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## Top luminaries gather to discuss the future of lighting

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How much has Thomas Edison's most famous invention changed over the past 150 years or so? And what will it look like tomorrow? Those are the issues that some of lighting's top luminaries – their joke, not mine – discuss each year at the annual LIGHTCongress symposium.



"Light bulbs are getting more energy efficient. They're getting smaller, and they're getting a lot more beautiful," said Jon DiGesú of Osram Sylvania. "Some of the biggest news is the compact fluorescent which saves 75 percent of the energy and lasts 13-times longer. The other big technology move is LED – light emitting diodes – light bulbs are getting tinier and tinier and tinier."

Though we tend to think of lighting as either common convenience or just a pretty accent, there was also lots of discussion on how to use light to improve both mood and even, health.

"We have seen the positive effects of light on populations like Alzheimer's disease patients. We've seen that a couple hours of light in the evening has helped Alzheimer's patients increase their sleep efficiency," said Mariana Figueiro of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Researchers said natural sunlight is the optimal type of light our bodies crave. While artificial lights continue their effort to mimic nature, one company has figured out a way to pipe actual sunlight into a building similar to the way you'd pipe in water.

"We can duct daylight through multiple stories of a building now," said Neall Digert of Solitube International. "We can have modulation using low voltage control systems, so now we can actually control daylight going from 100 percent daylight down to one percent or anywhere in between using a simple wall switch."

Another new trend in lighting is bendable lighting, but could flexible, paper thin lighting be the future of lighting in your home.

CeeLite is LEC technology, that stands for Light Emitting Capacitor, and it's basically the first flexible light bulb," said CeeLite's Gabrielle Santulli. "We can see lighting in flooring, you'll be able to see lighting in ceilings, around columns."

The potential is there to even light your clothing someday.

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