

CASE STUDY

Swinhay House: a sustainable stately home for the 21st century



Re:light's creative lighting scheme succeeded in bringing ambiance, intimacy and energy efficiency to this incredible new country home.

THE BRIEF

The client's vision was to create a home for the present and a legacy for future generations. The brief for the interior was to combine the latest developments in energy conservation with a contemporary and sustainable design, using high quality specification finishes.

Re:light's role was to design and develop the internal and external lighting scheme for the building. The project was commercial in scale and highly technical in its requirements. Our challenge was to light this vast space with all the detail and intimacy of a domestic home, whilst meeting the client's stringent energy-efficiency standards.

The nature and scale of the project meant that there were no standard solutions: we needed to light the house as creatively as possible, enhancing the stunning architecture and concealing and integrating light fittings into the highly engineered structure.

For this project, Re:light had the opportunity to work as part of a skilled design team, for a proactive, engaged client. The design team, led by the development company's project manager, also included architects for the interior – Roberts Limbrick, M&E consultants – Silcock Dawson, integration specialists Flaming Box and interior decorator Naomi Gregory.

“Re:Light have provided architectural lighting design solutions on a number of Swinhay projects. Their innovative approach has achieved a variety of effects with dimmable recessed fluorescents in feature ceilings to the design and specification of bespoke light fittings.”

Iain McMurtry, Director of Swinhay Developments



...making light work

THE SITE

Swinhay House is the futuristic new dream home of one of the UK's leading industrialists. Situated in the heart of the Gloucestershire countryside, the pioneering structure is at the cutting edge of building technology, sustainability and energy conservation.

Completed in 2009, the vast 36,000 sq ft building is an astonishing mix of angular, high-tech insulated metal roofing and curved bonded glass, surrounded by rolling, lawned grounds and lakes. Part underground, the accommodation is on eleven different levels. It includes a solar-insulated glass atrium, an indoor recreation area and pool and self-contained apartments.



DESIGN AND INSTALLATION
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THE SOLUTION

Unconventional architecture calls for an unconventional response to design. Re:light's solutions included:

BESPOKE LUMINAIRES & DECORATIVE EFFECTS

The Leisure Complex: Working with interior design agency Simple Simon, Re:light designed and commissioned the three sculptural, doughnut-shaped pendants that hover above the complex.

The Tower: The bow-shaped gallery is capped by a 15m glass turret with 360° views of the estate and is the crowning feature of the house. The beautiful timber ceiling had to be left as aesthetically undisturbed as possible. Re:light specified bespoke halogen downlights with a wood finish that blended into the ceiling line, to minimise their visual impact.

The Bathrooms: Re:light used small LEDs to edge the outer curves of the walk-in showers with light. The bright shafts of light highlight the metallic mosaics, giving the effect of falling water and creating a light feature out of the water itself when the shower is in use.

CONCEALED LIGHTING

Re:light designed lighting specifically to fit with the unconventional interior with its curved walls and ceilings. We created intimate lighting effects on a grand scale, without any obtrusive fittings through the use of dimmable recessed and concealed lighting in a series of cleverly constructed architectural details.

ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING

We used energy efficient alternatives to traditional domestic light sources: dimmable LEDs, T5 fluorescent tubes and cold cathodes. Part L dictates that domestic structures must be 33% compliant. Swinhay House far exceeds this at 90% compliance.

INTELLIGENT CONTROL SYSTEMS

The services built into the house and the solar and geothermal energy harnessing systems all needed a high degree of controllability to work together in a user-friendly way. Re:light worked with integration specialists Flaming Box to create an intelligent, controllable lighting system with energy saving aspects built into the design e.g. Passive Infrared Receivers to shut off lighting in rooms when not in use.

THE RESULTS

