



Designer FYI

By Kris Linder

How lighting colors your palette

Whether using wallpaper or paint for your wall color, a home's lighting design is crucial in determining how those colors will appear. Nothing has greater impact on a space than lighting, because illumination affects us on many levels. How a room is lighted influences the appearance, tone and impression of every single object or space, and can make or break the overall ambiance of any interior. With that in mind, let's look at how to approach your lighting requirements.

All too often, people add lighting as an afterthought, after the architecture has been laid out and construction has begun, and this is a huge mistake. Along with the many other design components, lighting needs to be considered at the beginning of the design process.

Many new technologies have emerged during the past decade, making the fundamentals of lighting design more important. In the past, who needed a lighting expert when the only thing available was a ceiling socket and a light bulb? Today, however, the range of choices is truly mind-boggling.

When discussing lighting, you may hear about a light source's "color temperature." This refers to the perceived warmth or coolness of the light. For instance, daylight is considered to be slightly cool, while incandescent light (the household lightbulb) is considered to be slightly warm. Using cool light can help make blues and greens appear more intense, while warm light can enhance reds and yellows in a room.

Codes in many cities require the use of fluorescent lighting as the main source for kitchens and bathrooms. Many people cringe when they hear the word fluorescent, but today's advancements in the lighting industry have produced fluorescent bulbs that come in variety of color temperatures, from warm white to cool. There are also decorative lenses that go over fluorescent lights and can produce a nice "skylight" effect, where one cannot see the bulbs.

Inside the home, create an inviting atmosphere by layering the light. Layered lighting is the new trend in home decor. It is not uncommon to have multiple switches and dimmers for all ceiling cans, chandeliers, sconces and under-cabinet lighting. This allows you to set the mood for the room.

Whether it's warm, cool, natural or artificial, making the right lighting design choices can dramatically affect not just the look of the space, but also the way you function within that space. ↑

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