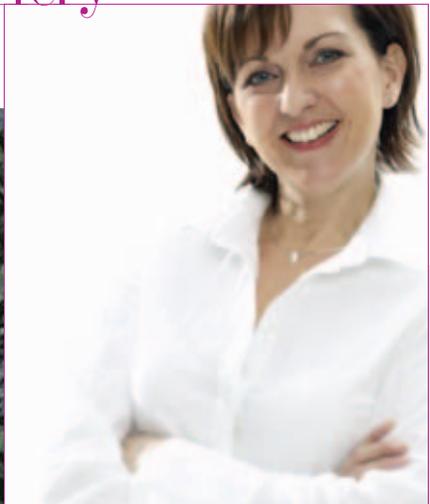




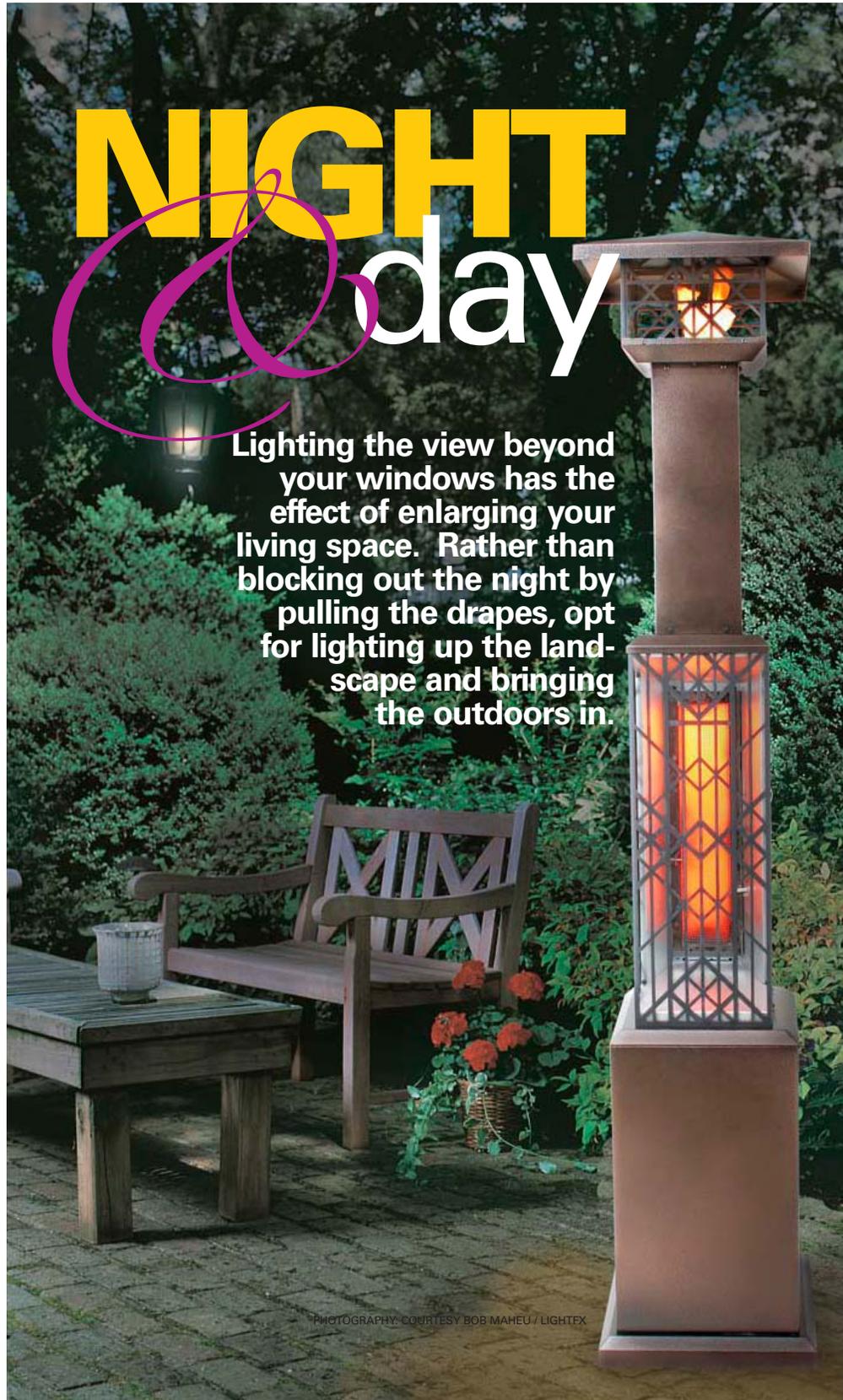
Jillian Jeffery



By Jillian Jeffery

NIGHT day

Lighting the view beyond your windows has the effect of enlarging your living space. Rather than blocking out the night by pulling the drapes, opt for lighting up the landscape and bringing the outdoors in.



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY BOB MAHEU / LIGHTEX

Lighting the view beyond your windows has the effect of enlarging your living space. Rather than blocking out the night by pulling the drapes, opt for lighting up the landscape and bringing the outdoors in.

Glowing good looks

The Light Post by Outdoor Leisure features a propane heater located inside the attractive post to provide body-level heat. On top is a wind-resistant gaslight (with auto re-ignite) that gives a soft, natural flame for illumination of the patio area.

aboutoutdoorleisure.com

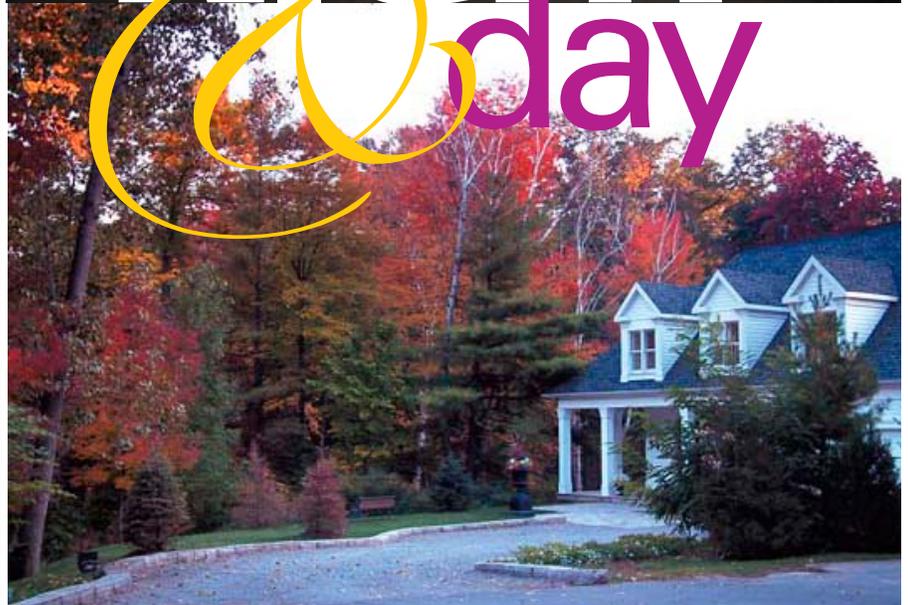
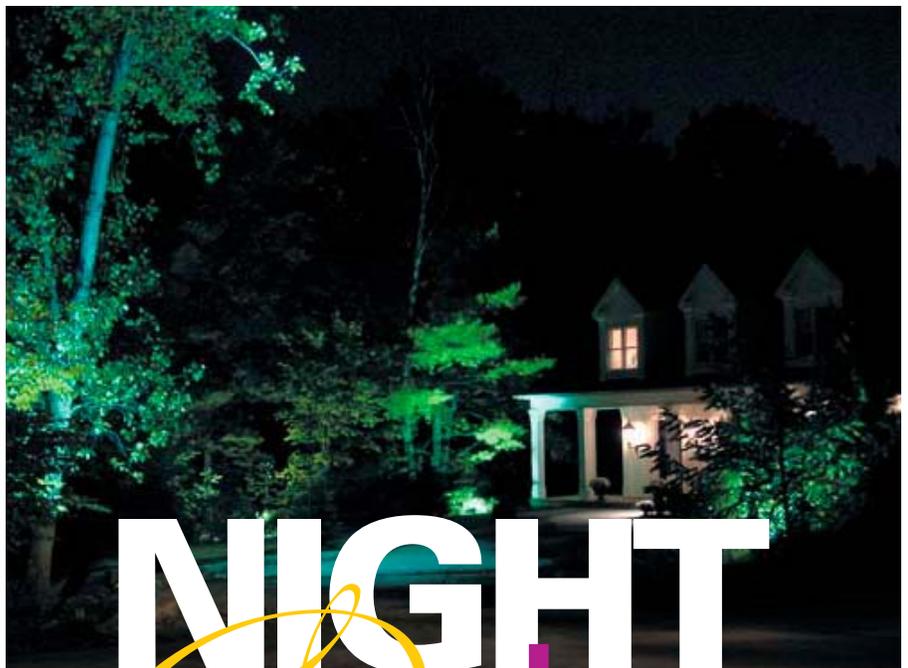
Working with a real pro is always best. So when I started to think about how to light my garden room, I went straight to Bob Maheu of LightFX. Bob generously shared his top 10 tips:

1. The design plan is the most important part of the process, because it identifies which parts of your landscape will be lighted, and with what sort of fixture.

2. Start with the ultimate dream-design, produced on paper first, so that you can visualize the impact of each effect.

3. The pros consider the impact of a single lighting effect only as a component of the combined effect of all the lights working together. One of the most dramatic effects of the lighting is the shadow display it creates. The other is the objects it highlights.

4. Break out the areas of your garden into 'rooms'. Plan to create unique moods in each area by lighting them differently. Imagine the lighting in a really nice restaurant. You walk into the subtle, warm, inviting glow. At the table is a flickering candle. Now, think about the "ambient" light in your garden as the mood light, and the candle light as the "feature" light.



NIGHT Today





PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY BOB MAHEU / LIGHTFX



5. Start the design by locating up-lights on major features, such as mature trees. Next, plan up-lights for smaller, more intricate features such as shrubs and ornamental trees. Finally, fill in between those features with down-lights, choosing small features to create dramatic highlights.

6. Put dimmer switches on pool lights, which are very bright and will overwhelm the gentler effects of the lighting around it.

7. Landscape lighting must be installed in harmony with nature, and work with living, growing, changing things. A good lighting plan will take future changes into consideration. For instance, lighting on a small Japanese maple should take into account its 10-foot mature height.

8. Outdoor lighting can maximize the impact of seasons. In winter, a down-light beaming through the bare branches of a mature tree, will cast dramatic shadows upon a blanket of snow. In summer, the same light is filtered through leaves, casting a delightful texture of soft shadows on the lawn.

9. Set up a master control panel in the house, from which different lighting zones can be controlled. Change the focus of the light effects, so that at any one time, a specific area can be highlighted and the other area subdued.

10. Lighting is an important security measure. Outdoor lights can be set up to instantly flood your property with light if there is reason to suspect an intruder.

Bob Maheu of LightFX was recently awarded the Landscape Ontario Award Of Excellence for outstanding achievement in landscape lighting design and installation.

lightfx.ca

