

The Essence of Lighting Design

Lighting design is arguably the most overlooked aspect of interior decoration; quite often an enthusiastic home decorator will ignore the integration of lighting until toward the end of their project and thus miss the opportunity to create an ambience of illumination to complement their newly decorated home.

The greatest challenge faced by the interior designer when attempting to exploit a living space by the use of lighting is that of balance. Whilst discrete lighting may accent the subtleties of the decoration it will generally not provide sufficient lighting for a workspace and a compromise needs to be found; this can be achieved by the use of the three major types of lighting in harmony.

The first type of lighting is known as Ambient lighting and provides an overall or background light which will define the space and make the area safe and easy to move around in. Accent lighting is the second type; it is used to highlight features or objects and draw the eye. Lastly we have Task lighting; as the name implies, this type of lighting is used to illuminate work areas such as a kitchen worktop or an office desk.

By considering these lighting types at the outset of a decorating project, and how they can be used to enhance your living space you will be able to achieve far more effective results. Artists and movie directors have always known that the secret to the perfect scene is lighting, your home can benefit in a similar fashion.