

NEW HOMES & CONDOS



In this kitchen, recessed pot lights provide ambient lighting, island pendants provide task lighting and decorative lighting can be found in the glass cabinetry.

Light up your life



LINDA MAZUR

DESIGNED FOR LIVING

Light is a crucial part of design. Good lighting can enhance any room but great lighting can make it shine!

In order to be truly successful in your approach to a lighting plan in your own home, you must consider layering your lighting.

Layering is advantageous as it affords you the flexibility of creating many different atmospheres and functions within a space.

There are four different categories of lighting layers: Ambient, task, accent and decorative.

Ambient lighting will illuminate a space and allow you easy mobility throughout a room.

Task lighting, as the name states, affords you added lighting in a specific area devoted to a particular undertaking such as reading at a kitchen counter.

Accent lighting is used to highlight artwork, décor or perhaps architectural features within a space.

And, finally there's decorative lighting, the fourth layer of illumination, which simply is an accessory to your room. I often say decorative lighting in a room is like "jewellery" — the finishing touch.

However, one source of light that should never be forgotten in design is natural light. Natu-

ral light is the most inexpensive and environmentally friendly light available.

If you are considering a major renovation of your home be sure to incorporate as much natural light as possible, be it through enlarging your current window size, adding a transom window above a walkout if space permits, or adding a skylight.

Another example of great lighting design can be seen in this recent kitchen project. The recessed pot lights provided my client with ambient lighting, under cabinet lighting and island pendants provide us with task lighting.

Decorative lighting can be found in the glass cabinetry which adds a special touch to the room in the evenings — and finally our beautiful, large picture window allows for an array of natural lighting to flood the room.

A great "go to" source in the city to start your search for lighting is Royal Lighting. I have found they always offer an impressive array of light fixtures, from traditional to modern and something to be had for every taste budget and style. Most important, they provide technical assistance from certified lighting specialists.

I know as a designer that lighting can be one of the greatest challenges in a home. But knowing and understanding the effects light has on your space will help you gain both a balanced and impressive lighting plan in your home.

— Designer Linda Mazur is principal of the Linda Mazur Design Group, known for providing design projects that reflect both timeless style and optimal functionality. For more information, visit www.lindamazurdesign.com.

DESIGNER TIPS

- Incorporate a different style of light in to your space.
- The general rule for an eight-foot ceiling height is that a chandelier should be hung approximately 29-34" above a dining table, for each added foot of ceiling height increase by 3".
- Recessed pot lights are lovely in a room, however, be sure to add the proper amount. Too many can be overwhelming.
- Use dimmer switches where possible. Not only can it reduce your electrical usage but it also can create a beautiful feel in any room.
- When in doubt — best to hire a design professional.



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