

How does a designer interpret “this”?

Navigating standards and guidelines

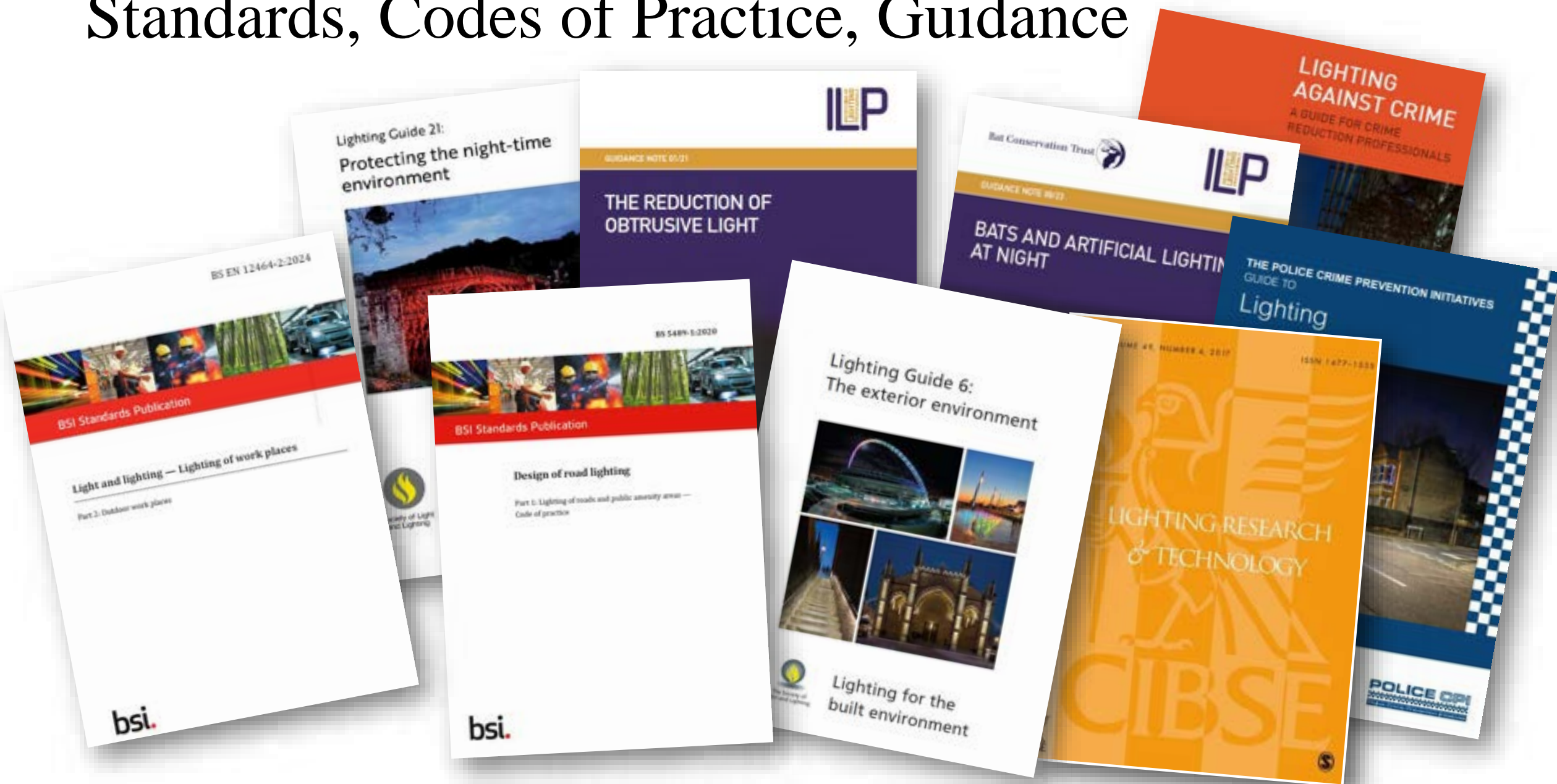


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27 March 2025

What is “this”...?

Standards, Codes of Practice, Guidance



Why do we have standards?



**Define the minimum acceptable
outcome...**

**Enable improvement over time towards a
common goal...**

Guide to help make the right choices...

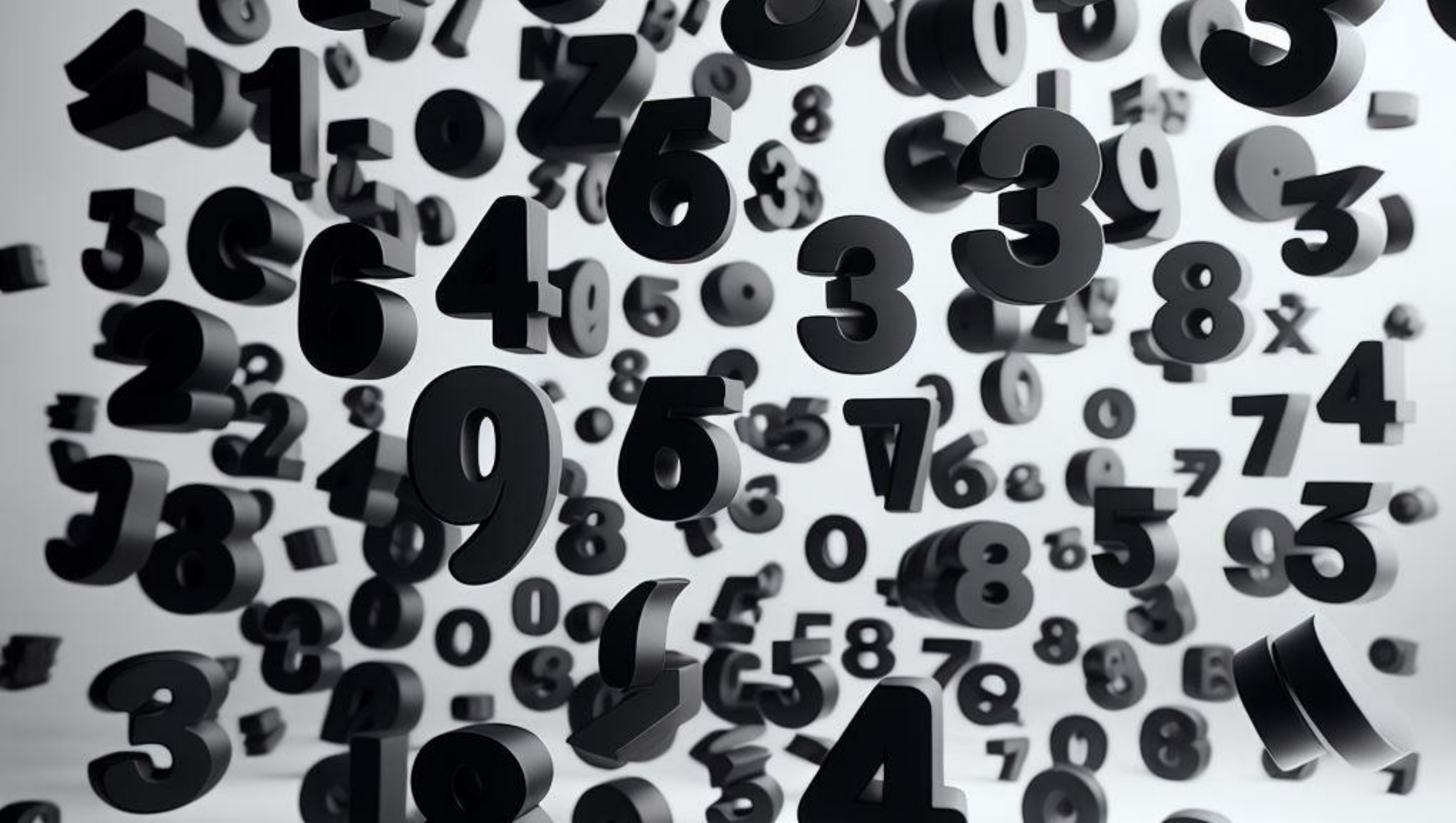
The Challenge

- Just because a standard exists, doesn't mean its mandatory
- A standard becomes a requirement when contracted or obliged to incorporate.
- Conflict between standards or misinterpretation of guidance

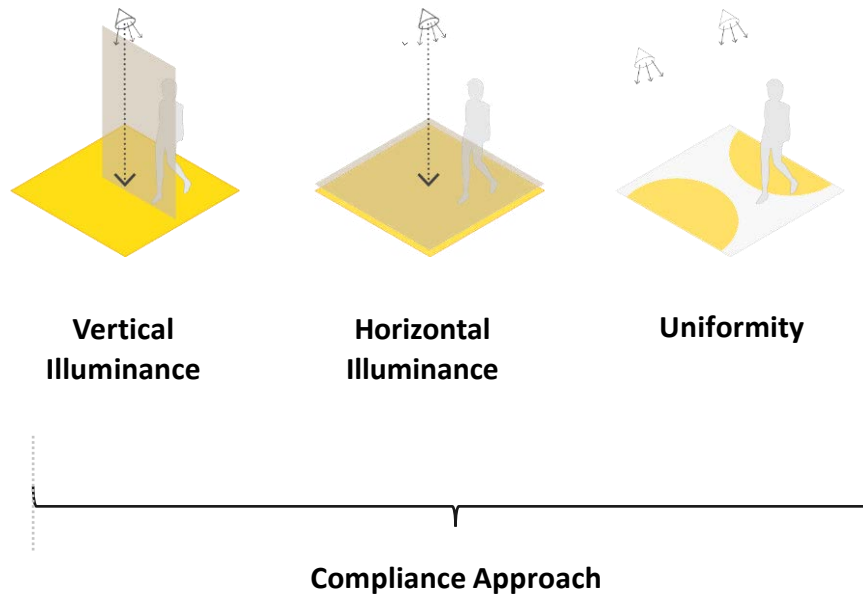


A nighttime photograph of a city square. In the foreground, a low, light-colored stone wall is illuminated from below. Five people are sitting on the wall, looking down at their phones. To the left, a statue on a pedestal is visible. In the background, there are trees, a fence, and city buildings with lights. The text "How do we move beyond a 'compliance' focused approach to design?" is overlaid in white serif font.

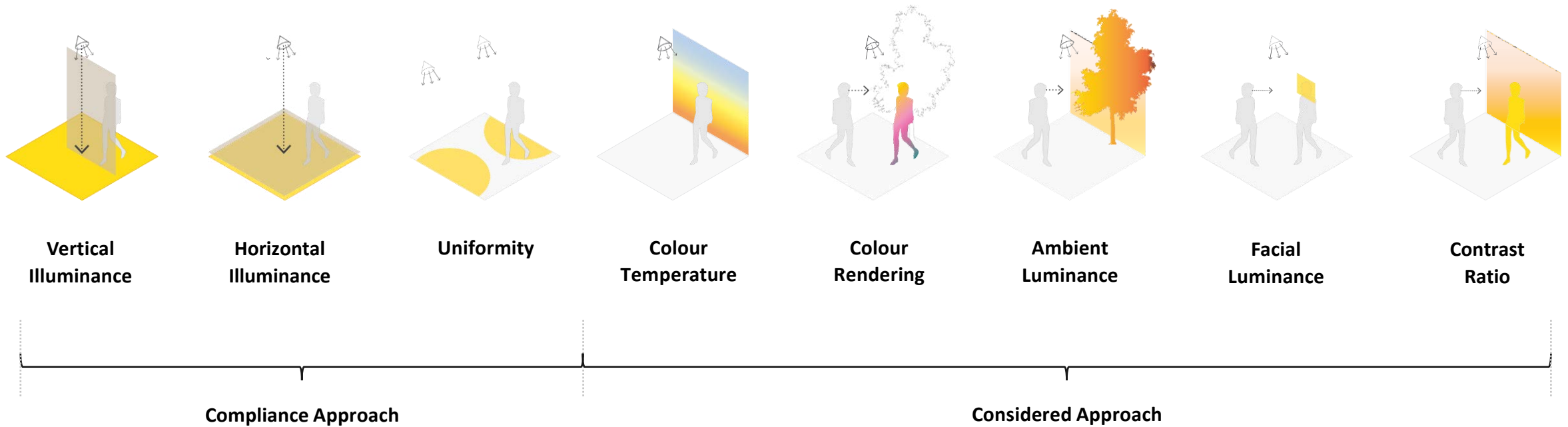
How do we move
beyond a “compliance”
focused approach to design?



How this is interpreted...



How this is interpreted...



The Why



Three strands to navigating guidance:

1. Understanding the intent
2. Curating the solution
3. Appreciating the outcome

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1. Understanding the intent...??

Reading between the lines...

... and just reading the lines?



Footbridges...

Table 3 — *Maintained lighting levels for subways, footbridges, stairways and ramps*

Type	Values in lux			
	Day		Night ^{A)}	
	\bar{E}	E_{min}	\bar{E}	E_{min}
Subways				
• open ^{B)}	—	—	20	10
• enclosed ^{C)}	350	150	20	10
Footbridges				
• open ^{B)}	—	—	20	10
• enclosed ^{C)}	350	150	20	10
Stairways/ramps				
• open ^{B)}	—	—	20	10
• enclosed ^{C)}	350	150	20	10

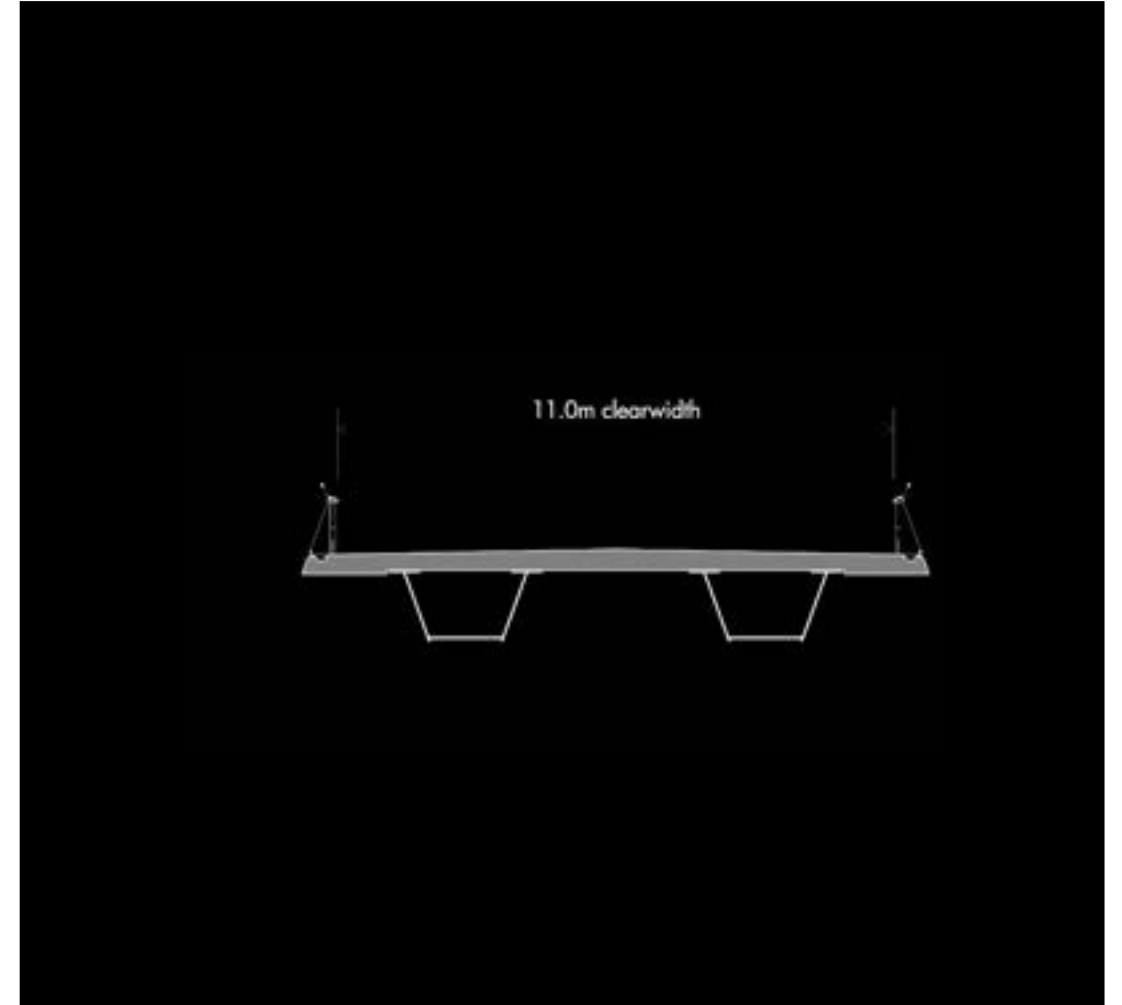
Table 3 – BS 5489-1:2020





When is a footbridge... a footbridge?

- Elevated bridge position
- Above a water course
- Key vistas from the bridge
- Two operating modes

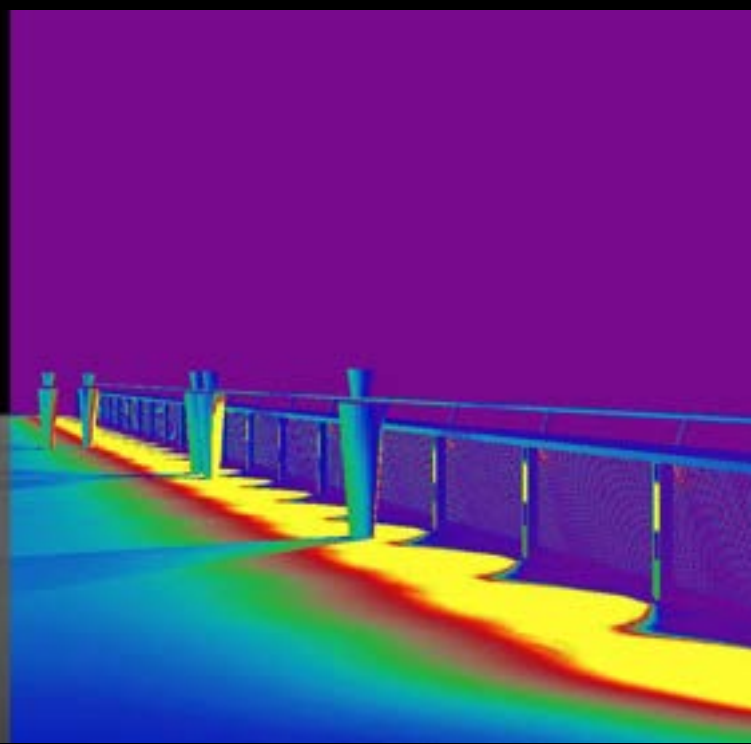
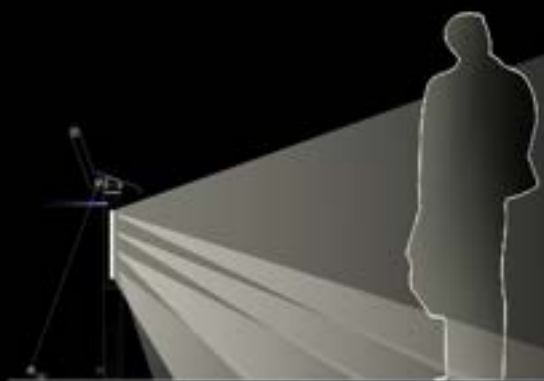


Low pedestrian flow...



Event/high pedestrian flow...







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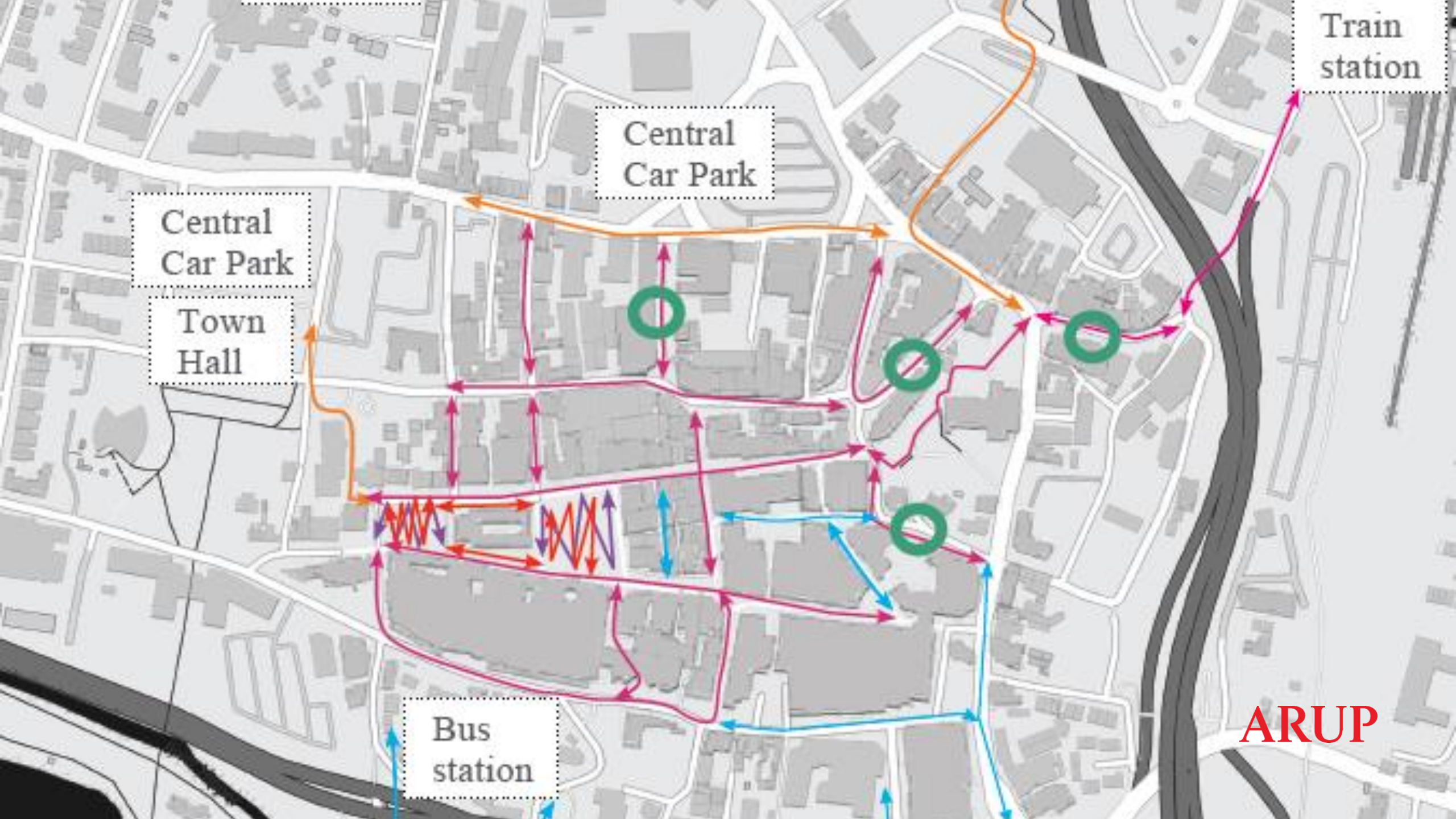
2. Burlateaa solutione...





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Train station

Central Car Park

Central Car Park

Town Hall

Bus station

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KEY

Vehicular Routes

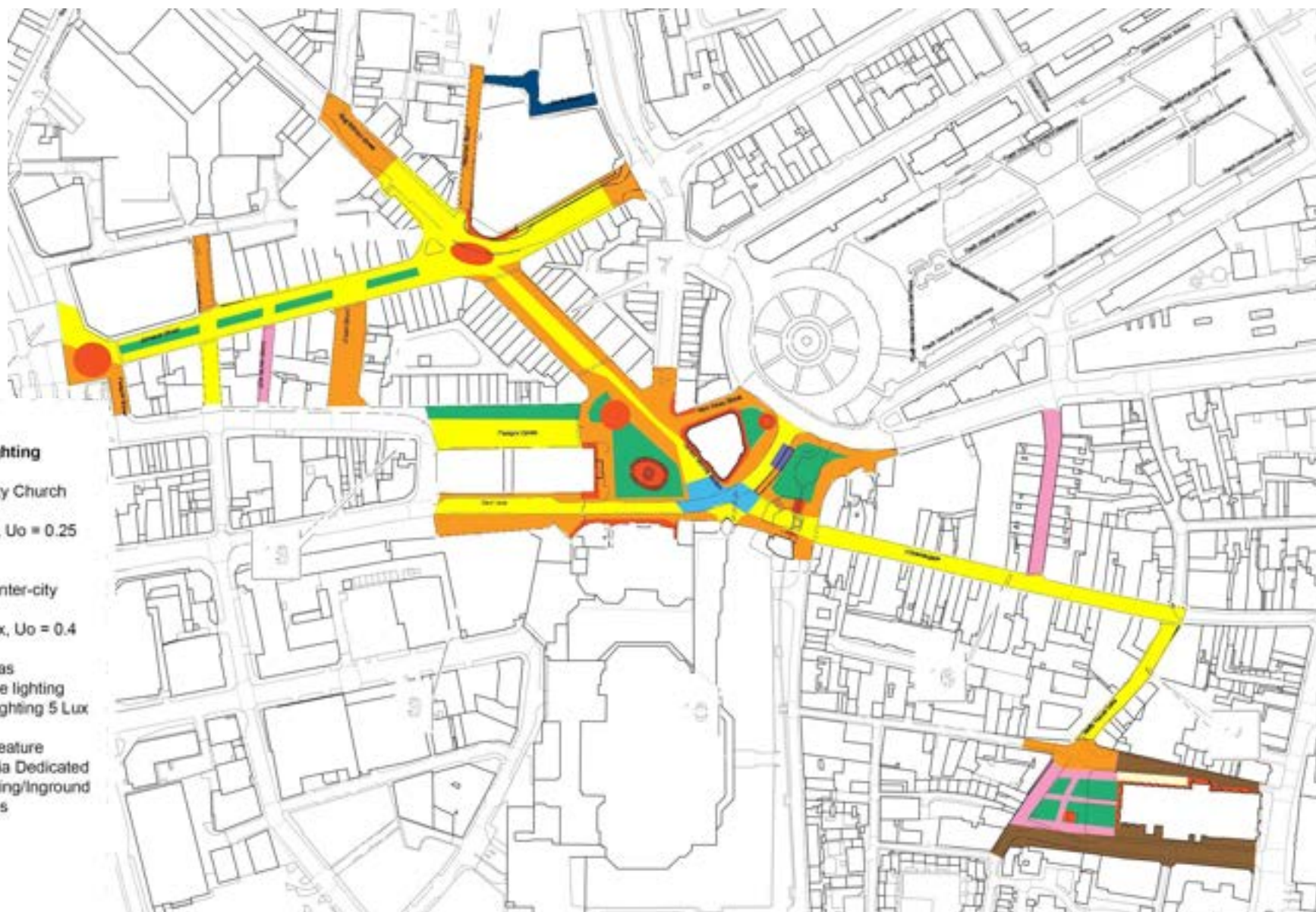
- Primary Vehicular Routes
S1 Class
Eav 15Lux, Emin 5Lux
- Secondary Vehicular Routes
S2 Class
Eav 10Lux, Emin 3Lux

Mixed Vehicular/ Pedestrian Routes

- Pedestrian Crossings CE1
Eav 30 Lux, Uo = 0.4
- Primary Routes CE2
Eav 20Lux, Uo = 0.4
- Secondary Routes CE3
Eav 15Lux, Uo = 0.4
- Tertiary Routes CE4
Eav = 10Lux, Uo = 0.4

Other Lighting

- Holy Trinity Church
Car Park
Eav 5Lux, Uo = 0.25
- Bus Stop
Covered Inter-city
service
Eav 50Lux, Uo = 0.4
- Dwell Areas
Landscape lighting
Vertical Lighting 5 Lux
- Facade/Feature
Lighting via Dedicated
Floodlighting/Inground
Luminaires





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3. Do we truly know
what the numbers
mean...?



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Importance of Lived Experience



Dr Fi Crawford 🇬🇧 @welsh_fi · Oct 2

...

I am envious that men can look at this photo and find it attractive.

For me (and the women who commented on it), it sends a shiver down my spine.

The sounds I hear are my heart racing, my footsteps echoing and my inner voice praying that there is a taxi waiting outside.



The Beauty of Transport @BeautyOfTranspt · Oct 2

Can anyone explain why even the most unremarkable bits of stations suddenly become so attractive at night?

I wish you could hear it too. There are crickets or grasshoppers chirruping almost as loud as cicadas in America (fond memories of summers waiting for Amtrak night trains).

[Show this thread](#)

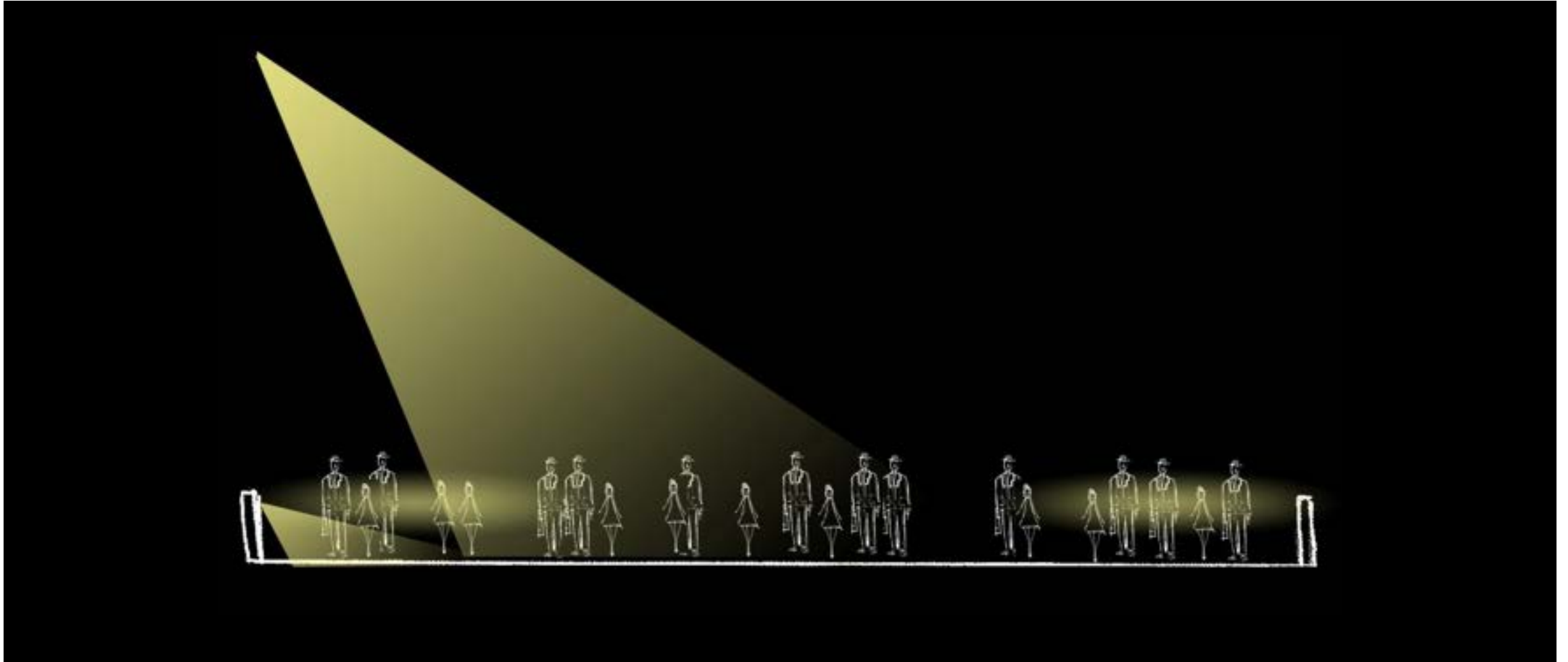




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Event use...






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So, what can we take
from this?

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So how should designers interpret “this”?



Use lived experience to inform design and improve peoples use of cities and spaces after dark

Advocate for change and take a user centric approach to design for after dark

Use an evidence based, data driven design process, and challenge industry assumptions

Be brave, but not reckless.

A man is sitting on a large, illuminated red V-shaped sculpture at night. The sculpture is made of concrete and is lit from within, creating a warm glow. The man is wearing a white t-shirt and dark pants. The background shows a modern building with a red roof and some outdoor seating areas. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Thank You

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