



Proper lighting makes it easier to enjoy our homes by creating the right ambience. Knowing which style and type of light and its location will make a significant difference to your home's overall appeal. Worcestershire interior designer, Elaine Lewis, offers up top tips and 2017 trends for lighting your perfect home



Have you ever walked into a room, looked in a mirror and thought, 'Wow, I look good' . . . and then turned round and noticed that everyone else looked fabulous too? Lighting is the 'magic dust' of interior design and should never be overlooked. Incorporating lighting into your home defines the mood of the space and the definition of its usage; and it has a huge impact on perception.

Layer the lighting

If you play by the rule that you layer at least three types of light in every room, you can't go far wrong. Start with ambient lighting, which fills the room and usually bounces off the ceiling, softening the shadows on people's faces. It is akin to the daylight that travels through windows and doors, which flows naturally into a

room. This form of indirect light makes people feel comfortable and gives a sense of warmth.

Remember then to add in at least two other light sources in the form of lamps, task lighting, floor lamps, picture lights, cabinet lighting or just some simple uplighters to give warmth and glow to a favourite ornament in the corner of a room.

Choose the right task lighting

Anything that requires a certain amount of concentration, such as cooking, reading or illuminating your work space, benefits hugely from the correct amount of task lighting. In kitchens, these lights are generally found under the cabinets, lighting up the work space where you prepare food. In a bedroom, it takes the form of being by the bed for late night readers or over a desk when it's time to work. In bathrooms, it is frequently on either side of the bathroom mirror, illuminating the space for careful make-up application or shaving.

As you design and build your home, go room by room and consider what 'tasks' you're likely to accomplish in each, then

Top: Toronto pendant. Image courtesy of The Lite Spot.
Above: Lighting collections. Image courtesy of Still View Photography.
Next page left: Give your home the 'wow factor' with a chandelier.
Next page middle: Copper easy fits and table lamps. Image courtesy of The Lite Spot.
Next page right: Candles, courtesy of Still View Photography.



'live a life less ordinary'

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Chandeliers, pendants, wall sconces, lanterns, and bath and ceiling lights, are all designed and crafted to take you to the cutting edge of interior design.

Wire mesh cages, like geometric light fittings, are especially on-trend right now, as are sophisticated chandeliers with rustic frames and bronze hardware that

contrasts with beautifully shaped shades.

choose your lighting appropriately, remembering that most rooms serve more than one function; so once again, make sure you layer your light sources.

Give your home a little bling

Decorative lighting is exactly that. It is designed to provide a decorative visual statement for a space, setting the mood and drawing people in. It is the architectural jewellery, the ‘wow’ chandelier above the dining table or at the top of a staircase that forms an eye-catching fixture hovering indiscreetly in its true beauty and form. It does not necessarily provide the kind of light by which to perform tasks, but certainly tells the world what kind of family live there and what story they are trying to tell.

Pick the right accents

Just about every room has something worthy of a spot light. Possibly a piece of art you’ve acquired, a sculpture or collection of glassware. Whatever it is, accent lighting can help you draw attention to it. While it certainly highlights objects, accent lighting also creates depth and dimension, providing an extra special ‘layer of light’ to a room. Usually this type of lighting is adjustable, giving you a certain degree of flexibility, such as track and recessed lighting, but the trick is to use it sparingly as filling a room with too many ‘special’ highlights will ensure they quickly lose their sparkle. Instead, use your accent lighting to draw the eye towards your most extraordinary pieces.

2017 TRENDS

Geometric shapes

Whether they’re hexagonal, cylindrical or spherical, geometric shapes are the current lighting trend. Lighting designers are adding clever twists to familiar geometric patterns and incorporating these in new and exciting ways.

Another big light fitting trend for 2017 is to mix your metals, incorporating multiple tones of distressed gold, black, silver and bronze.

Smart LED

Clever LED bulbs, introduced in 2016, have some great features. The colour of the light they emit can be changed and some even have built-in audio speakers.

Retro

Much of today’s interior design incorporates retro and vintage elements, so it is no surprise it has been carried through to lighting. Adding an Edison-style bulb or two brings character to blend perfectly with any setting.

LED lighting

2017 is believed to be the year that sees most people switch to LED lighting. It is far superior to other bulbs, being long lasting, environmentally friendly and incredibly energy efficient.

Lastly, remember there are never any set rules in design, just guidelines to help you create a home you can love and enjoy. ●

Elaine Lewis has been professionally styling residential and commercial interiors for over a decade. She lives in Malvern with her family. See ► www.elainelewisdesigns.co.uk for more information. Follow her on [Instagram.com/elainelewisdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/elainelewisdesigns) and [Facebook.com/elainelewisdesigns](https://www.facebook.com/elainelewisdesigns)

