DJCOALITION

DO’S & DON’TS IN GUESTROOM LIGHTING CONTROL

Using the right technology for guestroom design can elevate design to the new levels. It simplifies processes, drives sustainability and creates a more personalized guest experience. In our practice, as lighting designers, we want to define the best practices in guest room technology to offer real savings in energy use as well as transform the guest experience from ‘OKAY’ to ‘WOW’.

Read on for 3 ‘DO’S & DON’TS’ when designing for guestroom lighting technology.

DO’S IN GUESTROOM LIGHTING CONTROL

PRIORITIZE THE EXPERIENCE

Each of these simple actions creates a personalised experience that feels tailored to each guest’s stay – no matter what the star rating

- Set different ‘Welcome’ lighting scenes for day and night to give the room that extra ‘WOW’ factor when entering.
- Install a smart door lock to trigger activation of lights so the guest doesn’t enter a dark room.
- Integrate smart technology that smoothly adjusts light colour and dimming to suit the guest’s ‘body-clock time’ and promote their well-being.
- Design the ‘Nightlight’ scene to ensure soft lighting that doesn’t disturb sleep so it can be left on all night if desired.
- Integrate real-time energy monitoring into the control system which calculates the energy used per stay to educate and inform guests of their CO2 footprint.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

By keeping it straightforward and guest-friendly, technology can enhance their stay without complicating it.

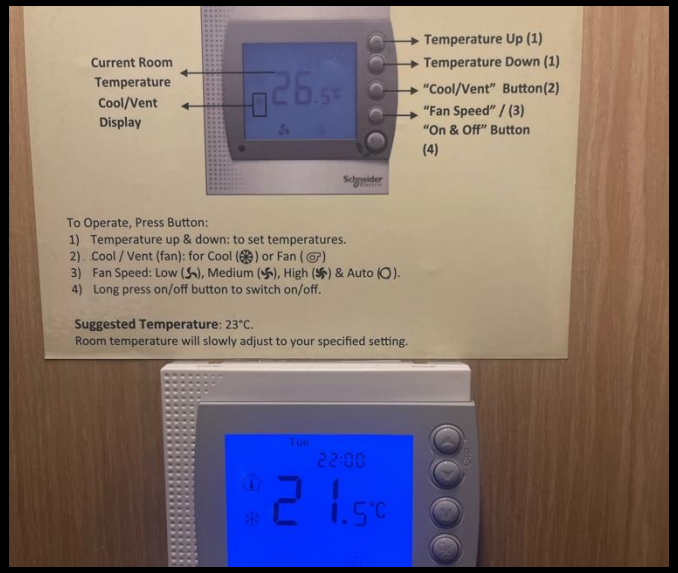
- Make it simple for guests to switch off all the lights from either side of the bed, especially for floor and table lights.
- Place the master switch furthest from the bed so it is least likely to be turned on by accident.
- Place the nightlight switch closest to the bed for easy access in the middle of the night.
- Mirror the controls on the switch each side of the bed so the proximity to the user remains constant.
- Use large icon light switches with adjustable backlighting and sleep mode when not in use (except for the nightlight button).

SAVING ENERGY, MINIMISING WASTE

These simple actions make your guestroom lighting more sustainable while still creating a memorable guest experience.

- Opt for a smart ‘Guestroom Management System’ that adjusts lighting and air conditioning based on occupancy, thus minimizing waste.
- Install smart room sensors to detect presence so when the room is vacant lighting and air systems are shut down to reduce energy waste.
- Use LED lighting controlled with an open bus system (DALI2 for example) to minimize cable runs and speed up installation.
- Automate curtains, particularly in west facing rooms, to block off sun and heat penetration into the room whilst it is vacant.

DON’TS IN GUESTROOM LIGHTING CONTROL



DON’T ADD TECH FOR FASHION

- Don’t make lighting scenes so complex, or too dynamic, such that guests feel they are in a light show instead of relaxing.
- Don’t automate every function – guests need simple manual control for their comfort.
- Don’t place a screen or mobile device at the bedside and assume guests will use it – guests need intuitive, physical switches.
- Avoid unnecessary tech that adds frustration instead of enhancing the guest experience. Don’t ask the guest to control the lighting through the television screen.

DON’T OVERCOMPLICATE CONTROLS

- Don’t make lighting and air conditioning controls so complex that guests feel they need an operational manual to use.
- Avoid using touch panels with confusing or blank icons.
- Don’t have touch control points for room systems that emit light all night.
- Don’t spread the lighting controls all around the room, don’t have switches on lamps so the guest has to get out of bed to turn the light off.

DON’T IGNORE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

- Don’t overlook automation systems that could reduce operational costs and help staff work more efficiently.
- Interface the guest room system to the PMS.
- Avoid tech solutions that only benefit the guest without improving workflows for the operation team.
- Don’t skip occupancy sensors that can help manage energy use in unoccupied rooms. Work with your lighting designer to select the right fixtures that are efficient without being distracting to guests.
- Don’t place room management system hardware within guest areas, there should be no need to go to a guestroom to make a configuration change.