ACT INSTALLS — FOR BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS

Lighting Guide

A condensed reference for specifying architectural lighting control on luxury residential projects.

Lighting control is one of the few systems that touches every room, every trade, and every finish schedule on a project — which makes it one of the easiest systems to under-specify. This guide condenses the core concepts behind ACT Installs' architectural lighting approach, delivered under The Evening Scene™, so your team can plan for it early rather than retrofit around it late.

The goal on every project is the same: light that behaves correctly without the homeowner thinking about it. That means layered design, scene-based control, and coordination with motorized shades, all built on infrastructure that stays out of the finished space. For the full-length version of this material, download the Luxury Lighting Guide.

Layered Lighting: Ambient, Task, Accent

Every well-lit room is built from three distinct layers, each controlled independently so they can be balanced against one another rather than switched as a single block.

- ☐ Ambient — general room illumination that sets overall brightness and mood
- ☐ Task — targeted light for kitchens, vanities, offices, and other work surfaces
- ☐ Accent — wall washes, art lighting, and architectural highlights that add depth
- ☐ Each layer is dimmed and zoned separately, never ganged onto one switch
- ☐ Circuit layout and fixture selection should be finalized before rough-in, not after

Scene-Based Control

Rather than operating fixtures individually, the home is programmed around scenes — pre-set combinations of layered lighting, matched to how a space is actually used. One touch recalls the correct balance of ambient, task, and accent light for the moment, consistent with the One Touch Living™ philosophy that governs the rest of the home's systems.

- ☐ Evening — the home's signature after-dark setting, adjusted room by room under The Evening Scene™
- ☐ Entertaining — brighter perimeter and accent light, dimmed overhead ambient for gathering spaces

- ☐ Away — The Vacation Mode™ cycles lighting to simulate occupancy while the home is unoccupied
- ☐ Morning / Daytime — daylight-responsive levels that reduce unnecessary fixture output

Shade Integration and Equipment Placement

Lighting and motorized shades are controlled through the same scenes, since natural and artificial light have to be balanced together, not managed as separate systems. A shade closing at dusk should be paired with the lighting scene that follows it — coordinated timing is a design decision, not an afterthought.

Control equipment — processors, dimming panels, and low-voltage infrastructure — is centralized in a dedicated location, keeping wiring and hardware out of finished ceilings and walls in keeping with Invisible Technology™. Coordinating that space early, alongside AV and networking equipment, avoids conflicts with millwork, HVAC, and structured cabling later in construction.

- ☐ Confirm a dedicated equipment location during schematic design, not framing
- ☐ Route shade and lighting low-voltage runs together where paths overlap
- ☐ Reserve dimming panel and processor space proportional to room and zone count
- ☐ Coordinate keypad and sensor locations with the electrical and millwork plans

Questions about specifying lighting control for a project in design or already under construction — reach out to ACT Installs.