



MINUTES WITH...

Andrew Gibson



This month, we're in the company of Tyson Lighting's managing director, Andrew Gibson

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What is your favourite light source, and why?

This is a heart or mind question!

My mind tells me that LED technology has to be embraced with the eco perspective, and advances with dimming capacity and colour render. However I don't think you will ever match candlelight, particularly when having a good conversation and a nice glass of red wine.

Building facades lit with colour – are you for or against – and why?

I think historic buildings should be lit sympathetically using beam angle, and white tuned to different warmth levels. However, some modern buildings look exceptional lit with vivid colour, and colour change capacity. Two of my favourites are the Yas Viceroy Hotel, Abu Dhabi, and the Allianz Arena – home of Bayern Munich Football Club.

Who is your favourite designer of anything that's not lighting?

In fashion, I admire Dan And Dean Catens' brand, Dsquared2, mainly because they design their own way and don't conform.

I find designers who simply create another version of something that already exists as frauds! Like them or loathe them, they are unique, and they have their own identity. I love that confidence.

Which lighting project would you like to have worked on?

It would have been cool to work with Danny Boyle on the London Olympics opening ceremony.

I am proud to have done some pretty creative installations with Tyson Lighting, but the opening ceremony to the Olympics really showed the world what we can do as a nation – nobody puts on a show like the Brits!

After the huge changes LED has

brought to the industry, what do you think will be the next big advance? I honestly think that the longevity of LED lamp life will be interesting to see develop. For example, Jake Dyson has used heat pipe technology to prolong the life of an LED light source to a reported

37 years. Seeing us Brits pioneer such exciting progress in this field is something to celebrate.

Do you see a time when all lighting is sustainable? If so, how?

I think, in theory, it is a novel concept, but in truth, very difficult to imagine happening.

What trends do you forecast in domestic lighting?

I have recently replaced all my downlights at home for LED, and have been staggered by the performance, dimming range, and reduction in electricity bills. I wish I'd done it years ago, although only now do I feel the performance of LED downlights is where it needs to be. I imagine the phasing out of inefficient halogen is the most logical step.

With decorative in mind, I feel as though the '70s glam thing is on its way back! I'm quite pleased to be honest, as I really love light fittings as object d'art, rather than functional pieces of hardware.

Why do you think lighting is bucking the general trend and showing such strong growth?

As the economy is performing better – general budgets are being retained rather than the barbaric 'red penning' of projects, where cost cutting was encouraged. It's usually lighting that gets the snip, so the growth is being felt due to the red pen culture diminishing.

Chandelier or candle?

Candle!



Is there one declining light source that you'll miss above all others? If so, which is it, and why?

Warm tungsten incandescent clear lamps – but we have to look forwards and look after our planet, we'll only get one!