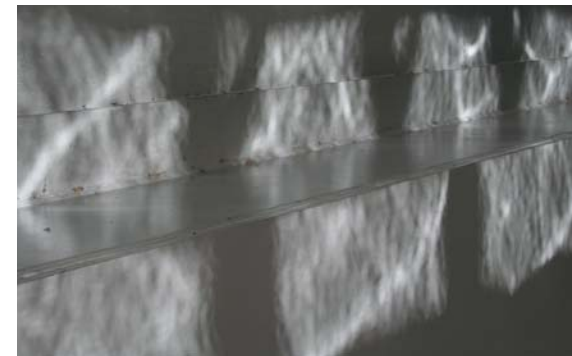
They are not pleasant places to be at present and lighting could reduce the perception that these are unsafe spaces at night.

Concept Proposal

Reproducing the effects of sunlight artificially at night could create an exciting and beautiful atmosphere in what were previously uninviting places.



Existing view of ring road spanning the canal.



Examples of effects that could be achieved using lighting reflected off water at night.