

FOCUS

# Flick the switch on lighting

Put some thought into your lighting plan to create welcoming spaces, writes Kirsten Craze

**W**ith so many decisions to be made when you're renovating or building, it's too easy to forget about a lighting plan. But if you don't give it some thought, the results can be quite underwhelming.

Danielle Mastro, director of consultation service Lights Lights Lights, says her team lives by the motto "stop the glare". She says there are several ways to light up your home without relying on just a lonely globe overhead.

"It's about lighting surfaces as opposed to areas," she says. "It's a simple concept that people often don't consider."

"Many people just poke holes in the ceiling, put in a few downlights and that's it."

Danielle says that can result in a very two-dimensional environment that lacks depth.

"Consider the things that are important in each space

and highlight them," she says.

Denise Hammond, product knowledge development specialist with Beacon Lighting says when seeking out lighting products, homeowners should be able to visualise pieces in their own home and not get too carried away with statement pieces.

"Put a fitting into perspective, where it's going to sit in your space," Denise says. "This is going to be your home so don't be overwhelmed by the showroom, or something you might have seen on TV. A lot of media is created for inspiration, but their choices aren't always practical."

So study your space, says Danielle, and think about how you live within it.

"Once you know how you use that space, then the allocation of where you place light is simple," Danielle says.

**More: Lights, Lights, Lights, [lightslightslights.com.au](http://lightslightslights.com.au); Beacon Lighting, [beaconlighting.com.au](http://beaconlighting.com.au); Rocco Revolution, [roccorevolution.com](http://roccorevolution.com)**



*Stripped back*

Kristin Stojcevski, interior designer with Rocco Revolution, agrees that light needn't always come from above. "Floor lighting cannot only brighten a high-traffic area but also create ambience. This is also a great light source to help you slowly wind down before you go to bed," she says. "Strip lighting strategically positioned throughout different rooms in your home is a great way to not only light up work spaces but also gives you the option of mood lighting when the space is not in use." "Strip lighting can be positioned in areas such as under your kitchen joinery or office workspace, or in the bathroom above the vanity."



*bedroom bliss*

It can be a challenge to set the right mood in the bedroom with lighting, so concentrate on those areas most in need. "When you're lying in your bed at night do you want to be staring up at a light? Generally not, but it's what so many people have because it's just what the electrician did," Danielle from Lights, Lights, Lights, says. "Place a sconce, a pendant or even a directional downlight that gives you a pin spot right at the bedside table," she says. "The other focal point is to house a couple of downlights in front of the wardrobe with strip lighting inside. Functional lighting should target the areas you use, not just the floor."



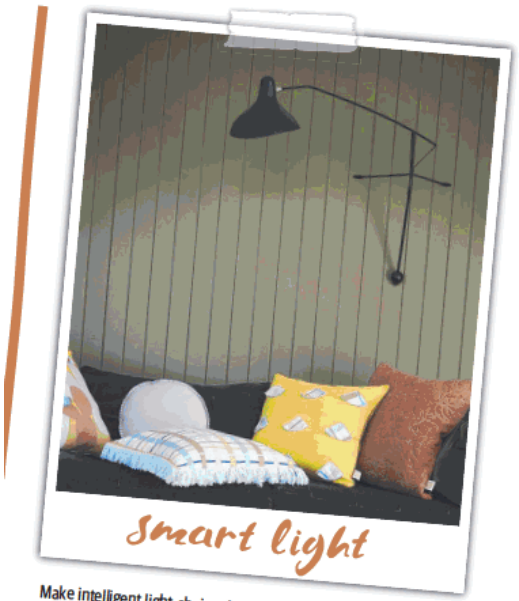
*house jewels*

"Think of pendants like jewellery, you need to complement the whole outfit," Denise from Beacon Lighting says. "As a good rule of thumb, if the room is less than 3m wide, a chandelier or pendant less than 60cm wide will look more appealing. If your room and table is bigger, choose a bigger light to match." With rectangular dining tables, Denise suggests either a linear suspension, a large rounded fixture, two hanging fixtures on either end, or a row of smaller pendants. "For square or round tables, you'll want a fixture with a design contained within the dimensions of the table," she says.



**FINE DINING**  
 The dining table has become a key location for a statement pendant light, which can serve to anchor the space. Before you buy, consider how you use the space, for dining, reading or doing homework and choose a light to meet your needs.

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*Smart light*

Make intelligent light choices by using hi-tech globes to set the scene. “Smart globes can offer you a great deal of flexibility not only in their brightness, but can actually change from cool white to warm white and anything else in between,” Denise from Beacon Lighting says.  
 In areas such as the dining room or kitchen table, which often double as work spaces, the ability to change the lighting tone manually or via a virtual assistant can be practical.  
 “If you have a light globe that will be adjustable at your command, suddenly you have a light for every occasion,” she says.

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