Introduction to the Sundownloader

Chilco Park's Courtyard is almost completely shaded from direct sunlight and is often dank and gloomy.

An exciting new idea being developed in the UK is designed to illuminate shaded courtyards and gardens by redirecting healthy sunlight towards the ground that otherwise only hits the upper northern walls.

This patented idea is called a Sundownloader. It is a convex mirror that looks like a large shiny collar. It is a subtle shape, but the simple idea behind it is to reflect sunlight downwards, no matter where the sun is in the sky. The faces that get light in the morning and evening are steeply angled, as the sun is low. The face that looks south, towards the sun at its highest, has a much shallower angle, only about 23 degrees.

This isn't a moving mirror that tracks the movement of the sun: the Sundownloader always faces the sun and always at the right angle. No cost, no maintenance, no mechanical parts to break or get dirty. Just a little extra sunlight.

It is a convex mirror: so it spreads light out.

A very little extra light can have a great effect on plants and how well they grow, and sunlight is the best light of all, and by far the cheapest: it's free.

Sunlight has an unquantifiable benefit for people; we all feel better and happier if it is sunny.