

SKY ELECTRICAL CASE STUDY – BOSTON BOARDWALK

When John Kelly was chatting to David Hogben about ambitious plans to redesign his back garden making it a space he and his wife would use more often, even in the winter, he had no idea that David's lighting design would create a beautifully atmospheric Boston Boardwalk in landlocked Maidenhead.

"We had asked David to simply install some lights in our pool but once he was here we could see he had a real vision for how brilliant lighting could add another layer to the overall design," said John, a retired BA captain who had travelled the world and wanted to bring a sense of faraway places to his own back garden.

The three year project, now halfway through, began with Sky Electrical designing lighting around the pool to add atmosphere.

David Hogben of Sky Electrical, explains how he approached the task: "The pool was at the far end of the garden so was a focal point and John wanted to light it so he could maximise its use throughout the year. My style is to create shadows so I illuminated the walls and used the reflected light. My pet hate is seeing the light source so I decided to illuminate the stock brick wall with some wall washers and then install some aqua blue LED lights around the pool edge."

John was delighted with the result so when he was ready to embark upon the second stage, adding a second deck with a sunken pond, he called David in who suggested that a creative approach to the lighting could link the two areas together seamlessly.

"We had the original idea for the deck to be nautical so we suspended it on six round posts so it resembled a jetty or a pontoon. David then began researching a variety of lighting which would enhance this theme and it evolved into the concept of the Boston Boardwalk," explained John.

David spent time sourcing specific lights and fittings which would complement the look and feel of the garden. He found some galvanised lanterns which could be fitted onto teak poles plus a range of port hole type lights.

David continues: "At strategic points we installed port hole lights at low level, each containing a very dull lamp just 25 watts which was enough to create a subtle effect. Meanwhile the post mounted lanterns were fitted with yellow lantern lamps which cast just enough light onto the dining area. The teak posts that formed the border from the deck to the garden were also illuminated with some white LED lights.

"Finally I hunted high and low for a bollard light that looked like a rusty light house and although this was the most expensive light used in the project it set off the whole scene illuminating the Koi Carp pond"

The expertise of Sky Electrical took a simple project to install some outside lights and gave life and synergy to the whole garden making the outdoor area an impressive feature in itself. And even the quality of the engineers impressed John.

“The electricians were a joy to have on site. They really knew their stuff. They were good at what they did, not just with the technical side but the attention to detail making sure that all the wires were concealed and tucked away out of sight,” said John.

“The lighting is the icing on the cake. Everyone has lights on the patio but our lighting has added an extra dimension. When we spend time in the conservatory at night and put the garden lighting on, even in the winter it feels like you are outside. We are delighted with the results,” says John.

Next year the third phase of the project will include adding some nautical sails to give some welcome shade in this spectacular wharfside garden.

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