

Lighting Design for Galle Fort

The Galle Fort, located on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka, was built first in 1588 by the Portuguese, then extensively fortified by the Dutch during the seventeenth century. The fort has been designated as a United Nations World Heritage Site.

The Lighting Research Center (LRC) entered into a contract with the Regional Centre for Lighting (RCL) of the Ceylon Electricity Board to develop a multi-phase lighting design for the Galle Fort.

Lighting Design Objectives

- Convey the strength and impenetrability of the fortress as guardian of the city and its people
- Connect the pathways, monuments and landmarks through lighting
- Maintain lighting below the line of sight for general passage along the skywalk on the rampart walls
- Draw the eye upward with more dramatic lighting at taller structures and monuments
- Allow the rampart walls to whisper the history of the Galle Fort

Design Development

A team of LRC staff visited the Galle Fort in March of 2015 to meet with the Galle Fort Heritage Society, gain input from local officials and residents, and document the existing conditions at the Fort. The LRC project team worked with the RCL and local representatives to prioritize the elements and areas of the Fort for which lighting designs should be developed. LRC project staff then developed designs for these areas in collaboration with RCL and Galle Fort representatives.



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