Center of Attention: Focal Point Ideas *Tips for Adding Drama to Landscape Lighting Design*

UNIQUE LIGHTING SYSTEMS®

When it comes to landscaping and lighting, having a design plan can create a more cohesive look. Within that plan, it is important to create points of interest and elevate the space, helping it look more pulled together. Focal points are the center of attention and draw the eye to one area, fixture, or feature.

"It could be a showstopper in a dramatic design or the highlight of a simple yet elegant layout," said Alexis Deasy, marketing communications manager for Unique Lighting Systems[®]. "Whatever the style, the focal point brings out the beauty of the space."

In the world of outdoor lighting, there are many areas that can be the focal point in a design. If you don't know where to start, here are some traditional focal areas along with a few unexpected and fun ideas to consider.

The front entryway – This is an area that will already have lights for safety and purpose; however, why not take it one step further and make that area stand out? Illuminate a artisanal or antique door or add a little extra flair to stairways and walkways.



Outdoor entertaining area – Maybe the outdoor space includes places for gathering or recreation – a swimming pool, a fire pit, a grilling or dining area. All these are great options to become focal points of a design. People will be able to enjoy the luminous view of this focal area from afar and immerse themselves in the beauty of the light while enjoying the space.



A landscape feature – While thinking of all the beautiful plants and flowers featured in the landscape, why not choose one that will be the center of it all? Lighting one special flowering or unique plant will enhance and magnify its natural elegance.



A water feature – Using a water feature as a focal point can be a delightful surprise in any design. Increase the tranquility of this feature by making it shine with additional outdoor lighting. From a waterfall or fountain to a birdbath or pond, a water feature can be an exciting yet relaxing item to feature in any landscape.



A large or unique tree – Trees are a common sight in landscaping; however, a large tree that stands out or one that is unique can be the perfect focal point.



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Whatever the focal point, choose an aspect of the property's architecture or landscape that highlights its unique character and enhances the beauty of the outdoor space.

