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ADVICE

buyer's guide ♦ smart shopper ♦ ask an expert ♦ non-toxic home



The latest lighting designs marry elegance and efficiency, transforming a room in a twinkle. This Luceplan Curl LED lamp, \$350, from JSB Lighting is a shining example; (02) 9571 8800 or www.jsblighting.com.au. For more illuminating ideas, turn the page...

Timberzoy solid American oak LED pendant light, from \$700/300mm profile, About Space; (03) 9417 4635 or www.aboutspace.net.au.



SMART SHOPPER

LIGHTING

From show-stopping pendants to decorative outdoor lamps, Georgia Madden scours the market for the best new lighting designs.

We'd all like our homes to be seen in the best possible light and, happily, the lighting options on the market are broader and better than ever before. Not only is it easy to illuminate the different areas of your home exactly as you'd like, the lights themselves – indoors or out – are designed to be the centrepiece of a room. From sculptural pendants and twinkling lanterns to industrial-style lamps, there's a dazzling array of styles to choose from. Whatever you pick, bear in mind that the main goal of any good lighting scheme is balance, says interior

designer Andrea D'Cruz, director of D'Cruz Design Group. "Lighting levels should suit the function of a space and highlight those design features you wish to enhance, whether it's wall-mounted art or specific architectural detailing," she says. "And when considering a light fitting, look at the shape and the shadow it casts, as this can add drama to a space."

INTERIOR LIGHTS

"Two of the most exciting looks coming through in interior lighting are American Restoration and vintage >

SWITCHED ON

"When you're choosing lights, it's important to look at the light emitted as well as the fitting style," says Petra Kleegraefe, director of Sydney firm Architectural Lighting Design. "Pendant lights above a dining table or staircase need to provide sufficient light so you can see what you're doing or where you're going, while downlights should be warm rather than white with a blue or green tint."



FROM LEFT Ligne Roset Lun-R thermoplastic outdoor table lamp, \$754, Domo; (03) 9277 8888 or www.domo.com.au. Albany cast-aluminium and glass LED light, \$80, Mercator; 1300 552 255 or www.mercator.com.au. Urbane stainless-steel wall light, \$100, Beacon Lighting; 1300 232 266 or www.beaconlighting.com.au. Arlec copper-finish, stainless-steel solar LED path light, \$7, Bunnings; (03) 8831 9777 or www.bunnings.com.au. Everingham & Watson steel hurricane lamp, \$79, Country Culture; 1300 887 607 or www.countryculture.com.au. OPPOSITE Foscarini rust-finish solar outdoor floor lamp, \$1360, Space; (02) 8339 7588 or www.spacefurniture.com.au.

< industrial, both of which work well with a variety of home styles," says Denise Hammond, product knowledge specialist at Beacon Lighting. "Think oversized feature lamps and pendants in warm, rustic materials and edgy industrial-style lights with strong, angular lines in metallics with hints of reclaimed wood."

Lighting with a handcrafted, artisanal feel is a trend to watch out for, says D'Cruz. "Craft-like approaches to light fittings, such as woven shades, knitted cords and even crochet-covered bayonets, are making a statement and add a touch of individuality to a space."

Before stepping into a showroom, think carefully about your lighting needs. Lighting falls into three main categories: ambient lighting is for general illumination and these lights are usually installed in a ceiling; task lighting casts directional light on activity areas such as the kitchen benchtops or a favourite reading spot; and accent lighting, which consists of uplights or downlights, highlights specific features such as an artwork. The most successful schemes generally use a mix of all three.

OUTDOOR LIGHTS

Many of the lighting looks we've come to expect inside the home are shifting outside. You can now choose from all manner of sleek modern and traditional feature lights to brighten spots including pathways, decks and the front door, as well as statement lamps and pendants in bold colours and funky finishes, such as bronze and rust, to add ambience to your next outdoor party.

Energy efficiency is key; outdoor LEDs cost a fraction of what their predecessors did to run, and last up to 10 years. Installing a timer or motion sensor that activates lights only when needed cuts costs further. Cordless solar lights cost nothing to operate, and can be positioned anywhere but will need around six hours of sunlight to stay fully powered all night.

With so many lighting options available to consumers, a focused approach is essential, says Natasha Ryan, national lighting buyer at Bunnings. "Consider the purpose of your outdoor lighting – is it to add a decorative touch, illuminate the garden for activities, such as barbecuing or games, or provide security?"



- 1 Authentic Models Searchlight aluminium, copper and mahogany floor lamp, \$615, Zanui; 1300 668 317 or www.zanui.com.au.
 2 Hansal Tripod timber floor lamp, \$249, Freedom; 1300 135 588 or www.freedom.com.au.
 3 Halo Modular powder-coated steel and acrylic LED lights, \$240/each, Stephanie Ng Design; 0434 077 757 or www.stephaniengdesign.com.
 4 Margie Rahmann and Justin Clayden Lumiere 1 hand-knitted yarn lamp cord light, \$195, Etsy; www.etsy.com.
 5 Ligne Roset Luna Rosa rusted-steel LED ceiling light, \$3178, Domo; (03) 9277 8888 or www.domo.com.au.
 6 Gladiator painted-metal pendant light in Charcoal, \$189, Mercator; 1300 552 255 or www.mercator.com.au.
 7 Vibia Skan powder-coated aluminium LED ceiling light, \$840, Koda Lighting; (02) 9699 6007 or www.kodalighting.com.au.

'TWO OF THE MOST EXCITING LOOKS COMING THROUGH IN INTERIOR LIGHTING ARE AMERICAN RESTORATION AND VINTAGE INDUSTRIAL.' DENISE HAMMOND, PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE SPECIALIST, BEACON LIGHTING



FROM LEFT Lab cast-iron and steel table lamp, \$195, Fat Shack Vintage; (03) 9943 9026 or www.fatshackvintage.com.au. Lindvall copper table lamp, \$1062, Euroluce; (02) 9380 6222 or www.euroluce.com.au. Neil Poulton Ipparco steel and plastic LED table lamp, \$625, Artemide; 1300 135 709 or www.artemide.com.au. Jared brass desk lamp, \$620, Coco Republic; 1300 785 039 or www.cocorepublic.com.au. Palm Tree polished nickel table lamp, \$185, Lavender Hill Interiors; (02) 8313 9085 or www.lavenderhillinteriors.com.au.