

AC	Alternating current (ac) moves in a single direction; however, that direction is reversed at regular intervals. Alternating current is the prevailing electrical current in use today.
Accent Lighting	A technique that emphasizes a particular object or draws attention to a particular area. Accent lighting usually utilizes the tight beam control of PAR lamps or MR lamps. Also called highlighting.
Amalgam CFL	Amalgam technology (two or three metals alloyed with mercury) is used in compact fluorescent lamps to control mercury vapor pressure, thus controlling lumen output.
Ambient Lighting	Lighting that is designed to provide a substantially uniform light level throughout an area, exclusive of any provision for special local requirements.
Amperage	The amount of electrical current through a conductive source.
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
Arc	See Arc discharge.
Arc Discharge	An electrical discharge through an ionized gaseous atmosphere. Fluorescent and HID lamps are examples of light sources that use an arc to produce light.
Arc tube	An envelope, usually quartz or ceramic, that contains the arc of a discharge light source.
Array	An order or arrangement of LEDs
ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-1999	An industry benchmark of energy application standards for buildings, created by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA).
Asymmetric Light Distribution	A light distribution pattern in which lumen output is directed more strongly toward one side than another.
Baffle	A single opaque or translucent element that shields the direct view at certain angles of a light source, absorbs or block unwanted light, or reflects or redirects light.
Ballast	A device used to operate fluorescent and HID lamps. The ballast provides the necessary starting voltage, while limiting and regulating the lamp current during operation.
Beam Angle	is the angle between the two directions opposed to each other over the beam axis for which the luminous intensity is half that of the maximum luminous intensity
Beam Spread	The width of a light beam, expressed in degrees. The beam of light from a reflector-type lamp (PAR, R, ER, or MR) can be thought of as a cone. The beam spread is the angular width of the cone. Common beam spreads are known as spot, narrow, narrow flood, and flood.
Blackbody	A temperature radiator of uniform temperature whose radiant exitance in all parts of the spectrum is maximum obtainable from any temperature radiator of the same temperature. Correlated color temperature (CCT) correlates with the apparent color of a blackbody radiator at a given temperature.
Blue LED	Blue LEDs are made from indium gallium nitride (InGaN)
Bollard Luminaires	A low, pole-mounted luminaire, usually for outdoor use. Bollards commonly are used to light pathways.
CIE	Commission on Illumination
CRI (Color Rendering Index)	Used to compare fluorescent and HID lamps

Candela	Unit of luminous intensity, describing the intensity of a light source in a specific direction.
Candle Power	A measure of luminous intensity of a light source in a specific direction, measured in candelas
Capacitor	A device, the primary purpose of which is to introduce capacitance into an electric circuit.
CCFL (Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp)	A type of fluorescent lamp that does not employ a cathode heater to produce light. Also known as a cold cathode fluorescent tube (CCFT)
CCT (Correlated Color Temperature)	is the measure used to describe the relative color appearance of a white light source. CCT indicates whether a light source appears more yellow/gold/orange or more blue, in terms of the range of available shades of "white." CCT is given in kelvins (unit of absolute temperature). See more information in the Color Quality section.
Ceiling-mounted Diffuser	ceiling-mounted diffusers attach directly to the ceiling and have a clear or translucent cover that diffuses the image of the lamp and distributes the light evenly into a space.
Cell Louver	See louver.
CFL	A type of fluorescent lamp. Many CFLs are designed to replace incandescent lighting and can fit in existing light fixtures formerly used for incandescent bulbs. Compared to general service incandescent lamps giving the same amount of visible light, CFLs consume less power and last longer.
Chromaticity	The dominant or complementary wavelength and purity aspects of the color taken together, or of the aspects specified by the chromaticity coordinates of the color taken together.
Coefficient of Utilization	The ratio of luminous flux (lumens) calculated as received on the work plane to the total luminous flux (lumens) emitted by the lamps alone.
Cold Cathode	An electric-discharge lamp whose mode of operation is that of a glow discharge. It has electrodes so spaced that most of the light comes from the positive column between them.
Coldest Spot	Fluorescent lamp operation depends upon the mercury pressure inside the bulb, and this pressure is determined by the temperature of the coolest point of the lamp.
Color Filter	The predominant method of producing colored light is the use of color filters with a 'white' light source. The white source contains all of the colors of the spectrum; the filter absorbs the unwanted parts of the spectrum and transmits the wavelengths that make up the desired color.
Color Temperature	The color temperature is a specification of the color appearance of a light source, relating the color to a reference source heated to a particular temperature, measured by the thermal unit Kelvin. The measurement can also be described as the "warmth" or "coolness" of a light source. Generally, sources below 3200K are considered "warm;" while those above 4000K are considered "cool" sources.
Color Rendering Index (CRI)	Indicates how well a light source renders colors of people and objects, compared to a reference source. See more information in the Color Quality section.
Color Spectrum	The distribution of colors produced when light is dispersed by a prism.
Color Wheel	Dichroic glass filters used in illuminators to change the color of the light conducted through the fibers.
Compact Fluorescent	A small fluorescent lamp that is often used as an alternative to incandescent lighting. See CFL above

Contactors	A device for repeatedly opening and closing electrical circuits. Electrically, relays and circuit breakers also fulfill the same function.
Contrast	The relationship between the luminance of an object and its background.
Cove Luminaire	An architectural luminaire that directs light from sources that are mounted in a cove to the ceiling or upper wall. A cove is a ledge or shelf on the wall, or a recess in the wall.
Dedicated Base	See Dedicated CFL.
Dedicated CFL	A dedicated compact fluorescent lamp is one in which the ballast is hard-wired to lamp holders within a luminaire. Since the lamps fit into specially keyed sockets, this type of system ensures that compact fluorescent lamps will be used in the luminaire.
Diffuse	Term describing dispersed light distribution. Refers to the scattering or softening of light.
Diffuser	A device to redirect or scatter the light from a source, primarily by the process of diffuse transmission.
Diode	A device with two electrodes, in particular an anode and a cathode, and a nonlinear current/voltage characteristic.
Direct Glare	Excessive brightness from a source of light in the line of sight. Luminaires with poor optical control can be sources of direct glare.
Directional Light Emission	Traditional light sources emit light in all directions. For many applications, this results in some portion of the light generated by the lamp being wasted. Special optics and reflectors can be used to make directional light sources, but they cause light losses. Because LEDs are mounted on a flat surface, they emit light hemispherically, rather than spherically. For task lighting and other directional applications, this reduces wasted light.
Disability Glare	Excessive brightness from a source of light in the line of sight. Luminaires with poor optical control can be sources of direct glare.
Discomfort Glare	Glare that produces discomfort. It does not necessarily interfere with visual performance or visibility.
DMX Controller	Digital multiplex (DMX), an industry standard control protocol for the transmission of dimmer intensity or other data using a digital multiplex method.
Downlight	A type of ceiling luminaire, usually fully recessed, where most of the light is directed downward.
Edison Screw Cap	is a lamp fitting used worldwide. There are a number of different size fittings; ES [E27] is the most common with a base diameter of 27mm. LES is 5mm, MES is 10mm, CES is 12mm, SES is 14mm
Electrodes	The structure that serves as electric terminals at each end of electric discharge lamps.
Electroluminescence	A light source technology used in exit signs that provides uniform brightness and long lamp life (approximately eight years), while consuming very little energy (less than one watt per lamp).
Electromagnetic Field	See electromagnetic spectrum.
Electromagnetic Spectrum	A continuum of electric and magnetic radiation encompassing all wavelengths.
Electronic Transformer	Electronic transformers use electronic circuitry, which is capacitive by nature. Electronic transformers are compact, lightweight, and quiet.
Extruded Aluminum	Aluminum that is pressed through a die to shape it. The process is commonly used to shape metal pieces used in fabrication of equipment, tools, and lightweight consumer goods such as lighting fixtures.
Fascia	A flat, horizontal band or board.

Fluorescence	The ability of some materials, such as phosphors, to convert ultraviolet energy into visible light.
Fluorescent Lamp	A light source consisting of a tube filled with argon, along with krypton or other inert gas. When electrical current is applied, the resulting arc emits ultraviolet radiation that excites the phosphors inside the lamp wall, causing them to radiate visible light.
Flux	The sum of all lumens emitted by a light source.
General Illumination	Is a term used to distinguish between lighting that illuminates tasks, spaces, or objects from lighting used in indicator or purely decorative applications. In most cases, general illumination is provided by white light sources, including incandescent, fluorescent, high-intensity discharge sources, and white LEDs. Lighting used for indication or decoration is often monochromatic, as in traffic lights, exit signs, vehicle brake lights, signage, and holiday lights.
Green LED	Green LED's are made of aluminum gallium phosphide (AlGaP).
Group Relamping	Group relamping entails replacing all of the lamps in a system together after a fixed interval, called the economic group relamping interval. Group relamping can reduce the cost of operating a lighting system while keeping illuminance levels close to the design value.
Halides	The metal-halogen compounds, known as halides, remain stable at high temperatures, and do not cause deterioration of the quartz arc tube, which they would do if left in their elemental forms.
Halogen Lamp	An incandescent lamp that employs a halogen-gas additive to improve lamp life and efficacy.
Harmonics	A sinusoidal component of a periodic wave or quantity having a frequency that is an integral multiple of the fundamental frequency. For example, a component of the frequency, which is twice the fundamental frequency, is called the second harmonic.
HID	Abbreviation for high intensity discharge. Generic term describing mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium, and (informally) low pressure sodium light sources and luminaires.
HID Lamp	High intensity discharge lamp: an electric lamp that produces light directly from an arc discharge under high pressure. Metal halide, high pressure sodium, and mercury vapor are types of HID lamps.
High Pressure Sodium Lamp	An HID lamp in which radiation from sodium vapor under high pressure produces visible light, characterized by a golden-yellow color.
IESNA	Abbreviation for Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.
Ignitor	A device, either by itself or in association with other components, that generates voltage pulses to start discharge lamps without preheating of electrodes.
Illuminance	A photometric term that quantifies light incident on a surface or plane. Illuminance is commonly called light level. It is expressed as lumens per square foot (footcandles), or lumens per square meter (lux).
Incandescence	The self-emission of radiant energy in the visible spectrum due to the thermal excitation of atoms or molecules.
Incandescent Lighting	Light produced when a filament is heated to incandescence using an electric current (e.g., light bulb). Incandescent lighting is very inefficient—turning much of its energy into heat rather than light.
Index of refraction	Ratio of the velocity of light in a vacuum to that in the medium. Thus $n = c/v$ and is a number greater than one. Indexes of refraction are a function of the wavelength of the incident light.

Infrared Energy	See infrared radiation.
Infrared Radiation	Any radiant energy within the wavelength range of 770 to 106 nanometers is considered infrared energy.
Injection Molding	The process for manufacturing plastic lenses whereby hot liquid plastic is injected into a lens mold of the desired shape and size.
IR Filter	A device for changing, by transmission or reflection, the magnitude or spectral composition of the flux of IR incident upon it.
Kilopascal	The pascal (Pa) is the standard international unit of pressure. One pascal is equal to one newton per square meter. A kilopascal (kPa) is one thousand pascals.
LED (Light-Emitting Diodes)	Also known as a light-emitting diode, are based on inorganic (non-carbon based) materials. An LED is a semi-conducting device that produces light when an electrical current flows through it. Developed in 1960's, Consumes low wattage and has a rated life of greater than 80 years.
LED Color Quality	Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) differ from other light sources, such as incandescent and fluorescent lamps, in the way they generate white light. We are accustomed to lamps that emit white light. But what does that really mean? What appears to our eyes as "white" is actually a mix of different wavelengths in the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. The diagram below illustrates visible light as one small portion of the overall electromagnetic spectrum. Electromagnetic radiation in wavelengths from about 380 to 770 nanometers is visible to the human eye.
LED Measurement	New measurement protocols and test procedures are currently being developed for LEDs. Methods to measure total luminous flux, luminous intensity, color temperature, color rendering, lumen depreciation, and electrical characteristics are all under development or revision to accommodate specific attributes of LEDs that differ from other lighting technologies.
Lens	Transparent or translucent medium that alters the directional characteristics of light passing through it. Usually made of glass or acrylic.
Light Engine	A subsystem used to generate light, which typically includes a lamp module or LED , optics and projection lens.
Light Output	Luminous flux, measured in lumens. The light output rating of a lamp is a measure of its total integrated light output. See also lumen.
Light Source	Any device serving as a source of illumination.
Line Voltage	The 110-120-volt household current, generally standard in North America.
Louver	A series of baffles used to shield a source from view at certain angles, to absorb or block unwanted light, or to reflect or redirect light. The baffles are usually arranged in a geometric pattern.
Low Voltage	A lamp that nominally operates at 6, 12, or 24 volts. A transformer must be used to convert the 120-volt line voltage to the lower voltage.
Lumen	A unit of measurement that expresses the total quantity of light given off by a source, regardless of direction. One lumen is equal to the amount of light that one candle emits over one square foot of surface that is exactly one foot away from the flame.
Lumen Depreciation	The decrease in lumen output that occurs as a lamp is operated, until failure.
Luminous Efficacy	The total luminous flux emitted by the light source divided by the lamp wattage; expressed in lumens per watt (lm/W).

Luminous Flux	The rate of flow of light, measured in lumens. The overall light output of a lamp.
Magnetic Transformer	Employed for both single and multiple lamp operation, it uses the principle of inductance (the ability of a device to store energy in the form of a magnetic field) to produce the voltage change.
Maintained Illuminance	Initial illumination level from luminaires adjusted for depreciation of lamp lumens by aging, effects of dirt accumulation on luminaire surfaces, and other factors.
Metal Halide Lamp	An HID light source in which radiation from a mixture of metallic vapors produces visible light, characterized by a white color.
Multifaceted Reflector	A low voltage halogen reflector lamp that is used in lighting applications where precise beam control is required, such as accent lighting. Some MR lamps, such as projection lamps, are designed for line-voltage operation.
Multilevel Ballast	Multilevel ballasts allow fluorescent and HID lamps to be switched between two or more lighting levels. The device that activates the change in light output may be a photosensor, an occupancy sensor, or a timer.
MR16 Lamp	A low-voltage quartz reflector lamp, only 2" in diameter. Typically the lamp and reflector are one unit, which directs a sharp, precise beam of light
NADIR	A reference direction directly below a luminaire, or "straight down" (0 degree angle).
Nanometers	1 nanometer = 1 billionth of a meter, or 1×10^{-9} m. See Wavelength.
NEMA	Abbreviation for National Electrical Manufacturers Association.
Neon	Neon lamps are cold cathode lamps lacking a phosphor coating. See cold cathode.
NIST	Abbreviation for National Institute of Standards and Technology.
Nit	A unit of luminance used for estimating brightness.
Occupancy Sensor	Control device that turns lights off after the space becomes unoccupied. May be ultrasonic, infrared or other type.
OLED (Organic light-emitting diodes)	are based on organic (carbon based) materials. In contrast to LEDs, which are small point sources, OLEDs are made in sheets which provide a diffuse area light source. OLED technology is developing rapidly and is increasingly used in display applications such as cell phones and PDA screens. However, OLEDs are still some years away from becoming a practical general illumination source. Additional advancements are needed in light output, color, efficiency, cost, and lifetime.
Opalescent	Reflecting an iridescent light; having a colored smooth surface that gives the effect of cloudiness and diffusion due to the intentional presence of fissures, striae, and bubbles.
Optics	A term referring to the components of a light fixture (such as reflectors, refractors, lenses, louvers) or to the light emitting or light-controlling performance of a fixture.
Optical Control	Optical control may be provided in a number of ways. All are applications of one or more of the following phenomena: reflection, refraction, polarization, interference, diffraction, diffusion, and absorption.
Packaged LED	An LED package has an optical lens, bonding wire (to bond the package to the printed circuit board), electrodes, and resin to encapsulate the LED for protection.
PAR lamp	An incandescent, metal halide, or compact fluorescent lamp used to redirect light from the source using a parabolic reflector. Lamps are available with flood or spot distributions.

Parabolic aluminized reflector	An incandescent or tungsten-halogen incandescent lamp with a hard glass bulb and an interior reflecting surface, a precisely placed filament, and a lens to control beam spread. The lens is hermetically sealed to the reflector. Metal halide PAR-lamps are also now available.
Parabolic Louvers	Parabolic louvers control luminance precisely; they consist of multiple cells with parabolic reflectors, and a specular or semi-specular finish. The cells range in size from ½ in. X ½ in. to 1 ft. X 1 ft.
Peak demand	A utility customer's maximum load. For purposes of calculating utility cost, peak demand is generally based on the maximum monthly demand, where demand is measured as an average over a time interval, usually 15 or 30 minutes.
Phosphors	Chemical compounds that are used to coat the inside of fluorescent and some HID lamps.
Phosphor Conversion	is a method used to generate white light with LEDs. A blue or near-ultraviolet LED is coated with a yellow or multichromatic phosphor, resulting in white light.
Photocell	A light sensing device device that converts light to electrical current. Based on the amount of incident light, a photocell can switch a lamp on or off or regulate a lamp's light output to maintain a preset level of light.
Photometric Data	See Photometric report.
Photometric Report	The lighting performance of a luminaire may be measured either by the manufacturer or by an independent testing laboratory. The results of these measurements are produced in a photometric report, which often becomes part of the catalog description of that luminaire.
Photoreceptors	See Retina.
Pin-based CFL	A pin-based CFL plugs into specially keyed lamp holders. Its ballast is hard-wired to the lamp holder within the luminaire.
Plenum	The space between the ceiling and the floor or roof above.
Potentiometer	Intensity control device used in dimmers. May be either a rotary knob or linear slide type element. A variable resistor used in analog control.
Power Factor	The ratio of AC volts x amps through a device to AC wattage of the device.
Prismatic Acrylic	See prismatic lens.
Prismatic Lens	Prismatic lenses incorporate a pattern of small prisms or other refractive elements to reduce the luminance of the luminaire and inhibit direct glare.
Prismatic Reflector	See prismatic lens.
Red LED	Are made of aluminum gallium arsenide (AlGaAs).
RGB	Acronym for red, green, and blue, which are the three primary colors of light. Also refers to the color model for displays and monitors, where combinations of illuminated red, green and blue pixels are used to create a wide variety of colors.
R Lamp	A common reflector lamp. An incandescent filament or electric discharge lamp in which the sides of the outer blown-glass bulb are coated with a reflecting material so as to direct the light. The light-transmitting region may be clear, frosted, or patterned.

Rrare-earth Phosphors	A group of phosphors containing rare-earth elements. Rare-earth phosphors are used in fluorescent lamps to achieve higher efficacy and better color rendering than can be achieved with halophosphates. RE designates a lamp containing rare-earth phosphors.
Rated Active Power	The input power (measured in watts) for a lamp-ballast combination.
Reference Ballast	A ballast that is specially constructed, with certain prescribed characteristics, used for testing electric-discharge lamps and other ballasts.
Reflector	The part of a light fixture that shrouds the lamps and redirects some light emitted from the lamp.
Reflected Glare	Glare resulting from bright reflections from polished or glossy surfaces in the field of view. Reflected glare is usually associated with reflections from within a visual task or areas in close proximity to the region being viewed.
Refractor	A device that transmits and redirects the luminous flux from a source. Refractors for outdoor luminaires are typically made from acrylic, polycarbonate, or glass, and when designed well, help control direct glare.
Relay	A device that performs the actual on or off switching of an electrical load, due to small changes in current or voltages.
Restrike Time	Usually applied to HID light sources, the interval between the extinguishing of an arc and the time it can be reignited.
Retina	A membrane lining the posterior part of the inside of the eye. It comprises photoreceptors (cones and rods) that are sensitive to light and nerve cells that transmit to the optic nerve the responses of the receptor elements.
Retrofit	Refers to upgrading a fixture, room, or building by installing new parts or equipment.
Rheostat	A resistance dimmer.
SSL (Solid-State Lighting)	A form of lighting that makes use of light-emitting diodes (LEDs), organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), or polymer light-emitting diodes (PLEDs) as sources of illumination.
Screwbase CFL	A compact fluorescent lamp with a ballast that has a medium screwbase that fits into the standard incandescent lamp socket. A screwbase compact fluorescent lamp may either be modular, in which the lamp and ballast are separate pieces, or self-ballasted, in which the lamp and ballast are inseparable. Both types are designed to replace incandescent lamps.
Self-Luminous Exit Sign	An illumination technology using phosphor-coated glass tubes filled with radioactive tritium gas. The exit sign uses no electricity and thus does not need to be hardwired.
Semi-Specular	Term describing the light reflection characteristics of a material. Some light is reflected directionally, with some amount of scatter.
Service Life	The total time that passes, including time that a lamp is on and time that it is off, before the lamp must be replaced.
Shielding	Shielding conceals the lamp and controls glare within a zone called the shielding angle. This is the maximum angle that the eye is raised above horizontal without seeing the light source beyond the shielding system.
Simple Payback	A measure of economic performance representing the number of years required for the monetary value of the energy savings to equal the investment.

Soffit Luminaire	An architectural luminaire that directs light downward from the cornice or soffit between the wall and ceiling to light the wall surface below.
Solid Angle	A measure of that portion of space about a point bounded by a conic surface whose vertex is at the point. It is defined as the ratio of intercepted surface area of a sphere centered on that point to the square of the sphere's radius. It is expressed in steradians.
Spacing Criterion	A maximum distance that interior fixtures may be spaced that ensures uniform illumination on the work plane. The luminaire height above the work plane multiplied by the spacing criterion equals the center-to-center luminaire spacing.
Specular	Mirrored or polished surface. The angle of reflection is equal to the angle of incidence. This word describes the finish of the material used in some louvers and reflectors.
Spectrum	Wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation.
Spread Lens	A glass lens accessory used to diffuse and widen beam patterns.
Steradian	The solid angle subtended at the center of a sphere by an area on the surface of the sphere equal to the square of the sphere radius.
Stroboscopic Effect	Condition where rotating machinery or other rapidly moving objects appear to be standing still due to the alternating current supplied to light sources. Sometimes called "strobe effect".
T12 Lamp	Industry standard for a fluorescent lamp that is 12 one-eighths (1 inches) in diameter. Other sizes are T10 (1 inch) and T8 (1 inch) lamps.
Task Lighting	Lighting that is directed to a specific surface or area. Task lighting provides illumination for visual tasks.
Thermal Management	The measure of a material's resistance to heat flow. In packaged LEDs, thermal resistance is used as an indirect method of determining LED junction temperature.
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Torchiere	An indirect floor lamp sending all or nearly all of its light upward.
Track Lighting	A lighting system with an electrically fed linear track that accepts one or more track heads. The track heads can be easily relocated along the track.
Transformer	Transformers are electrical devices with no moving parts, which change distribution voltages to higher or lower levels. When used with incandescent or halogen lamps, they typically step 120V distribution downward to 12V, although 5.5V and 24V models are also offered.
Translucent	Transmitting light diffusely or imperfectly.
Trim	Baffles, cones, rims, and other treatments for apertures of downlights. Trim is usually the part of the luminaire that is visible from below the ceiling.
Trim Ring	A plastic or metal ring used to cover and seal the edges of holes that are cut into ceilings to install recessed luminaires.
Troffer	A recessed luminaire that is installed in the plenum with the opening flush with the ceiling. Typically rectangular or square in shape, as in a 2-foot by 4-foot luminaire.
Ultrasonic Frequency	A frequency lying above the audio frequency range. The term is commonly applied to elastic waves propagated in gases, liquids, or solids.

Ultra Violet (UV)	Invisible radiation that is shorter in wavelength and higher in frequency than visible violet light (literally beyond the violet light).
Ultraviolet Energy	Any radiant energy within the wavelength range 100 to 400 nanometers is considered ultraviolet radiation (1 nanometer = 1 billionth of a meter, or 1×10^{-9} m).
Ultraviolet Radiation	See Ultraviolet energy.
UL (Underwriter Laboratories)	An independent organization whose responsibilities include rigorous testing of electrical products. When products pass these tests, they can be labeled (and advertised) as "UL listed." UL tests for product safety only.
UV Filter	A device for changing, by transmission or reflection, the magnitude or spectral composition of the flux of UV incident upon it.
Vandal-Resistant	Fixtures with rugged housings, break-resistant type shielding, and tamper-proof screws.
Valance Luminaire	An architectural luminaire with a longitudinal shielding member mounted across the top of a window or along a wall and usually parallel to the wall, to conceal light sources giving both upward and downward distributions.
VCP (Visual Comfort Probability)	Abbreviation for visual comfort probability. A rating system for evaluating direct discomfort glare. This method is a subjective evaluation of visual comfort expressed as the percent of occupants of a space who will be bothered by direct glare. VCP allows for several factors: luminaire luminances at different angles of view, luminaire size, room size, luminaire mounting height, illuminance, and room surface reflectivity. VCP tables are often provided as part of photometric reports.
Veiling Reflection	A reflection on the visual task that obscures visibility by reducing contrast.
Volt	A unit of measurement for electric potential between two points of an electrical circuit and electromotive force.
Wall Sconce	A decorative and/or functional wall-mounted luminaire.
Wall Wash	Describes luminaires that illuminate vertical surfaces.
Wall Washing	A technique that lights a wall fairly evenly from top to bottom without spilling or wasting light away from the wall into the room.
Watt	A unit of measurement for power equal to one joule of energy per second
Wavelength	The distance between two corresponding points of a given wave. Wavelengths of light are measured in nanometers (1 nanometer = 1 billionth of a meter, or 1×10^{-9} m).
White LED	"White" light is created by combining the light from red, green, and blue (RGB) LEDs or by coating a blue LED with yellow phosphor
Work Plane	The level at which work is done and at which illuminance is specified and measured. For office applications, this is typically a horizontal plane 30 inches above the floor (desk height).