

24 March 2017 · Alan Tulla · All regions

## Lux Recommends - Linear inground uplights

**These recessed fittings are used to illuminate the façade of a building. They are more powerful than the narrow lines of light you sometimes see in outdoor architectural spaces.**

When choosing inground luminaires, there are two crucial aspects you need to consider. Firstly, the fittings have to be solidly manufactured with good seals and joints. These luminaires operate under rougher conditions than most.

They will have people walking on them and, depending on the location, may even be driven over by vehicles. The luminaires must also be vandal resistant.

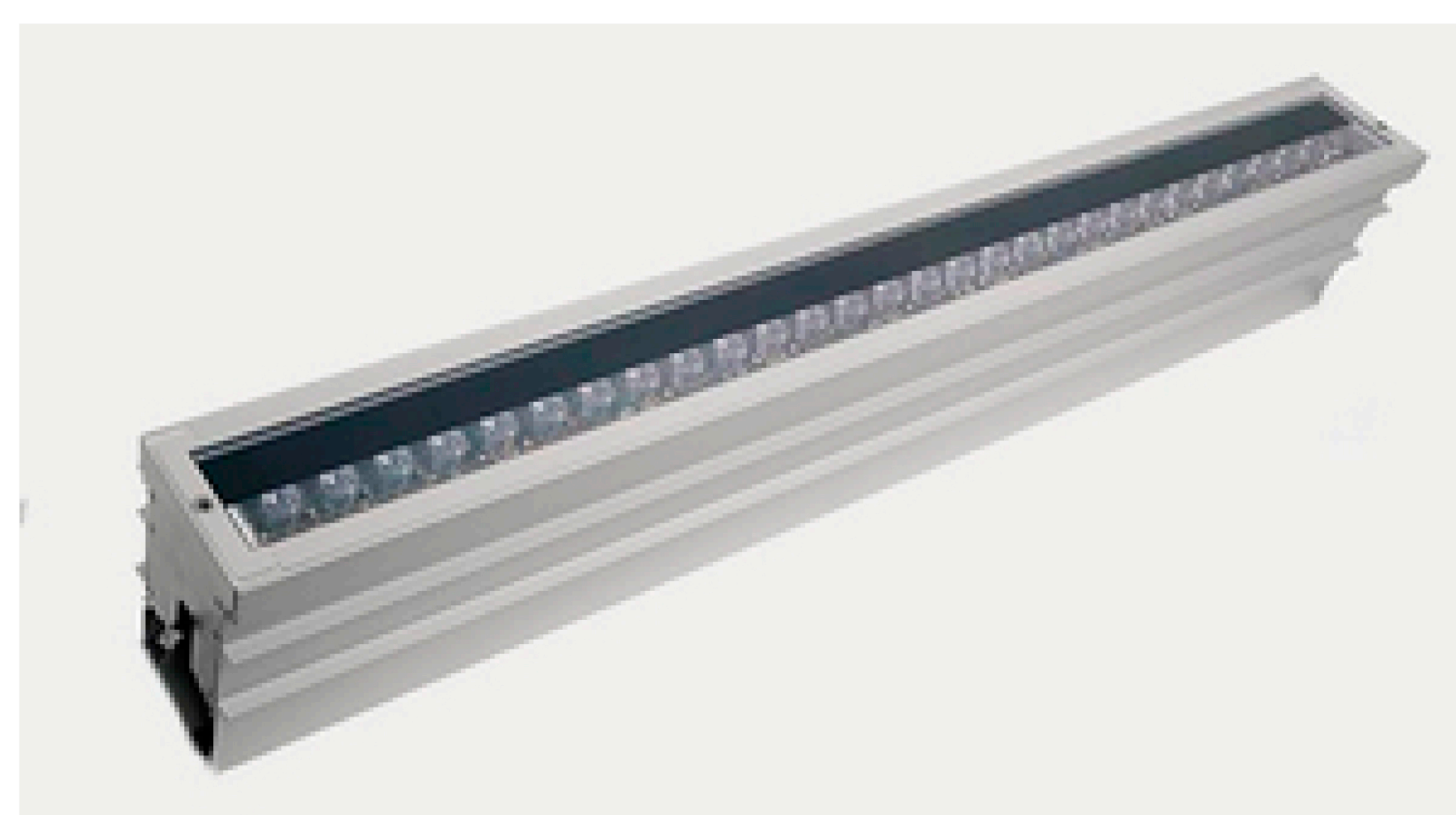
Being flush with the ground, rain water will not naturally run off them and the top surface may be wet for long periods. As such, the luminaires need to be IP67 or IP68. Remember that the cable entry is always under the ground so you need to make sure the gland is properly sealed. The fittings can also experience extremes of temperature; receiving direct sunlight during the day and maybe freezing conditions in winter.

These arduous conditions are maybe why there are far fewer manufacturers of inground units compared with their surface and wall mounted equivalents.

The other aspect is that the luminaires must have good optical control. The reason being is that to achieve the greatest lighting efficiency (lux on the building for the lowest energy consumption) and to minimise upward light pollution, the luminaire needs to direct most of its light on to the face of the building. This means the luminaire must have a range of beam spread options and/or be capable of being aimed or tilted.

One last point about installation is that these luminaires need to be held firmly in the ground and so the manufacturers usually supply a supporting box; often called a blackout. This can be much larger than the luminaire itself. Make sure you have sufficient depth – I once specified this type of luminaire and it broke through to a hidden cellar underneath.

Most of the manufacturers mentioned have a wide range of options. If I haven't mentioned a feature, that doesn't mean it's not available. All the fittings here are well made; it's just a matter of finding what you want.



### LEC Lyon Passy

LEC Lyon have been making LED luminaires for 40 years so they know what they are doing. This is a very versatile unit offering six standard optics (from 6° to 120°) and another seven elliptical. There are five white colour temperatures from 2,200 K to 6,000K plus a range of colours and RGBW.

Depending on the distance away from the building, it is often useful to be able to tilt the beam. In the Passy, the

direction of the beam has a 0° - 20° adjustment so you can direct it exactly where you want. A real benefit of this luminaire over its competitors is that this adjustment can be done without removing the front lens. I.e. there is no risk of breaking the IP68 seal. It also saves a lot of time during the final commissioning.

The construction is also as tough as you can get. The lens is 12mm thick polycarbonate and IK10. The end caps are machined from solid aluminium.

\*\*\*\*\* **Adjustable from the outside**

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