



NightSeeing Canning Town at London's first Light Night is an itinerary of group exploration and discovery, a curriculum designed for the general public and those in the architectural and planning professions. Presenting the nocturnal city of light, NightSeeing is a real-time travelogue through the culture of urban lighting in public spaces to convey recognition of one's own environment and the shadowed vistas that define our surroundings literally half the time, and yet are so familiar they are almost unseen. www.nightseeing.net.

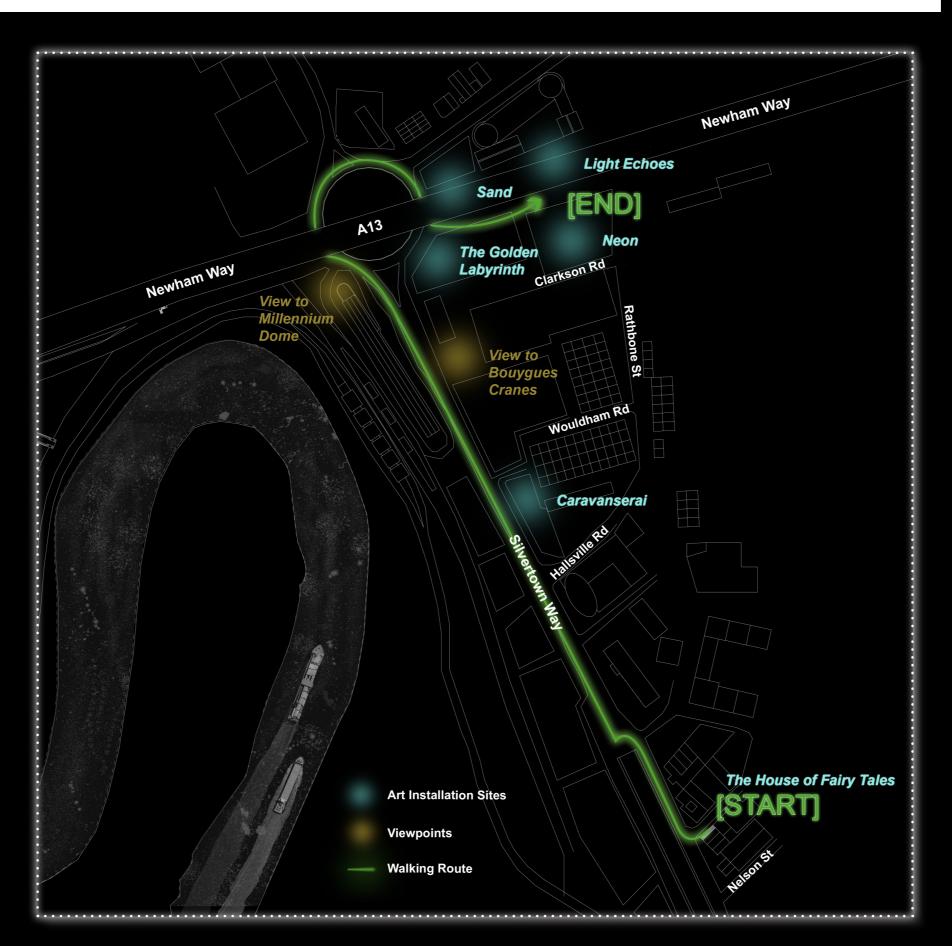
PUBLIC PRIVATE FOUND

In addition to "designed" lighting, emergent — undesigned — systems develop as site specific "unplanned" lighting. Light added by users, inhabitants, building owners, etc. can help the designer understand the needs of a neighborhood by documenting the incidental additions of light.



About Leni Schwendinger

In a field where public lighting and illumination increasingly influence the global language of urban design and urban experience, Leni is considered visionary in her approach to the next generation of luminous environments and cityscapes. With over twenty years of work as both lighting designer and public artist, she has refined her lighting philosophy and in doing so, has redefined the possibilities for light in the urban environment.



LUMENS FOR HUMANS:

Benefits of light planning & design for public space

Examining existing conditions

Generally the first step in light planning, the designers undertake extensive survey and analysis of the existing nighttime visual conditions. This creates a threshold of agreed understanding between designers and stakeholders. Photo-documentation, collage studies and light level readings communicate a graphical analysis of the current experience of light and dark in the given site.

Connection to neighborhoods

Lighting supports the nighttime identification of boundaries and edges and the interconnections with surrounding neighborhoods. Scale of lighting supports a proportional scale of use. Pedestrian scale lighting, for instance, encourages pedestrian circulation.

Identity & placemaking

More than fifty cities believe that being identified as a "city of light" is worthwhile and belong to the LUCI (Lighting Urban Communities International) organization. Lighting optimizes the nighttime environment by lending coherency to the visual streetscape. Illumination punctuates or dramatizes specified areas and develops "visual destinations".

Lighting typologies

Lighting fixture families will often be selected in the planning phase to influence scale, lamp type and aesthetic form of future lighting specifications during the design phases.

Light and health

Correct color-temperature, scheduling of "lights-on" and "lights-off", and light "trespass" are three considerations that can address circadian rhythms. This triad is one of the newest additions to the light planners tool kit.

Wayfinding for better circulation

Interdisciplinary team approaches including landscape architects, architects, graphic designers and creative lighting designers can generate novel wayfinding strategies. Often the resulting strategies are presented in the form of guidelines for future design, such as façade lighting guidelines, or recommendations for illuminated kiosks.

Sustainability & maintenance

By establishing balanced lighting principles, guidelines for high-performance lighting, and innovative energy control strategies, sustainability goals can be met or exceeded in advance of the lighting design itself.