

EPILOGUE

“.... it is up to our engineers and our architects to reveal clearly that the aim of the technical progress is to help the human being in his quest for his autonomy and the fullness of his being.

Jean Fourastié

This book has been written for various reasons.

- In the first place in order to put on record the experience gained in 45 years of looking conscientiously and critically, trying to analyse why the things we see look good or bad.
- Secondly we should like, by this book, to give the technique and the art of lighting the standing and the place it deserves among so many other new technical sciences.
- Finally, we have tried to prove that the human factor is of prime importance when we try to find the optimum visual conditions. This human factor has, hitherto, been sadly neglected, as it has been in many other technical sciences which are too often considered as of a purely physical nature.

It is disappointing to observe that during the sixty years that electric light has so greatly influenced the life of the populations of all developed countries, that influence has been mainly limited to technical matters and economical problems, industrial and commercial.

Other senses such as hearing, smell and taste play a much smaller part in the impressions we get from our environment, but they have had much more attention than seeing, as evidenced by progress in acoustics, air-conditioning and ventilation, and an ever-increasing interest in food: its vital components, international recipes, its influence on our health, and dietary in general. Thorough study of visual perception has only just started!