



Pendants offer the opportunity to choose eye-catching lampshades that will create a decorative synergy with the rest of a scheme. Special edition Scallop Wood pendants, £390 each, David Munt Lighting
RIGHT In this Grade I* listed property, warm LED lighting has been chosen by K&S Lighting Designers to highlight the building's architectural details.

Planning a LIGHTING SCHEME

Good lighting throughout the home is not only a practical necessity but also makes textures interesting, enlivens colours and creates mood and atmosphere. Our guide outlines key considerations and design options

Without well-designed lighting, even the most exquisite home will look dull and lifeless. As Lee Lovett, founder of the *Soho Lighting Company*, says: "Lighting has the power to ignite an interior design scheme. It can totally change the feel of a space by means of the colour temperature, brightness or clarity." Planning a permanent lighting scheme - which includes not only ceiling and wall lighting but also sockets and switches in the right places - can be a complex process, with many factors to take into consideration, both functional and aesthetic, from the positioning of a ceiling pendant to the choice of dimmable bulb. By focusing on the main features, and adding ambient light, it is possible to create layers of light, contrasting brightness and shadow. Which, says Sally Storey, creative director of *John Cullen Lighting*, "is the magic of light."

First steps

In an ideal world, lighting should always be planned in detail at the outset of any building or renovation project. Hollie Moreland, creative director of *David Hunt Lighting*, advises giving lighting the same importance as selecting kitchen units or bathroom fittings, and prioritising it well before any decorative finishes are installed. "My top tip is that, if in doubt, put more lighting in. It makes life much easier if you over-specify than under-specify," she says.

Start by considering the various uses of each space at different times of the day. Ally Dowsing-Reynolds, CEO at home decor brand and lighting specialist *Dowsing & Reynolds*, says: "Create a list of what's involved in your daily routine and you'll get a good picture. For example, you might need a kitchen for working in during the day, and for cooking and catching up with the family in the evening, so it would be best to plan lighting for multi-use."

Experts advise including a mix of the three types of illumination: ambient lighting for general illumination, task lighting for specific activities, such as reading, chopping vegetables or working, and accent lighting that focuses on specific features, such as a work of art or vase of flowers. This can be achieved using a wide variety of fittings, including downlights, uplights,

spotlights, wall and floor washers, LED strips, picture lights, pendants, table lamps and floor lamps. This layering effect from multiple light sources is practical and flexible, and also offers an appealing visual impact.

At the initial planning stage it is, of course, essential to request input from a qualified electrician and/or lighting designer. Even basic schemes are likely to need checking over, while more complex requirements, such as additional circuits (perhaps 5-amp outlets that control plugged-in lamps via a wall-mounted light switch) and pre-set 'scenes' with dimming and multiple controls, will definitely need technical expertise. Electricians must have certification from the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC), and new work should comply with Building Regulations (find more information on the Planning Portal). ▶

ABOVE LEFT John Cullen Lighting's Wallace picture light provides an even distribution of light. A high colour rendering index (CRI) of 97 ensures a painting's true colours are seen at night.

LEFT An Edwardian-style lantern brings classic charm and a warm, welcoming light to an entrance hall in a period home. *Fyfield brass lantern, £713, Vaughan*



For bedside lighting, low-hung pendants are an alternative to table lamps. In this room by NO Studios, the lights are Mezzo pendants, with an Italian retro feel, from CTO Lighting.

Key considerations

One of the first things to think about when planning a lighting scheme is the positioning of fittings, switches and also the sockets that will be needed to plug in decorative lamps.

With a good idea of how each room will be used, the features to be highlighted and a plan of where furnishings will be placed, it should be possible to work out where light is needed most. Consider what is being lit and that will lead to where the fitting should be (not necessarily symmetrical within the ceiling, says Storey) and where sockets should be positioned – with a failsafe option of double sockets in the corners of each wall.

Interestingly, lighting style is moving away from central pendants or chandeliers in favour of wall lights supplemented by table lamps, perhaps with the addition of slim LED strip lighting concealed within coving. Conversely, in bedrooms, low-hanging pendants above bedside tables, in place of conventional table lamps, are becoming more popular.

For architectural lighting, the illumination provided is key, while the fitting itself is usually invisible, tucked within coving, behind battens and under shelving, which has become more easily achieved in recent years with the development of increasingly tiny LEDs. ▶

BELOW CENTRE A floor lamp with a curved arm set next to an armchair is a simple and elegant task lighting solution. Hugo floor lamp with Hugo Fez custom lampshade, £1,395, Porta Romana

BELOW RIGHT The leaf motif on this light is inspired by archive pieces but the modern design creates a striking interplay with traditional furnishings. Bramshaw chandelier, £3,440, Vaughan



This sculptural uplighter is cast in Hercules, a durable plaster with an atmospheric patina. Scallop Shell wall light, £4,524, Cox London



OUR LIGHTING EXPERTS

Leading designers share their advice on how to create the best lighting schemes



Ally Dowsing-Reynolds, Dowsing & Reynolds



Hollie Moreland, David Hunt Lighting



Lee Lovett, Soho Lighting Co



Margit Wittig, lighting and furniture designer



Sally Storey, John Cullen Lighting



Kate and Sam, K&S Lighting Designs

ABOVE LEFT A dramatic focal point, the Elowen chandelier by designer Margit Wittig and Studio Peake, in brass, epoxy resin and glass, is crafted by hand in bespoke colours, and costs from £20,800.

LEFT A combination of eye-catching pendants and wall lights can work well in hallways. These pendants are in a shape reminiscent of the 1930s skyscrapers. Tiered lights, from £635, Rothschild & Bickers



Design details

Choosing the right decorative fitting for the right place involves many considerations, including size, shape, style and material. Some of these may depend on what works best in terms of the architectural style and existing or proposed decorative scheme, others will simply be personal preference, but there are technical aspects, too. "Consider the size of the lighting piece in balance with ceiling height, room size or table surface, and always take advice on lampshade proportions," says designer Margit Wittig. Kate Wilkins of K&S Lighting Designers advises choosing glass fittings for maximum illumination and linen or silk shades for soft, flattering lighting, while Moreland points out that a shade with a white laminate or reflective silver lining will provide bright, cool light, whereas a bronze or gold lining will be warmer and softer.

It is worth seeking exactly the right material to complement a room scheme. Inset ceiling downlights, for example, can be found in a variety of metal finishes to complement handles or knobs, and shades can be made bespoke in any choice of fabric or, if painted, custom colour-matched. Environmental concerns are also driving innovation, with unusual options such as pendants made from recycled fishing nets (The Soho Lighting Company), grown from mycelium (Sebastian Cox), or made from sustainable, steam-bent wood (Tom Raffield). ▶

ABOVE RIGHT Clear glass provides the greatest illumination and can easily be kept clean. Sir John Soane hanging lanterns (small) in bronze, from £1,764 each, Hector Finch

RIGHT The lighting in this Grade I listed house features concealed LED strips to create a focal point in the shelving. Scheme by John Cullen Lighting and interior designer Louise Bradley.



EIGHT OF THE BEST TABLE LAMPS

A table lamp is the ideal solution for extra light and additional decorative flair.



Kiraffel leather table lamp in Brushed Red, £250, Oka



Smartie desk lamp, £1,357, Besselink & Jones



Brass Leather Cuff table lamp in Dark Tan, £124.99, Dowsing & Reynolds



Hoffman striped lamp base, £275, India Jane



ABOVE A vintage Murano glass chandelier is the focal point of this drawing room by ND Studios, with Pooky's Wisteria table lamps and a Mondrian 600 picture light from Astro.

LEFT Choose light switches in a material and style to work with door handles for cohesion. The Lombard Collection Brushed Chrome three-gang toggle switch, £69.98, The Soho Lighting Company

ABOVE RIGHT For a modern take on statement lighting, consider a contemporary chandelier to position above a dining table.

Touraine chandelier, £648, Vaughan
RIGHT A slender, directional spotlight can be the ideal bedtime reading solution. Large Jordan wall light in bronze with integrated LED light, £498, Porta Romana



Edith Nature Motif lamp, £225, Sweetpea & Willow



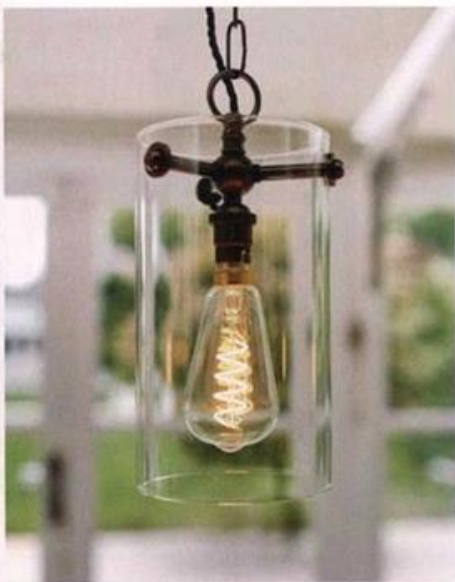
Rattle lamp (regular), £104, Pooky; Straight empire shade (35cm) in Liberty Quill fabric in Jade, £178, Pooky x Liberty



Bombazine two-light table lamp in natural brass and opal glass, £150, Dür Lighting Group



Montmartre table lamp, £1,235, Paolo Moschino



Light-bulb moment

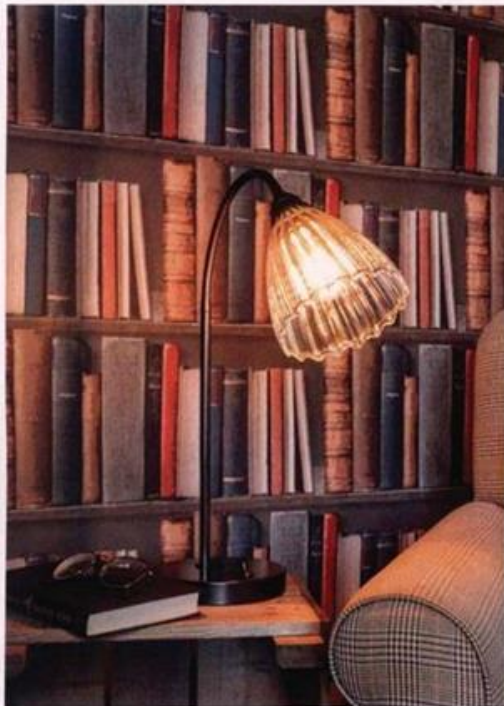
Crucial to each light fitting is, of course, the type of bulb that is used, for aesthetic as well as functional reasons. Key features to consider are not only size, shape and wattage, but also the colour temperature - from cool blue and white to warm yellow - and the colour quality, or colour rendering index (CRI), which measures the light given compared to natural daylight. Colour temperature is measured in Kelvins and best kept at 2,700K for most architectural lighting, with decorative fittings at a more atmospheric 2,200-2,400K. The CRI, meanwhile, should be above 90 if possible (100 is daylight-equivalent).

In recent years, technology has led to a much greater use of dimmable and colour-changing bulbs that can be operated via remote control, app or voice command - perhaps linked to other smart systems within the house. Simple dimmers are essential - every professional recommends them, and they are a straightforward improvement to retro-fit - while cordless, battery-powered LED lights can be placed almost anywhere in the home, and kinetic switches offer a wire-free solution to adding or changing the position of any light switch. ▶

ABOVE LEFT In this sumptuous bathroom, designer Rebekah Caudwell has chosen art deco-inspired wall lights from Hudson Valley Lighting in the USA.

ABOVE RIGHT When a clear glass shade is chosen, fitting an aesthetically pleasing light bulb is of the utmost importance. Sellack lantern, £345; pear-shaped LED spiral filament bulb, £22; both Fritz Fryer

RIGHT Adding wall lights in strategic places creates a flexible, functional and attractive scheme. Oxford double wall light, £329, Original BTC



Considered position

Siting lighting in the best position is crucial for enhancing and adding ambience to a room as well as for its users. It is generally advised to hang wall lights at around eye level to avoid glare, though this may need to be adjusted if ceilings are particularly high; avoid protruding wall lights in narrow spaces such as hallways.

Pendants and chandeliers should be suspended high enough for a tall person to walk beneath them – although they could go much lower over a dining table or kitchen island.

In the bathroom, wall lights fixed either side of the mirror at face height is the most flattering, while a statement chandelier is a dramatic option over a bath – bearing in mind that electrics and water are a dangerous mix, so bathroom light fittings are regulated by zones (depending on how near they are to water) and given an Ingress Protection (IP) rating. This requires that only low-wattage, immersion-proof lights at IP67 can be used within baths and showers, IP65 fittings directly above baths or showers, IP44 fittings around baths, showers and sinks, and IP20+ fittings are recommended for elsewhere in a bathroom. ■

ABOVE LEFT A manoeuvrable lamp head keeps task lighting practical. *Ledbury adjustable table lamp with Ribbed Glass shade, £405, Fritz Fryer*

ABOVE RIGHT Lighting within showers or baths must be low voltage. *Usk bath, from £4,710; Grand hand-shower and wall bracket, from £426, Drummonds*

RIGHT Concealed LED strip lighting works equally well within shelving and inside wardrobes. *Anthraxite built-in dressing table, from £1,100 a linear metre, Neatsmith*

