

Nobody is doing the lighting.

And the project is already in the field.

A field guide for Architects, IDs, GCs, ECs & Owner Reps.

Everyone assumes someone else handled it.

Architect

Assumes the engineer has it.

Engineer

Assumes the rep covered selections.

Rep

Is selling product.

GC

Inherits whatever lands in drawings.

EC

Prices what is on the sheet.

Owner

Approved a rendering. Hopes for the best.

Your design intent gets value-engineered.

By someone who never saw your vision,
working from a spec sheet, not the space.

Ceiling coordination locked in SD?

Undone. Fixture never checked against
plenum depth or trim finish.

| A lighting designer protects your intent from first drawing to final punch.

Your material story lives or dies by light.

Color Temperature (CCT)

Warm vs. cool CCT changes how stone, fabric, and paint read. What your finish board said gets lost under the wrong source.

Color Rendering Index (CRI 90+)

Low CRI washes out saturation. Materials look the way you selected them only under high-CRI.

Color Shift Over Time

The space that opens is not the space you designed.

Light quality is a material decision. Specify the source, not just the fixture.

Top 3.

Lighting is a top-3 source of RFIs and change orders.

Not because the fixtures are bad.
Because coordination didn't happen upstream.

Every RFI in the field costs 5-10x
what it would have cost in design.

| A lighting designer is the RFI you never have to write.

You are pricing **assumptions,** not facts.

- All fixtures are available on schedule.
- Lead times are known before procurement.
- Controls sequences are fully designed.
- Shop drawings won't need scope rework.

| A lighting designer creates the certainty you need to build clean.

The owner approved a rendering.

**What gets built depends on
decisions never made.**

Your job is to protect budget and schedule.

Lighting without a designer means VE
under pressure, no mock-ups, and a punch
list full of questions nobody can answer.

| A lighting designer's only brief is to deliver what you approved.

The budget was set with optimism.

BUDGET	Catalogue pricing, not current supplier rates.
LEAD TIME	22-week fixture. Nobody checked before spec.
CONTROLS	Sequence assumed, never designed.
EC SCOPE	Contradicts the ceiling coordination drawing.
GC LOG	RFIs that should have closed in SD.
PUNCHLIST	Owner asks why it doesn't match the render.

They are not interchangeable.

Engineer

Code compliance & technical layout.
Licensed. Code-driven. Not design-led.

Rep

Promotes their own product lines.
Sales-driven. Not project-neutral.

Lighting Designer

System integration. Project-first.
Neutral. Coordinated. Documented.

This is the work that closes the gap.

- Budget anchored to real supplier pricing.
- Lead times in schedule before procurement.
- Controls sequenced before EC is on site.
- Fixtures sized before the ceiling goes in.
- Value engineering done upstream.
- Mock-ups to catch what photometrics miss.

| This is what Illumify is built to deliver.

When lighting is designed properly, every team wins.

ARCHITECT & ID

Your design intent delivered. Not value-engineered.

Materials look exactly as you selected them.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Fewer RFIs. Cleaner handoffs. On schedule.

Lighting coordination resolved before it reaches the field.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Scope you can price with confidence.

Controls, lead times, and shop drawings done upstream.

OWNER / OWNER REP

The space you approved is the space you get.

Budget protected. No surprises at punch list.

Has lighting cost your project?

RFIs, delays, budget surprises -- tell us below.

Drop a comment.

What is your role on the project team?

Where did lighting go wrong?

Follow for more on lighting design
in high-performance projects.