Put street lights on buildings and service boxes underground

PLACE MAKING

In order to reduce clutter and to fully integrate street lighting into a street scene, street lights can be neatly fixed to buildings. This can be done in a way that also maintains lighting standards and maintenance systems.

The Corporation of London has powers that allow it to fix its lights to buildings instead of columns. This includes brackets, wires, pipes and apparatus as may be "necessary or convenient for lighting the City". Lights, cables and switches are incorporated into the design of the building. Access to the dedicated, cable ducts within the buildings is only needed very occasionally, usually when the cables are renewed. Access to the mains supply fuses, lamp fuses and switches are available from street level at all times.

Wall mounted lighting on historic building

Wall mounted lighting on modern building

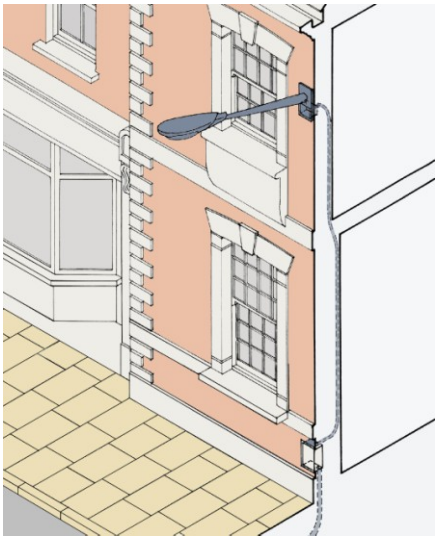
STREET LIGHTS ON BUILDINGS

Elsewhere lighting authorities can fix street lights to buildings with the agreements of owners or in conjunction with planning permissions.

These agreements typically take place at the planning application stage, or as part of an area or street enhancement project. Experience at the City of London and in numerous small scale examples such as at Devizes Market Place, right, suggests that any technical difficulties have been resolved.

Lights are fixed to the buildings so that they respect the architectural style and design of the buildings. Cables are out of sight and switch boxes positioned, often out of sight but in places where they can be easily maintained.

Amenity lamps supplemented by wall lights



Wall lights, hidden ducts, neat control boxes

POP-UP UNDERGROUND SERVICES

Street clutter can be reduced by arranging for equipment that would normally be positioned on pavements, to be located under the ground. The equipment such as a service box or waste collector is only raised above ground level when it needs to be used or maintained. In addition to reducing visual clutter, it can free up areas of valuable pavement.

Technical innovation is required, but the range of applicable equipment is increasing and includes:
Electrical connectors, instead of feeder pillars.
Electricity supply cabinets for street markets, etc. (pictured raised and lowered, left).
Telephone cable cabinets (pictured in use).
Traffic signal control boxes.
Urinals, useful in places which have a different street character in the day and at night.
Waste bins, including the storage of large quantities of separated waste for recycling.

Underground telephone cable cabinet

Electricity supply cabinet for street market