

Lighting & Electrical



Our intelligent lighting designs will enhance the appreciation, function, and comfort of your home

Lighting is an important and sometimes overlooked part of home design. Proper lighting not only carries a functional load, it also works as an art form and adds a psychological effect that makes every day more pleasant.

Functions of Lighting

Task Lighting

Reading, vanities, crafting, workshops, cooking, homework, hobbies

General Illumination & Navigation

Hallways, rooms, exterior, night lights

Accents & Ambiance

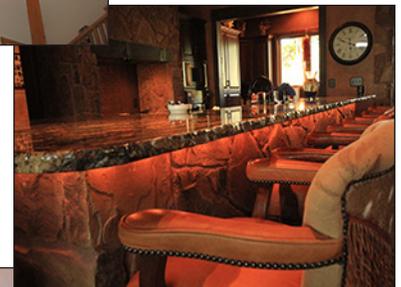
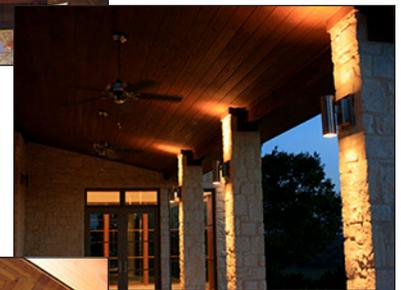
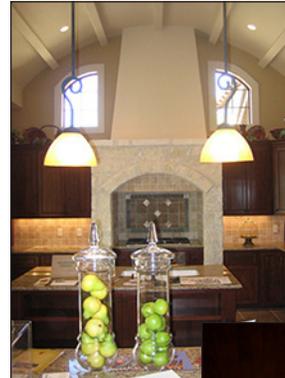
Track lighting, spotlights, art and artifacts, indirect, color, mood, skylights

Studies show that lighting can affect mood, both positively and negatively. So it is important to pay attention to planning your lighting layout. As one example, harsh, direct lighting can cause glare and eye strain. One solution might be to use recessed, pendant, or diffused light fixtures. On the other hand, brighter lighting might make sense over a workbench or cooking island. The correct solution depends on your needs and preferences.

Another aspect of lighting to consider is color. Light spectrums can range from blue and cold, to yellow and warm. For task lighting, color in the blue spectrum is more effective; while the bedroom might call for warmer and softer lighting effects.

New forms of lighting are also emerging, replacing conventional incandescent and fluorescent fixtures with more efficient and effective LEDs (light emitting diodes).

All these choices are personal, and we'll help you make the choices that are right for you.



Lighting Options

Here is a general discussion and description of the types of lighting fixtures available for your home. Do not hesitate to ask about other options!

Wall Sconces

Installing these “up and down” fixtures on a stone wall or column accomplishes several purposes:

- 1) Cuts glare
- 2) Accents the architectural feature
- 3) Enhances the texture of the stone or brick veneer



Indirect Lighting

The “cove lighting” concept is a great way to reduce light glare from a direct light source. Cove lighting can be used in a number of different ways and for different purposes. For example, Cove lighting is excellent for a bedroom with a raised ceiling. It is good for general lighting and is soft and glare reduced. Kitchen Counter lighting is another good use of indirect lighting. Above the cabinets to light “funk” is a fun use of indirect lighting. Also a “funk” shelf is a good use of indirect lighting.



Indirect lighting is an excellent choice for home theaters. Using LED dimmable lighting tape strips, one can dim, change colors, and even have it moving.

Task Lighting

For a kitchen, one of the most effective lighting is the “counter light” mounted below a cabinet. It provides ample illumination for working with minimal glare.

Another currently popular option for task lighting is the suspended decorative light. We recommend models that do not emit light from the sides, again to reduce glare.



General Lighting

When lighting large areas, the recessed can with “down light” is a favorite way to minimize glare from the light source. A good option for high ceilings is the dropped cylinder light. It maintains the glare-reducing quality while bringing the light source closer to the target area.

General lighting can be extremely effective in lighting the exterior of a home. It can be used to accent massing as well as paths.

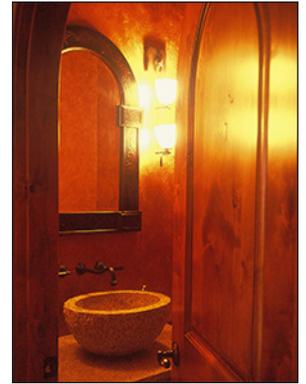


Vanity Lighting

We typically see one of these types of makeup lighting:

- 1) A decorative fixture above the mirror
- 2) A multiple-bulb strip on each side of the mirror
- 3) Recessed “down lights” in the ceiling

Another style becoming popular is a window with a suspended mirror with makeup lights built in. This arrangement allows for “daylight” makeup.



Art Lights

Art in your home can be lit by several options:

- 1) “Eye balls” in recessed cans
- 2) If in a niche, low voltage “down lights” or perimeter tape LED lighting
- 3) Linear picture lamps on the top side of the picture



Fun Lights

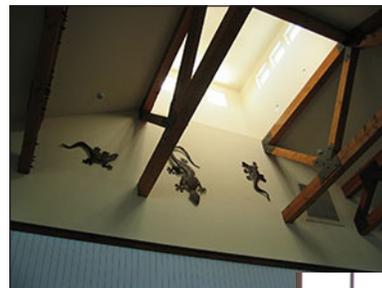
New materials have allowed for unexpected and fun ways to light your home. “Tape lights” are LEDs on flexible strips that can be twisted around the center pole of a spiral staircase, lined along step edges on stairways, or used to outline the countertop of a bar top. These lights also fit nicely inside cabinets with glass doors and shelving. For more fun, certain styles can be programmed to change color with the click of a button.



Natural Lighting

Sometimes the best lighting option is natural lighting. This can be designed for via windows, doors, skylights, and sun tunnels.

Clerestory windows can be very effective without causing significant heat gain when properly placed.



Electrical

We believe in “wiring” your home today for the technologies of tomorrow. That’s why we include a CCB (Central Communication Box). This is the hub for all appropriate cables, including video, audio, television, telephone, Internet, A/C thermostat, and other functions needed for a “smart home.”

Even if you do not intend to activate some of these, it is less costly to “rough in” the infrastructure during construction rather than retrofit it later.

This concept also applies to High Performance (Green) Homes. As options in alternative energy sources (wind and solar) become more viable, it is important to plan and install the proper infrastructure early in the building process.

No matter what your lighting or electrical needs, we can help you select the solution that fits your lifestyle, your work habits, and your budget.

