



There's No "I" in LED

Tips on building an efficient team for your LED lighting retrofit project or new installation

By John Tiber

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Before we get started, let's put the naysayers to bed and agree on some facts: 1) the Cavs won the NBA title, 2) LED lighting is here, it's vetted and it's time, and 3) reducing energy consumption makes financial sense and is the proper thing to do.

So you want to re-light your office, or you're building a new office and/or warehouse. Who should you trust? Everyone seems to have a different idea about what's important and which char-

acteristics matter when it comes to high efficiency LED lighting. How do you get great lighting that meets all of your needs: proper illumination, energy efficiency, low maintenance, low first cost

and low lifetime cost? Much like LeBron, you need a *team*.

In this case, you need an architect, engineer, design/build electric contractor and a product expert agent. Each entity brings with it a

discipline or expertise with regard to one aspect of the LED lighting system. The architect has to design a building and provide space for lighting. The electrical engineer provides wiring and compliance drawings. The design/build electrical contractor provides installation, ongoing maintenance and first-hand experience. The agent brings product expertise and a wide basket of options.

Two-way communication and dialogue are vital when putting together a lighting solution for a given space. It's not just quick photometrics to achieve footcandles for the length-times-width. We, as whole solution

designers, vendors and contractors tasked with welding together form and function, are the ambassadors of fantastic technology. Coupled with poignant education and knowledge of product, the end result of customer

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satisfaction is achieved through a cooperative effort.

The lore of LED-infused lighting is becoming reality. Factories

and their agents, engineers, architects and contractors have taken up the cause. Drivers, modules and arrays are now the norm when discussing lighting tech. Input watts are dropping like Siberian nighttime temperatures, and luminaire efficacy keeps growing with hydroponic-like outcomes. The solution to implementing LED lighting is a changing landscape, but one that is attainable with collective resolve. **P**

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