

## Enhancing Your Home Landscaping

By Jim Seiler

Outdoor and exterior home lighting is one of the surest ways to add drama, beauty and security to your home. Well planned and placed outdoor lighting is an excellent way to extend the enjoyment of your exterior walkways, patios, pool and landscape features into the evening hours. Home lighting can range from the practical, a safely lit walkway and front door to the dramatic, with spotlights and illuminating architectural features or the canopy of a large tree lit magically from within. Simply put, light can produce an array of brilliant effects and add greatly to the enjoyment of your home!

As a professional landscaper, I begin a lighting project by evaluating the wants and needs of a client's property. Lighting offers instant curb appeal to a home in the evening hours as well as providing invaluable security. In choosing an exterior lighting program, a homeowner should consider the following questions. Do you prefer the soft warm glow of overall lighting and large wall area washes? Or are you looking for dramatic pinpoint lighting that accentuates the architectural features of your home? Beautiful stonework comes alive with light and shadows and a curving path and garden become an intriguing destination when creatively lit.

Outdoor lighting fixtures have a wide range of cost and application, running from the simple to the elegant and ornate. Often, these outdoor fixtures do not even need an electrician for installation, because most of the lighting is low voltage and can be hooked up through a transformer to a 110 watt outlet.

Outdoor lighting can also be operated in various ways. It can be placed on a timer to be set a specific on and off times, or a photo cell can be used to respond to dusk and dawn conditions. Landscape lighting need not be an excessive electrical drain that will burden a homeowner's utility bill.

Finally, there is nothing more welcoming than the arriving to a warmly and securely lit home. It is as if your home is actually waiting for you to come and enjoy all that it has to offer. Good luck this spring on all your future landscaping and lighting projects.

*Seiler's Landscaping has served Cincinnati homeowners for more than two decades and specializes in landscape design, landscape installations, hardscape walls, patios and walks, water gardens and, of course landscape lighting. Seiler's Landscaping has been a regular exhibitor at Homearama, winning awards for 12 consecutive years, and an annual participant in the Cincinnati Flower Show. For more tips on how to enhance your home landscape, readers can call 513-791-2820.*



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