



Eye Candy For Your Home

Solving your lightning concerns with style

Whether you've just bought your first apartment or are looking to give your family home a facelift, you're probably wondering where to start to make your vision a reality. So many questions come to mind; from how to use your existing furniture, to what should you invest in to create the most impact and get the look you want. I would like to help relieve all the stress and focus on creating an environment that is not only beautiful, but functional for your specific needs.

As a design professional, I can share some savvy insider tips to enable you to personalize any space. This column will teach you how to create the home you will not only love,

but look forward to returning to each day. I will touch on some real-life advice for specific areas of your home, enabling you to make your space the best it can be for you and your family.

When someone asks me what I feel will give the most impact to their room, I always reply first with lighting. Actually, I tend to be a bit obsessive about lighting, as it's critical to create the vibe I am working towards. Well-designed lighting dictates the way you feel in a room. It is a focal point used to highlight and add drama to your space. By changing outdated fixtures for new, stylish ones, you can update your room's look and make a powerful

difference without breaking the bank.

Below are the guidelines I use when selecting lighting plans. I choose not to use the word "rules," as there are actually no rules when it comes to creating a lighting plan. The real accomplishment lies in whether the person living in the space feels as though it works for them and their specific needs. So, if you are in your decorating groove and not sure about what will work for you, use these tips to help guide you through the process.

Lighting 101

These five tips will solve your lighting dilemmas.

1. A fixture hanging over a table should hang between 30 to 34 inches from the base to the surface of the table. If the ceiling is higher than 8 feet, hang the fixture 3 inches higher for each foot of added ceiling height. If you have an oversized fixture, you may want to hang it a few inches higher so it doesn't overpower the space.
2. When hanging a fixture over a bar area, use the same equation only it will be 72 inches from the floor.
3. If placing pendants over a kitchen island at counter height, the bottom of the fixture should be 22 to 28 inches above the surface for best task lighting.
4. A fixture should be 2 feet narrower than the table's length ideally, but not the rule.
5. Install sconces about 65 inches from the floor. This will be right above eye level and most aesthetically pleasing. ■

