

## DESIGN DE-LIGHTS

### Mirrors and lighting brighten your home

By Debra Lee Baldwin  
Copley News Service

Lovely homes are filled with light: morning sunlight, bright task lighting during the day, soft ambient light in the evening and, at midnight, mirrors that reflect candlelight and moonbeams.

The lighting options for your home have never been more diverse. Whether you want to jazz up a room with an unusual fixture or add drama to a living area, new styles and technology lend endless choices.

#### ADD DRAMA

Lighting techniques have come out of the theater and into the home. You can get a variety of exciting effects by using a combination of downlights, uplights, spotlights and floodlights, in addition to any traditional lighting you already have.

Downlights are installed high and cast a pool of light downward. Track lights are a good example; they can illuminate a large area or pinpoint a small work of art.

Uplights stand on the floor and shine upward. Because they cast shadows on walls and ceilings, they produce dramatic effects — especially when placed near

plants or sculpture.

Lighting designers install spots and floods to cast light on particular areas or objects. These come in a wide variety of fixtures, from floodlights that evenly illuminate an entire wall to spot units with adjustable frames that light an area of a predetermined size and shape.

Control your lighting and vary the mood in your living room with an inexpensive rheostat. The more combinations of lighting fixtures and intensities you have, the more variety of direction, intensity and focus you have to play with.

You'll want to provide for the task lighting in your home, too, whether it's for reading, hobbies or other activities.

#### LIGHTS FANTASTIC

Today's, designer lamps contribute a lot more than light.

"Styles are converging nowadays," says *House Beautiful* magazine, "because more and more homes reflect personal taste. Lamps are the fastest way to change the mood of a room."

Architectural lamps are popping up in chintz-filled rooms, and spare Southwest interiors are blooming with lamps made of Italian faux marble.

You can find a weathered pink finish on a sturdy scrolled-iron lamp, a linen shade on a base that resembles one of Giacometti's

elongated figures and cobalt blue on a square-columned neoclassic lamp.

The best advice is to buy a lamp because you love it. If it exists as a work of art in its own right, it's bound to fit into most surroundings — particularly those that are highly personalized.

#### TECH LIGHT

Technology has created lamps and bulbs that look normal but outperform their predecessors.

The Chromalux bulb, for example, looks like a regular bulb, but it's pink. The advantage is that it provides light that includes all colors of the spectrum. (Regular incandescent lighting is yellowish and turns colors dull.)

Halogen light is also pure. In addition, it is brighter, uses less electricity and lasts longer.

And because the bulbs are so small, fixtures come in creative shapes, such as a dot of brilliance on the end of a slender rod. The main disadvantage of halogen is its cost, which can be more than three times as much as regular lighting.

Touch lamps are often made of gleaming brass. Just touch the metal surface of the lamp and a built-in microprocessor turns on the light. Successive touches raise the lamp's intensity. Your fourth touch turns off the light.

#### LOOKING CLASSICS

Let mirrors lend depth and dazzle to your walls.

"Mirrored walls make rooms appear to be twice the size they actually are," says Joepsh Bezbordko, president of Mechanical Mirror Works, a manufacturer of decorative mirror products.

"Many architects, builders, interior designers and building managers have found that mirrors increase the value of the space because of this perception."

Bezbordko's company makes new mirrored wall panels that can be installed in less than an hour — and if you move, you can take them with you; they're easy to disassemble. Rigid foam backing makes them strong yet lighter in weight than conventional panels.

Designer mirrors have as many frame styles as paintings do: octagonal, marble, imprinted brass, stained glass and more — and they come in every imaginable shape and size.

Mirror panels are popular: Some are plain and unadorned (except for a brass or oak frame), others have designs painted or etched onto the glass and include a clock.

Finally, consider facing a cabinet with mirrors or adding a mirror to the top of a shelf or table — two more of the many ways you can add light and dimension to your living spaces.

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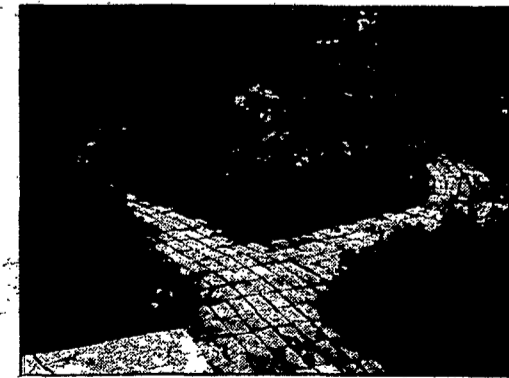
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