

# general principals of residential lighting design

Lighting is one of the most important elements of a project but often the least considered. Lighting impacts on the interior and functionality of a space more than any other element.

**b**y creating flexible lighting schemes, you can transform a single interior space for multiple moods and functions. Whether you're working on a new project or overhauling an existing space, thinking about your lighting at the outset will make the most of the space.

Firstly, consider how you will use the space. There will be one main activity for each room, but also bear in mind the other activities which take place and can be catered for through the intelligent use of lighting.

For instance, a kitchen is a multi-functional space and lighting should be employed as a way to make your kitchen a more functional and enjoyable space. Ensure that it caters for practical tasks such as cooking and cleaning, yet also works to create an atmosphere perfect for social occasions.

Planning for these different lighting requirements before you start your lighting project will ensure maximum contrast and flexibility.

1. Decide on the main function for the room.

2. Identify the other activities that the lighting scheme must accommodate.
3. Highlight architectural features.
4. Decide which circuits need to dim.
5. If a space is to be truly multi-functional consider a local lighting control system. This usually allows you to pre-set 4-6 different scenes, and works particularly well for a kitchen/dining/living space.

When you use these principals of lighting design you will be able to blend together your different lighting elements and create a selection of functions and moods for your interior.



## lighting techniques

### ambient lighting



### task lighting



### feature lighting



#### Ambient Lighting

This is your background lighting, onto which you layer other types of lighting. Use ceiling and wall lights with a wide spread of light to bathe a space in ambient light. Use powerful indirect luminaires to bounce light off walls and ceilings for a softer reflected background light. Look for fittings with a higher lumen output.

#### Task Lighting

Functional lighting aids you with the tasks performed in that space. Kitchen work surfaces and desks need direct lighting. Use directional fittings with a focused beam of light to achieve this. Add localised light where you need it; inside cupboards, over worktops, alongside a mirror. A floor or table lamp next to your work space is preferable to achieving adequate light for that area from a central light source.

#### Feature Lighting

Feature lighting can be considered in two ways. Firstly, you can light a specific feature in the room, such as an arched recess or fireplace detail. Alternatively, the light itself can be the feature. See our sister catalogue, the Searchlight Decorative Collection for over a thousand decorative fittings to choose from.

