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(54) **Title:** LED LIGHTING SYSTEMS INCLUDING LUMINESCENT LAYERS ON REMOTE REFLECTORS

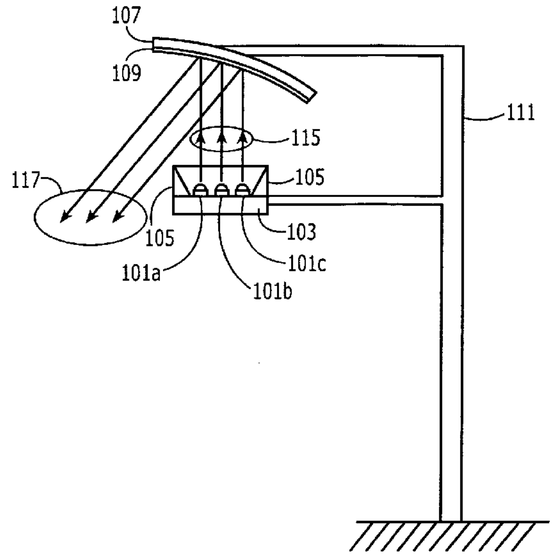

Figure 1

(57) **Abstract:** A lighting system may include a substrate and a light emitting device (LED) on the substrate, and the light emitting device may be configured to transmit light having a first wavelength along a path away from the substrate. A remote reflector may be spaced apart from the light emitting device, and the light emitting device may be between the substrate and the remote reflector. The remote reflector may also be in the path of the light having the first wavelength transmitted by light emitting device. A luminescent layer may be on a surface of the remote reflector, and the luminescent layer may be configured to convert a portion of the light having the first wavelength to light having a second wavelength different than the first wavelength. Moreover, the remote reflector may be configured to reflect light having the first and second wavelengths.

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LED LIGHTING SYSTEMS INCLUDING LUMINESCENT LAYERS ON REMOTE REFLECTORS

Field Of The Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of lighting, and more particularly, to LED lighting systems, reflectors, and methods.

Background

[0002] An incandescent bulb, including a wire filament encased in glass, may emit only about 5% of the energy it consumes as light, with the remaining 95% percent of the energy being wasted as heat. Fluorescent lights may be approximately 4 times more efficient than incandescent bulbs, but may include toxic materials such as mercury vapor. Light emitting diodes may generate light as efficiently as fluorescent lights without the toxic mercury vapor. Light emitting diodes are thus being developed for lighting applications to replace incandescent bulbs and fluorescent lights as discussed, for example, in the article entitled "An Even Brighter Idea" from The Economist Print Edition, September 21, 2006.

[0003] U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0056169 entitled "Light Module Using LED Clusters" (the '169 publication), for example, discusses a streetlight wherein the conventional incandescent light bulb is replaced by sets of light-emitting LED clusters. In the '169 publication, light emitting diodes are mounted in a downward direction in a manner to disperse light directly onto the intended area of the road or street surface.

[0004] Notwithstanding known uses of light emitting diodes to provide lighting, there continues to exist a need in the art for lighting systems providing improved efficiency, brightness, illumination pattern, and/or light color.

Summary

[0005] According to some embodiments of the present invention, a lighting system may include a substrate and a light emitting device (LED) on the substrate, and the light emitting device may be configured to transmit light having a first wavelength along a path away from the substrate. A remote reflector may be

spaced apart from the light emitting device such that the light emitting device is between the substrate and the remote reflector and such that the remote reflector is in the path of the light having the first wavelength transmitted by light emitting device. A luminescent layer on a surface of the remote reflector may be configured to convert a portion of the light having the first wavelength to light having a second wavelength different than the first wavelength, and the remote reflector may be configured to reflect light having the first and second wavelengths. For example, the light having the first wavelength of light may be a blue light, and the light having the second wavelength of light may be a yellow light.

[0006] In addition, a second light emitting device (LED) may be configured to transmit light having a third wavelength different than the first and second wavelengths along a path away from the substrate, and the remote reflector may be spaced apart from the first and second light emitting devices. Moreover, the remote reflector may be in the path of the light having the third wavelength transmitted by the second light emitting device, and the remote reflector may be configured to reflect light having the first, second, and third wavelengths. For example, the light having the first wavelength of light may be a blue light, the light having the second wavelength of light may be a yellow light, and the light having the third wavelength of light may be a red light.

[0007] The remote reflector may include a reflective surface on an opaque support member, and the reflective surface may include a metallic layer such as a layer of silver and/or aluminum. The luminescent layer may include a phosphor material in a translucent and/or transparent binder agent, and the binder agent may include a silicone, an epoxy, and/or a plastic. The phosphor material may include a yttrium-aluminum-garnet (YAG) phosphor material, an oxynitride phosphor material, a nitride phosphor material, and/or a zinc oxide phosphor material.

[0008] The remote reflector may have a concave reflector surface configured to focus the reflected light having the first and second wavelengths. Moreover, the light emitting device may be spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 cm, and more particularly, by a distance of at least about 10 cm.

[0009] In addition, a housing reflector on the substrate may surround the light emitting device, and the housing reflector may be spaced apart from the remote reflector. A second light emitting device may also be provided on the substrate, and the second light emitting device may be configured to transmit light having the first wavelength along a path away from the substrate and toward the luminescent layer and the remote reflector. In a street light application, for example, the light emitting device may be spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 meter, and more particularly, by a distance in the range of about 2 meters to about 3 meters. A spacing of the light emitting device from the reflector surface and/or from the luminescent layer may be a function of, for example, a size of the reflector surface, a curvature of the reflector surface, an area being illuminated, and/or a distance from the reflector to the area being illuminated.

[0010] According to other embodiments of the present invention, a lighting system may include a light emitting device (LED) configured to transmit light having a first wavelength along a path. A remote reflector may be spaced apart from the light emitting device in the path of the light having the first wavelength transmitted by light emitting device. A luminescent layer on a surface of the remote reflector may be configured to convert a portion of the light having the first wavelength to light having a second wavelength different than the first wavelength. Moreover, the remote reflector may be configured to reflect light having the first and second wavelengths, and the light emitting device may be spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 cm. For example, the light having the first wavelength of light may be a blue light, and the light having the second wavelength of light may be a yellow light.

[0011] The light emitting device may be provided on a substrate such that the light emitting device is between the substrate and the remote reflector. In addition, a second light emitting device (LED) may be configured to transmit light having a third wavelength different than the first and second wavelengths. The remote reflector may be spaced apart from the first and second light emitting devices, and the remote reflector may be in a path of the light having the third wavelength transmitted by the second light emitting device. Accordingly, the remote reflector may be configured to reflect light having the first, second, and third wavelengths. For example, the light having the first wavelength of light may be a blue light, the light having the second wavelength of light may be a yellow light, and the light having the third wavelength of light may be a red light.

[0012] The remote reflector may include a reflective surface on an opaque support member, and the reflective surface may include a metallic layer such as a layer of silver and/or aluminum. The luminescent layer may include a phosphor material in a translucent and/or transparent binder agent, and the binder agent may include a silicone, an epoxy, and/or a plastic. The phosphor material may include a yttrium-aluminum-garnet (YAG) phosphor material, an oxynitride phosphor material, a nitride phosphor material, and/or a zinc oxide phosphor material.

[0013] The remote reflector may have a concave reflector surface configured to focus the reflected light having the first and second wavelengths, and the light emitting device may be spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 10 cm. In addition, a housing reflector may be provided around the light emitting device, and the housing reflector may be spaced apart from the remote reflector. A second light emitting device adjacent the first light emitting device may also be configured to transmit light having the first wavelength along a path toward the luminescent layer and the remote reflector.

[0014] According to still other embodiments of the present invention, a lighting system may include a light emitting device (LED) configured to transmit light having a first wavelength along a path and a housing reflector adjacent the light emitting device. A remote reflector may be spaced apart from the light emitting device and from the housing reflector, and the remote reflector may be in the path of the light having the first wavelength transmitted by light emitting device. A luminescent layer may be provided on a surface of the remote reflector between the remote reflector and the housing reflector and between the remote reflector and the light emitting device. The luminescent layer may be configured to convert a portion of the light having the first wavelength to light having a second wavelength different than the first wavelength, and the remote reflector may be configured to reflect light having the first and second wavelengths. For example, the light having the first wavelength of light may be a blue light, and the light having the second wavelength of light may be a yellow light.

[0015] In addition, the light emitting device and the housing reflector may be provided on a substrate between the substrate and the luminescent layer. The remote reflector may include a reflective surface on an opaque support member, and the reflective surface include a metallic layer such as a layer of silver and/or aluminum. The luminescent layer may include a phosphor material in a translucent and/or transparent binder agent, and the binder agent may include a silicone, an epoxy, and/or a plastic. The phosphor material may include a yttrium-aluminum-garnet (YAG) phosphor material, an oxynitride phosphor material, a nitride phosphor material, and/or a zinc oxide phosphor material.

[0016] The remote reflector may include a concave reflector surface configured to focus the reflected light having the first and second wavelengths. The light emitting device may be spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 cm, and more particularly, by a distance of at least about 10 cm. In a street light application, for example, the light emitting device may be spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 meter, and more particularly, by a distance in the range of about 2 meters to about 3 meters. A spacing of the light emitting device from the reflector surface and/or from the luminescent layer may be a function of, for example, a size of the reflector surface, a curvature of the reflector surface, an area being illuminated, and/or a distance from the reflector to the area being illuminated.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

[0017] Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of lighting systems according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0018] Figure 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a reflector with a luminescent layer thereon according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0019] Figure 3 is an enlarged plan view of a substrate with a housing reflector and light emitting devices thereon according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0020] Figures 4A and 4B are perspective views illustrating remote reflectors having concave shapes according to embodiments of the present invention.

Detailed Description

[0021] Embodiments of the present invention now will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout. Dimensions of layers, elements, and structures may be exaggerated for clarity.

[0022] It will be understood that, although the terms first, second, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, these elements should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element from another. For example, a first element could be termed a second element, and, similarly, a second element could be termed a first element, without departing from the scope of the present invention. As used herein, the term "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

[0023] It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, region or substrate is referred to as being "on" or extending "onto" another element, it can be directly on or extend directly onto the other element or intervening elements may also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on" or extending "directly onto" another element, there are no intervening elements present. It will also be understood that when an element is referred to as being "connected" or "coupled" to another element, it can be directly connected or coupled to the other element or intervening elements may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly connected" or "directly coupled" to another element, there are no intervening elements present.

[0024] Relative terms such as "below" or "above" or "upper" or "lower" or "horizontal" or "vertical" may be used herein to describe a relationship of one element, layer or region to another element, layer or region as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that these terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures.

[0025] The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the invention. As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises," "comprising," "includes" and/or "including" when used herein, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

[0026] Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. It will be further understood that terms used herein should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of this specification and the relevant art and will not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein.

[0027] Various embodiments of the present invention including semiconductor light emitting devices will be described herein. As used herein, the term semiconductor light emitting device (LED) may include a light emitting diode, laser diode and/or other semiconductor device which includes one or more semiconductor layers, which may include silicon, silicon carbide, gallium nitride, indium gallium nitride, and/or other semiconductor materials. A light emitting device may or may not include a substrate such as a sapphire, silicon, silicon carbide and/or another microelectronic substrates. A light emitting device may include one or more contact layers which may include metal and/or other conductive layers. In some embodiments, ultraviolet, blue and/or green light emitting diodes may be provided. Red, red-orange, and/or amber LEDs may also be provided. The design and fabrication of semiconductor light emitting devices are well known to those having skill in the art and need not be described in detail herein.

[0028] For example, semiconductor light emitting devices (LEDs) discussed herein may be gallium nitride-based LEDs or lasers fabricated on a silicon carbide substrate such as those devices manufactured and sold by Cree, Inc. of Durham, North Carolina. The present invention may be suitable for use with LEDs and/or lasers as described in United States Patent Nos. 6,201,262; 6,187,606; 6,120,600; 5,912,477; 5,739,554; 5,631,190; 5,604,135; 5,523,589; 5,416,342; 5,393,993; 5,338,944; 5,210,051; 5,027,168; 4,966,862 and/or 4,918,497, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth fully herein. Other suitable LEDs and/or lasers are described in published U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2003/0006418 A1 entitled Group III Nitride Based Light Emitting Diode Structures With a Quantum Well and Superlattice, Group III Nitride Based Quantum Well Structures and Group III Nitride Based Superlattice Structures, published January 9, 2003, as well as published U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0123164 A1 entitled Light Emitting Diodes Including Modifications for Light Extraction and

Manufacturing Methods Therefor, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein in their entirety by reference. Furthermore, phosphor coated LEDs, such as those described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0056260 A1, entitled Phosphor-Coated Light Emitting Diodes Including Tapered Sidewalls and Fabrication Methods Therefor, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein as if set forth fully, may also be suitable for use in embodiments of the present invention. The LEDs and/or lasers may be configured to operate such that light emission occurs through the substrate. In such embodiments, the substrate may be patterned so as to enhance light output of the devices as is described, for example, in the above-cited U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0123164 A1.

[0029] Referring to the embodiments of FIGS. 1 and 3, substrate **103** (also referred to as a submount) may include a printed circuit board (PCB) substrate, an aluminum block substrate, an alumina substrate, an aluminum nitride substrate, a sapphire substrate, and/or a silicon substrate, and/or any other suitable substrate material, such as a T-Clad thermal clad insulated substrate material, available from The Bergquist Company of Chanhassen, MN. A PCB substrate may include standard FR-4 PCB, a metal-core PCB, flex tape, and/or any other type of printed circuit board.

[0030] According to some embodiments of the present invention, a lighting system may include a plurality of light emitting devices (LEDs) **101a-c** mounted on a substrate **103** and surrounded by a housing reflector **105** on the substrate **103** as shown in Figure 1. Moreover, each of the light emitting devices (LEDs) **101a-c** may be configured to transmit light along a respective path(s) **115** away from the substrate. As further shown in Figure 1, a remote reflector **107** may be spaced apart from the light emitting devices **101a-c**, and the light emitting devices **101a-c** may be between the substrate **103** and the remote reflector **107**. Moreover, the remote reflector **107** may be in the path(s) **115** of the light transmitted by the light emitting devices **101a-c**.

[0031] At least one of the light emitting devices **101a-c** may be configured to transmit light having a first wavelength, and a luminescent layer **109** may be provided on a surface of the remote reflector **107**. More particularly, the luminescent layer **109** may be configured to convert a portion of the light having the first wavelength to light having a second wavelength different than the first wavelength, and the remote reflector **107** may be configured to reflect light having the first and second wavelengths. For example, the light emitting device **101a** may be configured to transmit blue light, and the luminescent layer **109** may include a yellow phosphor so that yellow light from the yellow phosphor and blue light from the light emitting device **101a** reflect off the remote reflector **107** and combine in the target direction **117** to provide white light transmitted in the target direction **117**.

[0032] The luminescent layer **109** may thus be remote from the light emitting device(s) **101a-c** so that the luminescent layer **109** and the light emitting device(s) **101a-c** are separated, for example, by a gap filled with gas, a vacuum gap, and/or a light transmissive material (such as glass). By providing the luminescent layer **109** on the remote reflector **107**, separated from the light emitting device(s) **101a-c** and from the housing reflector **105**, an efficiency of transmission/reflection of the light having the second wavelength (i.e., light converted by the luminescent layer **109**) in the target direction **117** may be improved.

[0033] While a plurality of light emitting devices **101a-c** are shown in Figure 1 by way of example, embodiments of the present invention may be provided with only a single light emitting device transmitting light having the first wavelength (such as LED **101a** transmitting blue light). If a second light emitting device (such as LED **101b**) is included, the second light emitting device **101b** may be configured to transmit light having a third wavelength different than the first and second wavelengths along a path away from the substrate **103**. With first and second light emitting devices **101a-b** transmitting different wavelengths of light, the remote reflector **107** is in the path(s) **115** of the light transmitted by the first and second light emitting devices **101a-b**. Accordingly, the remote reflector is **107** is configured to reflect light having the first, second, and third wavelengths in the target direction **117**.

[0034] For example, the light emitting device **101a** may be configured to transmit blue light, and the luminescent layer **109** may include a yellow phosphor so that white light is reflected off the reflector **107** in the target direction **117** as discussed above. In addition, the light emitting device **101b** may be configured to transmit red light that is reflected off the reflector **107** in the target direction to provide "warmth" to the white light provided by combining the blue and yellow light. Moreover, multiple blue light emitting devices and/or multiple red light emitting devices may be provided to increase an intensity of blue and/or red light transmitted to the luminescent layer **109** and the reflector **107**, and/or light emitting devices configured to transmit light of other colors (wavelengths) may be provided in addition to or instead of blue and/or red. In addition, the luminescent layer **109** may include phosphors generating light having a color(s) other than yellow and/or the luminescent layer **109** may include a plurality of different phosphors generating a plurality of different colors.

[0035] A third light emitting device (such as LED **101c**) on the substrate **103**, for example, may be configured to transmit light having the first wavelength along a path away from the substrate **103** and toward the luminescent layer **109** and the remote reflector **107**. While three light emitting devices are shown in Figure 1 by way of example, any number of light emitting devices may be used. For example, only a single light emitting device transmitting light having the first wavelength may be used. Moreover, multiple light emitting devices transmitting the first wavelength may be used to increase an intensity of light of the first and second wavelengths. In addition or in an alternative, one or more light emitting devices may be provided transmitting light having a wavelength(s) different than the first wavelength.

[0036] As shown in Figure 1, the housing reflector **101** may be provided on the substrate **103** surrounding the light emitting devices **101a-c**, and inner surfaces of the housing reflector **101** may be angled to direct light from the light emitting devices **101a-c** toward the remote reflector **107**. Moreover, the housing reflector **105** may be spaced apart from the remote reflector **107** and from the luminescent layer **109** as shown in Figure 1.

[0037] An enlarged plan view (taken from a direction of the reflector **107** back toward the light emitting devices **101a-c**) of the housing reflector **105** and light emitting devices **101a-c** on the substrate **103** according to some embodiments of the present invention is provided in Figure 3. As shown in Figure 3, the housing reflector **105** may surround the light emitting devices, and additional light emitting devices **101d-e** (not shown in the cross-section of Figure 1) may be included. The substrate **103** may include electrical couplings between the light emitting devices **101a-e** and a power source(s) on the substrate **103** and/or on the support structure **111**. The substrate **103**, for example, may include a printed circuit board.

[0038] While the path(s) **115** of light transmitted by the light emitting devices **101a-c** are illustrated in Figure 1 as being substantially perpendicular with respect to the substrate **103**, it will be understood that each of the light emitting devices **101a-c** may transmit light in a hemispheric or quasi-hemispheric pattern from directions substantially parallel with respect to the substrate **103** to directions substantially perpendicular with respect to the substrate **103** and directions therebetween. By providing the housing reflector **105**, more light from the light emitting devices **101a-c** may be directed to the remote reflector **107** to direct more light more efficiently in the target direction(s) **117** and to reduce potential light emission in other directions, which may be wasted and/or otherwise undesired (*e.g.*, as light pollution). Moreover, a height of the housing reflector **105** relative to the substrate **103** may be greater than a height of the light emitting devices **101a-c** relative to the substrate **103** to reduce loss of light and/or light pollution in a direction parallel to a surface of the substrate **103**.

[0039] According to some embodiments of the present invention, the housing reflector **105** and the substrate **103** may be separately formed and then assembled, and/or the housing reflector **105** may be formed on the substrate **103**. According to other embodiments of the present invention, the housing reflector **105** and the substrate **103** may be formed together as a single unit. According to still other embodiments of the present invention, the substrate **103** may be provided as a part of the support structure **111**. According to yet other embodiments of the present invention, the housing reflector **105** may be omitted, and/or the light emitting devices **101a-c** may be provided in recesses of the substrate **103**.

[0040] As further shown in Figure 1, a support structure **111** may be used to maintain a desired orientation of the substrate **103** and light emitting devices **101a-c** thereon relative to the remote reflector **107**. Moreover, the support structure **111** may be configured to maintain the remote reflector **107** and the light emitting devices **101a-c** in an orientation to direct light reflected from the remote reflector **107** in a target direction(s) **117**. A coupling between the remote reflector **107** and the support structure **111** and/or a coupling between the substrate **103** and the support structure **111** may be adjustable to provide different target direction(s) **117** and/or to provide a wider or narrower focus of light transmitted in the target direction(s) **117**. The support structure **111**, for example, may include a pole of a street light to elevate the remote reflector **107** 10 feet or more off the ground, a base of a lamp to elevate the remote reflector **107** one to three feet off a table or desk, a base of a pole lamp to elevate the remote reflector **107** 4 to 7 feet off a floor. According to other embodiments of the present invention, the structure of Figure 1 may be configured to provide track lighting so that the support structure **111** is mounted to a ceiling or a wall with the target direction **117** directed down (for direct lighting), up (for indirect lighting), or any direction therebetween.

[0041] As shown in Figure 2, the remote reflector **107** may include a reflective surface **121** on an opaque support member **123**, and the luminescent layer **109** may be provided on the reflective surface **121**. More particularly, the reflective surface **121** may include a metallic layer, such as a layer of silver and/or aluminum. The luminescent layer **109** may include a phosphor material in a translucent and/or transparent binder agent. More particularly, the binder agent may include a silicone, an epoxy, and/or a plastic, and the phosphor material may include a yttrium-aluminum-garnet (YAG) phosphor material, an oxynitride phosphor material, a nitride phosphor material, and/or a zinc oxide phosphor material. According to some embodiments of the present invention, the luminescent layer **109** may include YAG and red phosphors. The support member **123** may be "optically black" so that any light transmitted through the reflective surface **121** may be blocked from transmission through the support member **107**.

[0042] As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the remote reflector **107** may have a concave reflector surface configured to focus the reflected light having the first and second wavelengths. With a concave shape, portions of the concave reflector surface may be symmetric about a point (for example, providing a spheroidal, paraboloidal, and/or hyperboloidal shape) and/or portions of the concave reflector surface may be symmetric about a line (for example, providing a cylindrical shape). While concave reflectors are discussed by way of example, the remote reflector **107** may have other reflector surface shapes (such as flat and/or convex) according to other embodiments of the present invention.

[0043] Examples of remote reflector shapes are illustrated in Figures 4A and 4B. Figure 4A illustrates a remote reflector **107'** (including support member **123'** and reflective surface **121'**) with a luminescent layer **109'** thereon, wherein the remote reflector **107'** has a shape that is symmetric about a line (such as a cylindrical shape). Figure 4B illustrates a remote reflector **107"** (including support member **123"** and reflective surface **121"**) with a luminescent layer **109"** thereon, wherein the remote reflector **107"** has a shape that is symmetric about a point (such as a spheriodal shape.) The support members, reflective surfaces, and luminescent layers of Figures 4A and 4B may be provided as discussed above with respect to Figures 1 and 2. Moreover, the reflector **107** of Figure 1 may be provided having shapes as illustrated for example in Figure 4A or Figure 4B, or the reflector **107** of Figure 1 may be provided having other shapes.

[0044] While not shown in Figure 1, the light emitting devices **101a-c**, the housing reflector **105**, the remote reflector **107**, and/or the luminescent layer **109** and/or portions thereof may be shielded and/or protected from an external environment. For example, an encapsulant such as a transparent epoxy, plastic, and/or silicone layer may be provided on the light emitting devices **101a-c** and/or on the housing reflector **105**. In addition or in an alternative, the light emitting devices **101a-c**, the housing reflector **105**, the luminescent layer, and the remote mirror **107** may be enclosed with a transparent window allowing transmission of the output light in the target direction **117**.

[0045] According to embodiments of the present invention, structures illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 may be scaled in size to provide lighting systems for different applications. For example, the light emitting device(s) **101a-c** may be spaced apart from the reflector surface **107** and from the luminescent layer **109** by a distance (e.g., in a direction along light path(s) **115**) in the range of about 1 cm to about 10 cm or greater in a desk lamp. In an alternative, the light emitting device(s) **101a-c** may be spaced apart from the reflector surface **107** and from the luminescent layer **109** by a distance in the range of about 10 cm to about 300 cm or greater in a street light. With a greater separation between the light emitting device(s) **101a-c** and the remote reflector **107**, a reflective surface area of the remote reflector may increase. In a street light application, for example, the light emitting device may be spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 meter, and more particularly, by a distance in the range of about 2 meters to about 3 meters. A spacing of the light emitting device from the reflector surface and/or from the luminescent layer may be a function of, for example, a size of the reflector surface, a curvature of the reflector surface, an area being illuminated, and/or a distance from the reflector to the area being illuminated.

[0046] While not shown in Figure 2, the remote reflector **107** may include one or more additional layers such as a diffusion layer, a scattering layer, and/or a clear protective layer. A diffusion and/or a scattering layer may be provided between the luminescent layer **109** and the reflective surface **121**, and/or on the luminescent layer **109** opposite the reflective surface **121**. A protective layer may be provided on the luminescent layer **109** opposite the reflective surface **121**.

[0047] In the drawings and specification, there have been disclosed typical embodiments of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims.

That Which Is Claimed Is:

1. A lighting system comprising:

a light emitting device (LED) configured to transmit light having a first wavelength along a path;

a remote reflector spaced apart from the light emitting device wherein the remote reflector is in the path of the light having the first wavelength transmitted by light emitting device; and

a luminescent layer on a surface of the remote reflector, wherein the luminescent layer is configured to convert a portion of the light having the first wavelength to light having a second wavelength different than the first wavelength, and wherein the remote reflector is configured to reflect light having the first and second wavelengths.

2. A lighting system according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a second light emitting device (LED) configured to transmit light having a third wavelength different than the first and second wavelengths along a path, wherein the remote reflector is spaced apart from the first and second light emitting devices, and wherein the remote reflector is in the path of the light having the third wavelength transmitted by the second light emitting device.

3. A lighting system according to Claim 2 wherein the remote reflector is configured to reflect light having the first, second, and third wavelengths.

4. A lighting system according to Claim 1 wherein the remote reflector includes a reflective surface on an opaque support member.

5. A lighting system according to Claim 4 wherein the reflective surface comprises a metallic layer.

6. A lighting system according to Claim 5 wherein the metallic layer comprises a layer of silver and/or aluminum.

7. A lighting system according to Claim 1 wherein the luminescent layer comprises a phosphor material in a translucent and/or transparent binder agent.

8. A lighting system according to Claim 7 wherein the binder agent comprises a silicone, an epoxy, and/or a plastic.

9. A lighting system according to Claim 7 wherein the phosphor material comprises a yttrium-aluminum-garnet (YAG) phosphor material, an oxynitride phosphor material, a nitride phosphor material, and/or a zinc oxide phosphor material.

10. A lighting system according to Claim 1 wherein the remote reflector comprises a concave reflector surface configured to focus the reflected light having the first and second wavelengths.

11. A lighting system according to Claim 1 wherein the light emitting device is spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 cm.

12. A lighting system according to Claim 1 wherein the light emitting device is spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 10 cm.

13. A lighting system according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a housing reflector surrounding the light emitting device wherein the housing reflector is spaced apart from the remote reflector.

14. A lighting system according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a second light emitting device configured to transmit light having the first wavelength along a path toward the luminescent layer and the remote reflector.

15. A lighting system according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a substrate wherein the light emitting device (LED) is on the substrate and wherein the light emitting device is between the substrate and the remote reflector.

16. A lighting system comprising:

a light emitting device (LED) configured to transmit light having a first wavelength along a path;

a remote reflector spaced apart from the light emitting device wherein the remote reflector is in the path of the light having the first wavelength transmitted by light emitting device; and

a luminescent layer on a surface of the remote reflector, wherein the luminescent layer is configured to convert a portion of the light having the first wavelength to light having a second wavelength different than the first wavelength, wherein the remote reflector is configured to reflect light having the first and second wavelengths and wherein the light emitting device is spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 cm.

17. A lighting system according to Claim 16 further comprising:

a substrate, wherein the light emitting device is on the substrate such that the light emitting device is between the substrate and the remote reflector.

18. A lighting system according to Claim 16 further comprising:

a second light emitting device (LED) configured to transmit light having a third wavelength different than the first and second wavelengths, wherein the remote reflector is spaced apart from the first and second light emitting devices, and wherein the remote reflector is in a path of the light having the third wavelength transmitted by the second light emitting device.

19. A lighting system according to Claim 16 wherein the light emitting device is spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 10 cm.

20. A lighting system according to Claim 16 further comprising:

a housing reflector around the light emitting device and wherein the housing reflector is spaced apart from the remote reflector.

21. A lighting system according to Claim 16 further comprising:

a second light emitting device adjacent the first light emitting device wherein the second light emitting device is configured to transmit light having the first wavelength along a path toward the luminescent layer and the remote reflector.

22. A lighting system comprising:

a light emitting device (LED) configured to transmit light having a first wavelength along a path;

a housing reflector adjacent the light emitting device;

a remote reflector spaced apart from the light emitting device and from the housing reflector, wherein the remote reflector is in the path of the light having the first wavelength transmitted by light emitting device; and

a luminescent layer on a surface of the remote reflector, wherein the luminescent layer is between the remote reflector and the housing reflector and between the remote reflector and the light emitting device, wherein the luminescent layer is configured to convert a portion of the light having the first wavelength to light having a second wavelength different than the first wavelength, and wherein the remote reflector is configured to reflect light having the first and second wavelengths.

23. A lighting system according to Claim 22 further comprising:

a substrate, wherein the light emitting device and the housing reflector are on the substrate between the substrate and the luminescent layer.

24. A lighting system according to Claim 22 wherein the light emitting device is spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 1 cm.

25. A lighting system according to Claim 22 wherein the light emitting device is spaced apart from the reflector surface and from the luminescent layer by a distance of at least about 10 cm.

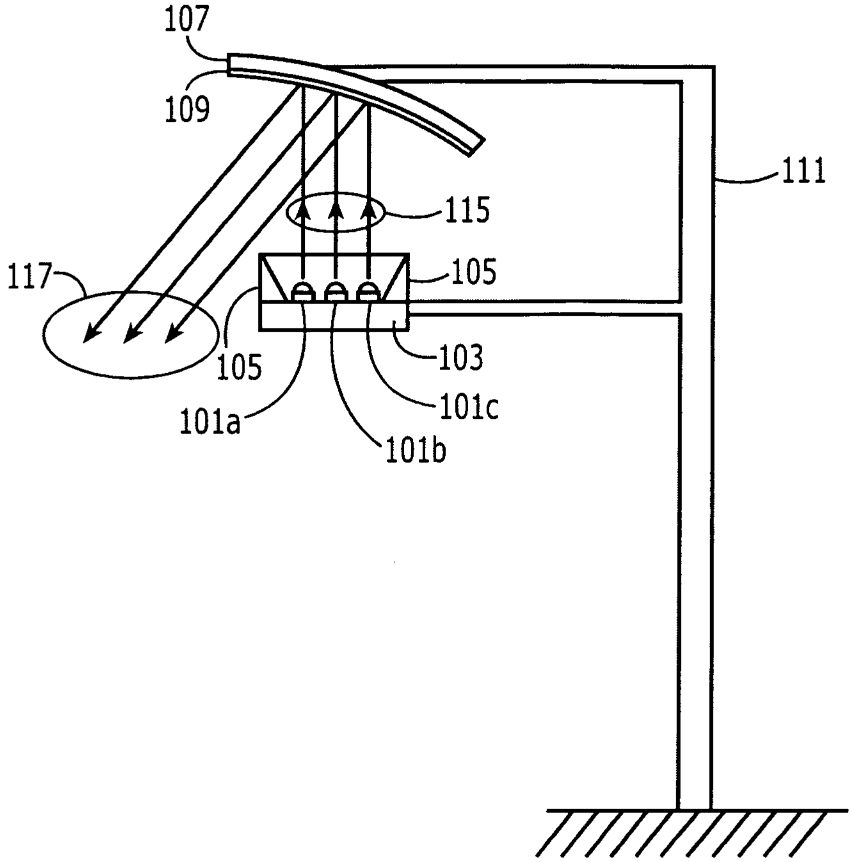

Figure 1

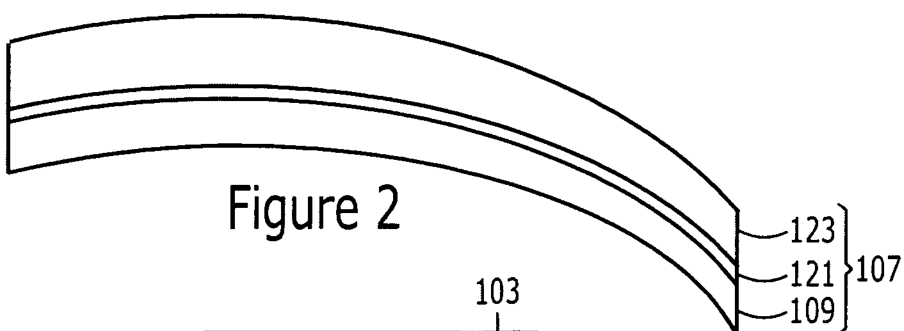

Figure 2

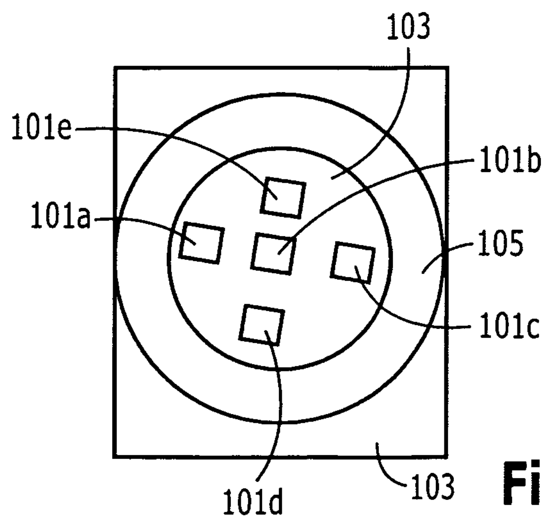

Figure 3

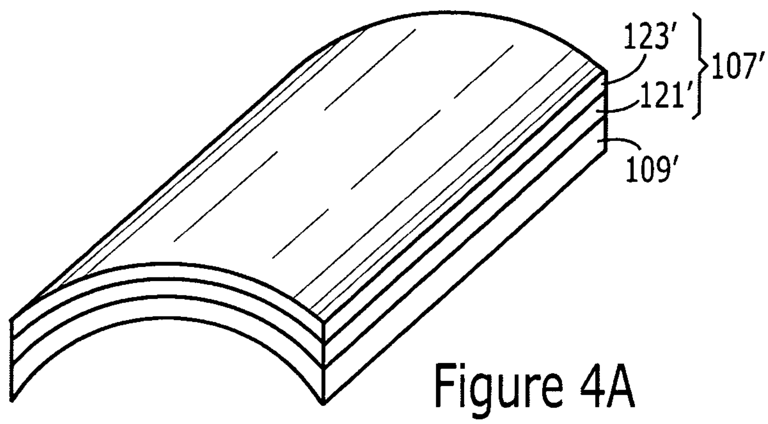

Figure 4A

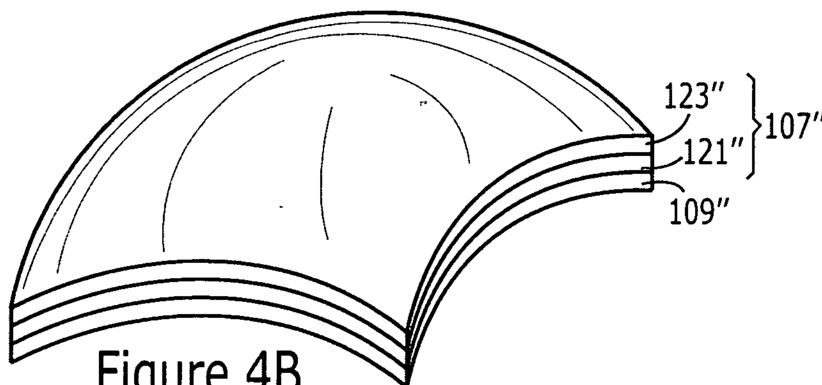

Figure 4B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2008/002234

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. F21V7/22 F21V9/16 F21V7/00
ADD. F21Y101/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
F21V

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
15 July 2008	23/07/2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Prévot, Eric

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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