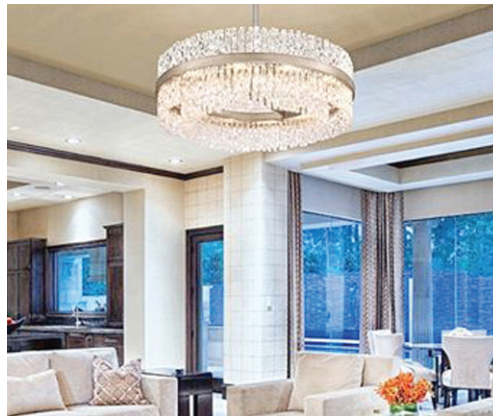




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royallighting.com

Add some spark to your home lighting

Every home needs lighting. You would think, then, that an electrical schedule and eventually light fixture decisions in a new build or renovation would not be an after thought.

Truth is, lighting, much like landscaping, tends to get neglected and pushed to the end of the job list. Unfortunately that late timing usually coincides with when the money is tightest, time is ticking, and decisions need to be made. We see this often and it tends to cause a great deal of stress for you, the homeowner.

As a designer who deals with lighting often, I can tell you that most people see it as complicated, permanent, and less like a piece of furniture or décor item. In most renovation consults, I will often see houses where the center bedroom light fixtures have never been changed, but likely the builder grade fixture put in years ago.

Designers and homeowners are usually on opposite ends of the spectrum with lighting. Most homeowners won't tackle changing out a fixture for fear of being electrocuted or burning the house down. An Electrician can

easily be hired for a couple of hours to come to your house and take down the outdated, non-functioning lighting.

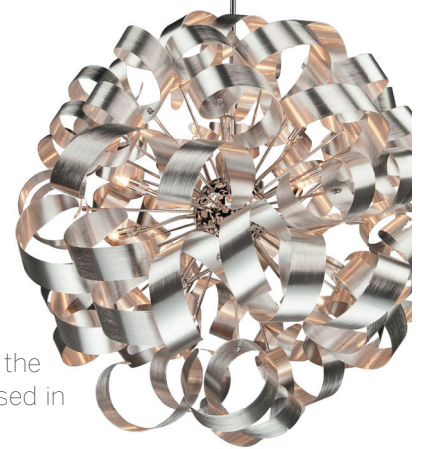
Designers will tell you that lighting placement and fixtures are an integral part of an overall design scheme. Design is nothing if you cannot see it, I say to all my clients. You must look at your overall lighting to create mood and functionality within your stylish home. Ceiling fixtures, table top, task and ambient lighting all are crucial to a well thought out home.

Big box stores offer designer looks for less, lighting stores have every fixture for every budget, can often recommend an electrician in your area, and be a great resource for lighting design if you ask. One of the best resources in Toronto for all your lighting needs is Royal Lighting. They offer great selection and have staff that can guide you through the process of what you need for the space.

While working on your upcoming spring and summer renovations, make sure you start with a good lighting plan so you can actually see the beauty of the space!

Know your fixture language:

- **Flush mount** ceiling fixtures sit tight to the ceiling and are for practical purposes. Often used in bathrooms and rooms with low ceilings.
- **Semi-flush** drop down from the ceiling from six- to 21-inches to allow for installation on eight- or nine-foot ceilings with clearance below.
- **Pendant** lights are for direct, general lighting and are suspended from the ceiling by chain or rod. Unlike a chandelier, they usually have only one bulb inside the casing, and come in mini, regular and large sizes.
- **Chandeliers** are decorative, sometimes ornate fixtures suspended by chain from the ceiling. Often several branches and bulbs are used to illuminate.
- **Sconces** are light fixtures attached to the wall for support. Light can be directed up, down or both. They can have one, two or three arms.



Toronto and Muskoka based designer Kris Brigden is principal of North Muskoka House Ltd., a full service residential design firm that works on small and full scale design projects throughout Northern Ontario and the GTA. Kris is dedicated to designing inviting interiors that are specifically catered to each client's individual lifestyle needs. northmuskokahouse.com