

RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING

Creating Dynamic Living Spaces



Randall Whitehead

R E S I D E N T I A L

L I G H T I N G

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Randall Whitehead



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Dedication:

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I would like to dedicate this book to my family, who love me for who I am and gave me the encouragement to become what I am.

Acknowledgements:

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I would like to thank all of the designers and photographers who have generously shared their work for this book. With their help, we have assembled an excellent representation of what is currently happening in the lighting design community. I would also like to thank Tim Brace and Catherine Ng for their unflagging dedication and sweat in making this book a reality.

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Introduction

Why is Lighting Important?

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Until recently, when people considered lighting, their thoughts turned to the usual items: table lamps, a ceiling fixture mounted in the center of the room, and,

if they were daring, perhaps track lighting. Those fixtures often tended to call attention to themselves and cast shadows in unflattering ways. However, this is changing, and the lighting design industry is seeing a revolution in fixtures and design methods. Because it influences every visual image we perceive, lighting is now recognized as an integral part of the overall design. Unfortunately, most lighting is still being specified by those who

have had little training in proper lighting techniques. Too often, they install lighting just as it was in their parents' day, when technical constraints, worn-out traditions, and lack of imagination prevailed. In this book, we hope to give the reader the ideas to head in the right direction before they begin work on their new construction or remodelling.



**New Trends +
New Techniques=
Exciting
Possibilities**

Today's lighting designers emphasize people and the environment around them, using unobtrusive fixtures and light sources. The first priority is to assure a soft overall illumination, or *Ambient Light*, using wall sconces, indirect cove lighting, or torchieres to provide the fill light. Next, recessed adjustable or track fixtures provide *Accent Light*, the

sparkle which brings out the beauty of art and architecture. Finally, *Task Light* focuses light on the very spot it is needed most for work or reading. Proper lighting design allows the decorative fixtures, such as chandeliers, to give the illusion of providing the light for a given space.

Exciting possibilities materialize when the lighting draws attention to the people, art, and architecture. After the installation of a carefully designed lighting system, rooms immediately open up.

Guests become more comfortable and look their best, rather than finding themselves in shadow or eclipsed by art objects and light fixtures.

You may even find that people congregate in areas that were formerly ignored. Just as the music in films is most successful when it is not consciously noticed by the filmgoer, properly designed lighting is often most effective when it is least obtrusive.

Lighting is a visual *phenomenon*. This book is a chance to see what some of the country's best lighting designers are doing. Enjoy!



Setting Entrances: the Tone

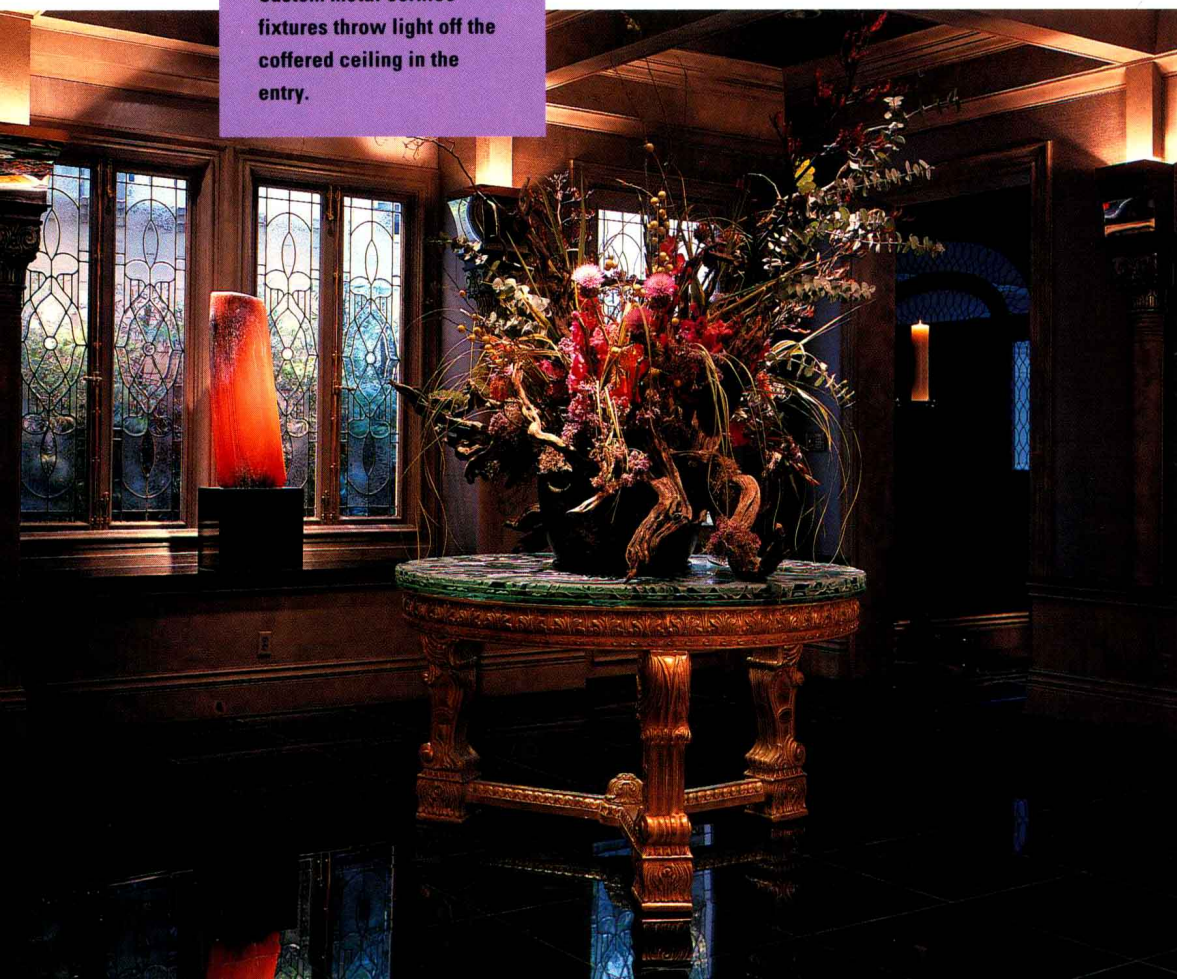
The entry to a home establishes the mood and tone for the rest of the house. In the entry way, lighting can be used to open up the space and provide a welcoming environment for the entering guest. A dark and cramped entry space can, through proper lighting design, seem a warm, spacious, comforting area for the person being welcomed into the house. Usually, the two most common goals are to either make a small entry seem larger or a larger entry become more intimate. The use of light can do much to transform this important space. Well-designed lighting can show off architectural detail or hide flaws. This is normally a pass-through area; people don't spend time in an entry. They are normally greeted there and led to the chosen gathering place. This leaves just a moment for the homeowner to make a statement about the mood of the night's activities.

Lighting Designer
Kenton Knapp/Robert Truax

Interior Designer
Charles Falls and Kenton Knapp

Photographer
Eric Zepeda

Custom metal cornice fixtures throw light off the coffered ceiling in the entry.



Lighting Designer
Don Maxcy

Interior Designer
Don Maxcy

Photographer
Russell Abraham

The subtle illumination at this front door invites guests inside.





Lighting Designer
Donald Maxcy

Interior Designer
Charles J. Grebmeier

Photographer
Russell Abraham

The column is ingeniously backlit by a row of incandescent mini-strip lights inset vertically along the back. The column is forelighted by recessed adjustable fixtures, that also light the orchid and objets d'art. A blue white light source uplights a bronze fixture in the alcove above the stairs. This cool color adds an element of frosty surprise to this interior environment.

Lighting Designer
Linda Ferry

Interior Designer
Tony Carrasco and Greg Warner

Photographer
Russell Abraham

Pocket-like sconces backlight the architectural detailing and help uplift this curved entry.

Changing the Mood

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As a rule, the brighter the space, the more animated the event. A dimly-lit room will change the mood to a more subdued, intimate feeling.

A good way to make people feel more comfortable in an entry with a very high ceiling is to install translucent wall sconces that create a secondary ceiling line to give the desired human scale.

Reflecting light off the ceiling will help make lower ceilings seem higher and small entries seem larger.

Minimizing Focal Points

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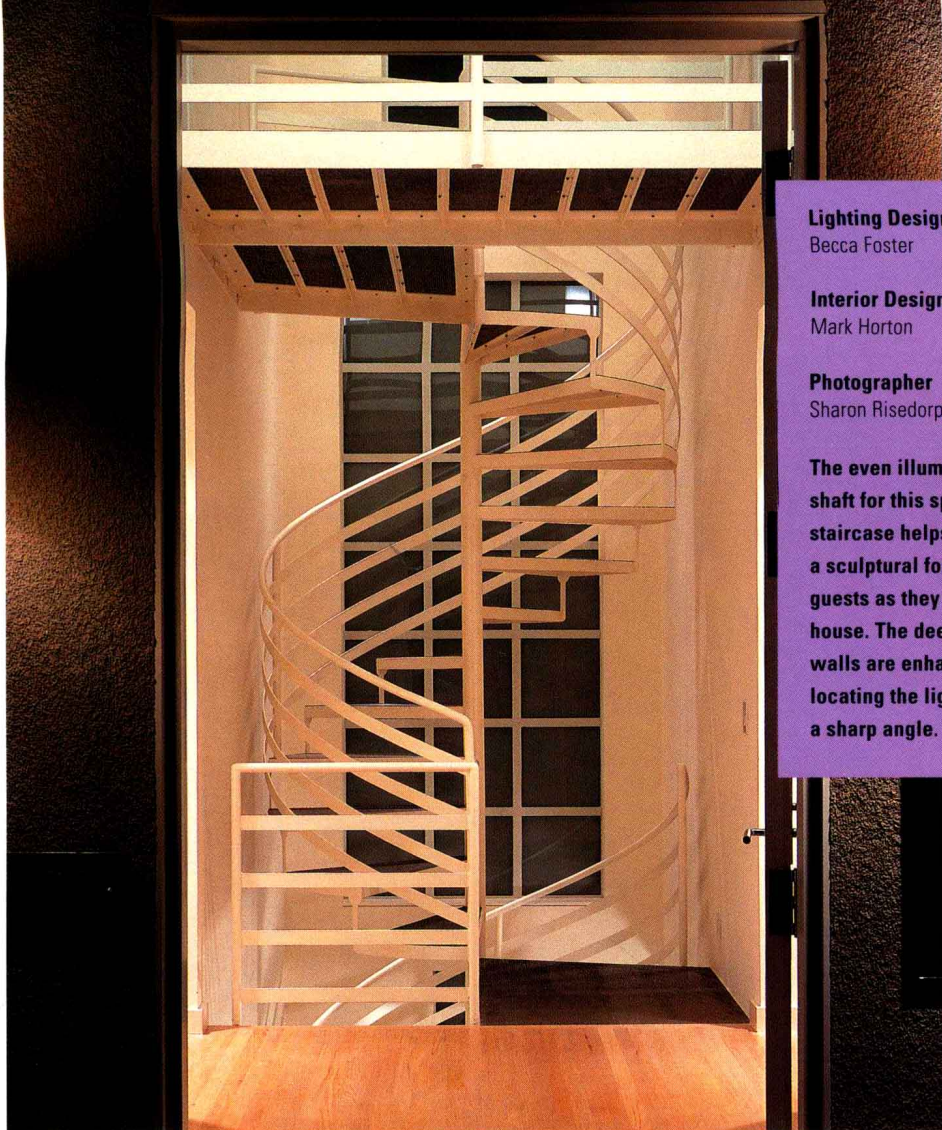
Instead of filling up an entry area with too many objects, keep the furnishings minimal and good light on the few specific objects. This gives those pieces greater importance. There really is only enough time to enjoy a few items in the entry before moving on to the next space.

The general illumination lets the homeowners and their guests look their best. Recessed lighting makes people look tired and makes a space feel smaller than it is.

Think of the entrance as a party favor. It is a sampling of the festivities to come.







Lighting Designer
Becca Foster

Interior Designer
Mark Horton

Photographer
Sharon Risedorph

The even illumination of the shaft for this spiral staircase helps elevate it to a sculptural form greeting guests as they enter the house. The deeply textured walls are enhanced by locating the light sources at a sharp angle.

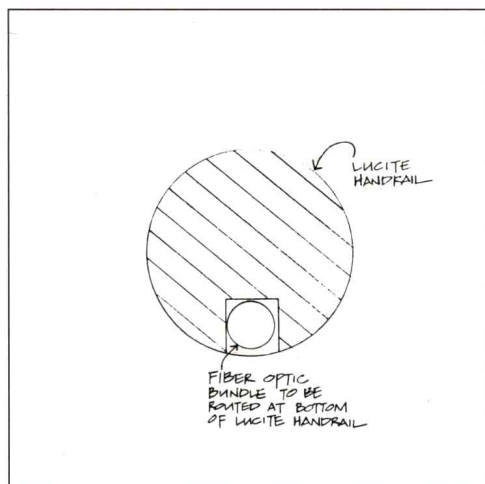
Lighting Designer
Catherine Ng/Randall Whitehead

Interior Designer
Lawrence Masnada

Architect
Sid Del Mar Leach

Photographer
Kenneth Rice

The almost surreal look of this illuminated railing is accomplished by using fiber optics mounted inside a channel routed into the underside of the Lucite. The owner can transform the color and feel of the entire railing simply by turning a color wheel located within the remote light source.



Lighting Designer
Claudia Librett

Interior Designer
Claudia Librett

Photographer
Durstun Saylor

A combination of recessed fixtures and intra-beam uplighting helps add drama to this massive space.

