

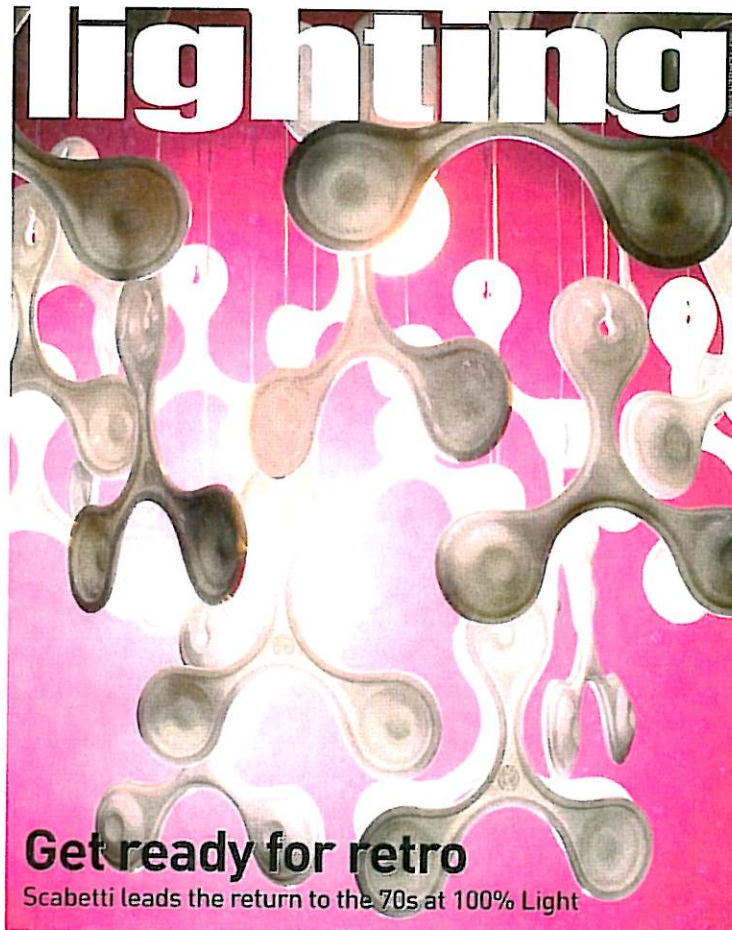


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**FLAIRLIGHT DESIGNS – PRESS CUTTINGS**

**Journal:** Lighting (circ; 10,573)  
**Story:** The Old Theatre, Battersea  
**Feature:** Lighting Controls: Residential  
**Issue:** September 2006

FIRST AND EXCLUSIVE: THE RELIGHTING OF SAINT PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



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# Controlling the limelight



High level spots on a gantry – and high output recessed fittings – evoke the building's earlier role. Leax 24-circuit dimming racks are controlled by four scene-setting wall plates.

The expression 'home theatre' takes on a new meaning in Battersea – and controls are vital to conjure up just the right mood

Converting a theatre into a home poses some unexpected problems, not the least of which is that theatres and homes, for very good reasons, are designed in completely different ways.

Take, for example, the Queen's Theatre in Queenstown Road, Battersea. Theatre not being as popular as it was, developer Aston Brunswick took on the challenge of converting part of the 19th century building – specifically the stage, dressing rooms and some storage space – into a three-bedroom, three-storey home.

One of the biggest problems was getting light into the double height space, which had a dark undercroft, no windows in the outside walls and a flat roof. So architect Douglas & King set about reconfiguring the building.

The solution was a combination of natural light from a triple height light well, vertical sun pipes and an internal courtyard on the lower ground floor; and an artificial lighting scheme devised by Aston Brunswick and Flairlight that was closely controlled to evoke the right mood. ■

## OPINION

### Opportunity's knocking

Affordable and upgradeable products are vital to attract new consumers into the world of lighting control, says **Robin van Meeuwen**, managing director of Crestron UK



Over the past few years, there has been a significant amount of media interest in the digital home.

A lot of the early interest latched onto the more headline-grabbing features – the refrigerator that could order your milk – rather than lighting control and multi-room audio, the true digital lifestyle that consumers want.

What's happening in the real world of lighting control is that the lifestyle benefits are far more widely recognised than they were.

Increasing numbers of end-users, architects, interior designers and property developers are buying into this philosophy of technology for convenience and simplicity. Especially at the top end of the residential market.

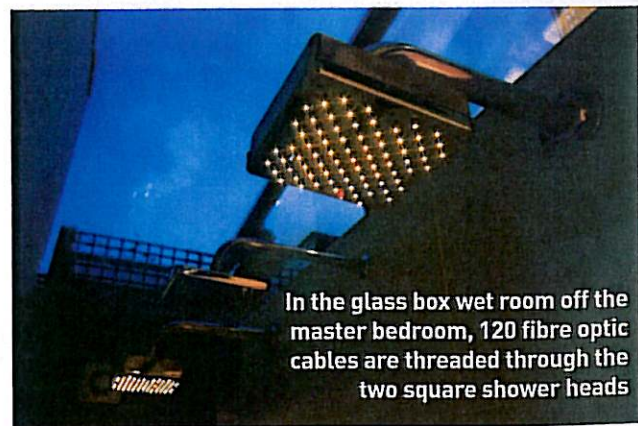
But as the industry has continued to grow, it is becoming apparent that controls for the mid-range are where the biggest potential lies. This,

of course, will be of interest to the lighting designer and specifier who needs to know how the residential market might look in the near to mid-term future.

All technology-based products have a distinct life-cycle – especially those aimed at the residential consumer. Put simply, they start 'exclusive' and 'expensive' and get gradually cheaper (and better as the technology matures).

In the end, they become ubiquitous (but not necessarily cheap). This applies to residential lighting controls. Having emerged as a high-end only proposition, the growth area predicted for the next stage of industry maturity is the mid-market. The phrase 'mid-market' is easily confused with poor quality products. It shouldn't be. We are still talking premium-build, high quality products that can satisfy consumer and performance demands.

**'Controls for the mid-range are where the biggest potential lies'**



In the glass box wet room off the master bedroom, 120 fibre optic cables are threaded through the two square shower heads

The entrance to the property is through the old backstage doors, a reception area and some custom-made cherry wood and glass doors. Theatrical spots and white LEDs light the hallway that leads to a split staircase (the former stage area) and an informal living area with a home cinema with motorised screen and projector.

