

Urban lighting in the Harvard Square Conservation District

Related draft Guidelines language:

“...to protect ... [the] distinctive physical and experiential characteristics” “of the district’s buildings and public space” “.. at street level and above.”

“...create a high quality public environment with compatible material, lighting, signage...”
“...enhance all-hours neighborhood quality of Harvard Square”.

Proposed Guidelines language

DRAFT

Secondary Goal 11.

11. Lighting. Urban lighting including architectural or building façade lighting, streetscape lighting, and signage lighting impacts the quality of the 24-hour environment. Lighting goals are to enhance the quality of the streetscape, highlight unique architectural details, minimize light trespass, preserve dark skies, and conserve energy.

f. Architectural Lighting

Urban lighting including architectural (building façade) lighting, streetscape lighting, and signage lighting should reinforce definitive characteristics of historic and contemporary architecture as well as create high-quality 24-hour streetscapes. To achieve these goals, the projects should minimize brightness and light trespass, monitor light color (temperature Kelvin), and focus lighting on significant features. In general, light temperature should exceed 3500K only in special conditions. Minimizing brightness while highlighting unique architectural details will conserve energy, reduce trespass, and enhance dark skies. To define and enhance the after-dark streetscape, consideration should be given to low-brightness building façade lighting as an alternative to brighter street lights.

[Color temperature - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Color_temperature)

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Color temperature is conventionally expressed in kelvin, using the symbol K, a unit of measure for absolute temperature. Color temperatures over **5000 K** are called "cool colors" (bluish), while lower color temperatures (2700–**3000 K**) are called "warm colors" (yellowish).