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LIFE *at home*

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Lighting the *Way*

by Dvira Ovadia

Bright, light and airy are key elements to many well-designed functional spaces. When natural light is limited, the right light fixtures will function to illuminate the rooms while creating an aesthetic statement. Rugs, fabrics, drapery and furnishings need to be properly illuminated in order to bring out their beauty, and create the right ambiance in any room.

After working on countless episodes of HGTV's Income Property, many of which were basement apartments, I was always faced with the challenge of making the

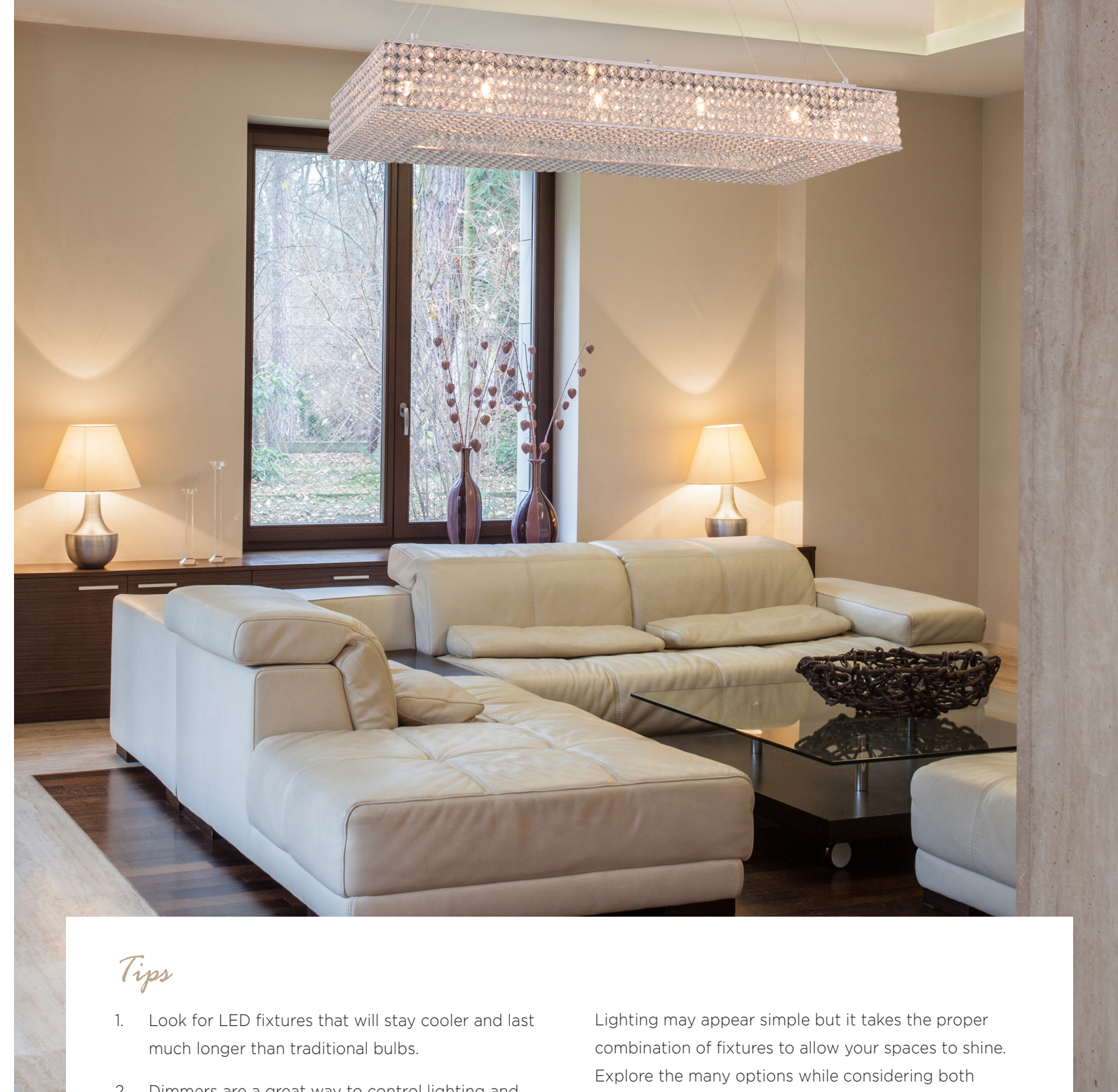
spaces feel sunny and bright, through careful allocation of lighting. Introducing the right amount of fixtures and the proper combination of lighting sources allowed the spaces to shine both on and off camera. Creating lighting plans are key to ensuring there is ample distribution of lighting in a space. At my design firm, we ensure that all client's lighting becomes an essential component of the design package, no matter how small the project or budget.

In order for artificial lighting to give your space the right look, feel and luminance, you must not only rely on one lighting source but rather a careful layering of fixtures to create the right ambiance and tackle multiple functional zones. There are three essential types of lighting that can be broken out into different categories: ambient, task and accent lighting.

Ambient lighting is your overall, general light source. Typically these are your pot lights or basic overhead light source. Task lighting functions to illuminate a specific area or zone, whether it's a desk lamp, or under cabinet lighting, this light source is targeted to your specific needs. Accent lighting is meant to focus on a specific subject or area, but it can also create an optical illusion if used properly. This type of lighting is commonly used to highlight interior architectural features, artwork and also predominantly used outdoors to create ambiance amongst landscaping.

Outside of function, we often use light fixtures to add drama to a space. The right pendant or chandelier can become the wow factor and the lasting impression for many rooms in your house.

Selecting the right chandelier for your room takes careful consideration of scale and style. If you are stuck on where to go or what to choose, call in the experts. A few hours at the right lighting store with a designer can shed a lot of light on your lighting dilemmas. One great go-to resource in Toronto to check out for lighting is Royal Lighting. You will find not only a vast selection but also certified lighting specialists on hand.



Tips

1. Look for LED fixtures that will stay cooler and last much longer than traditional bulbs.
2. Dimmers are a great way to control lighting and create the right ambience. Install them on all major light sources and pot lights.
3. Task lighting should be free from glare and shadows, and should be bright enough to prevent eyestrain. Make sure that the light is at least 12 to 18 inches from the area requiring light.

Lighting may appear simple but it takes the proper combination of fixtures to allow your spaces to shine. Explore the many options while considering both function and design, and go shed some beautiful light into your home this spring!



Toronto-based celebrity & award winning designer Dvira Ovadia Principal of Dvira Interiors is known for her appearances and design work on various HGTV shows. Dvira and her team uses their profound understanding of design to create stylishly smart spaces. Servicing clientele throughout Ontario & Greater Toronto Area. www.spray-net.com @DVIRAdesigner