



## LIGHTING BY DESIGN... The Dining Room



Light is a crucial component of design. Good lighting can certainly enhance your room, but great lighting can make it shine! Designing a dining room can be a tricky task. It has to be impactful, memorable, and above all a welcoming and cozy atmosphere for you and your guests.

Since the chandelier is arguably the focal point in the dining room, ensure that you select the right one to complement your



furniture and design style as well as to enhance the interior. The chandelier for the center of the dining room defines the space and as such, it should be chosen first. Next, decide on the accent lighting such as recessed lights along the room's perimeter that will brighten up a larger space or highlight artwork. Consider cove lighting; this would be a great accent light for your space that will allow you to light-up lovely ceiling details. Finally, address the accessory lighting in the dining room with the use of an elegant pair of crystal buffet lamps on the cabinetry or side table. If this is not possible, consider adding light sconces to the walls of your dining room. You should also ensure that you use dimmer switches as light always becomes warmer when dimmed, creating a lovely ambience for the evening.

When choosing the correct size for the chandelier that you wish to display, there are a couple of general design tips that you can use as a guide to ensure that you take home the appropriate light fixture. When shopping for the light fixture, remember that the diameter of the chandelier should be approximately 12" less than the width of the dining table or three-quarters of its width, given that the table is of an appropriate size for the dining room. If you have the standard 8 foot high ceiling, the bottom of the chandelier should hang approximately 30" above the tabletop. If your ceiling is 9 feet or higher, you may want to incorporate a multi-tiered chandelier to fill the space and add some drama to the interior.





A great "go to" source in the city to start your search is Royal Lighting. I find that they always offer an impressive array of the latest light fixtures. From traditional to modern styles, there is something for every taste, budget, and style. Most importantly, they provide technical assistance from certified lighting specialists.

As a designer, I know that lighting can be one of the greatest challenges in your home. However, knowing and understanding the effects that light has on your space and being able to choose the correct size will enable you to make the right choices. Proper lighting will help you achieve a balanced and impressive lighting plan in the dining room. Moreover, it will enhance your designed space with additional drama and ambience.

## Linda Mazur is the principal designer of the Linda Mazur design group.

With over a decade of experience, this sought out multi-disciplinary interior design firm is known for providing innovative interior renovations and full scale building projects that reflect both timeless style and optimal functionality. The firm services Toronto, the GTA and surrounding areas.

www.lindamazurdesign.com @LindaMazur Group