

BRIGHIT IDEAS

Bold, bright and beautiful.

These designer lighting options are lit, says SONIA KOLESNIKOV-JESSOP

Lighting is not only a functional aspect of interior design, but also a way to create a mood and make a statement. Good lighting design can be a focal point in your living space or a subtle part of the overall scheme; it creates different ambiances to transform a room, and it must be adaptable to different times of day.

“Good lighting design is about the play of light on surfaces, and goes beyond using the right light fixtures, which are just tools to create with,” argues London-based lighting designer Paul Nulty, whose UK-based firm Nulty Bespoke has created custom, handcrafted luminaires for various high-profile commercial and private clients. “With a statement piece the first question is ‘What do you want it to do?’ It should be beautiful but it should also have a function. It shouldn’t be a frivolous piece.”

Current industry buzzwords are “full customisation”, “layering”, and “LED” — in particular the miniaturisation of LED which has allowed designers to seamlessly incorporate accent lighting into details they would not have been able to a few years ago.

“We only use LED by and large, and it is the seminal invention for our industry — it’s completely transformed it, and the technology is changing all the time,” says Simeon Chilvers, Operations Director at Cameron Design House, a bespoke sculptural luminaire company based in London.

Designers note that, in terms of architectural lighting, dynamic LED lighting in particular is on the rise and provides more options than general LED lighting.

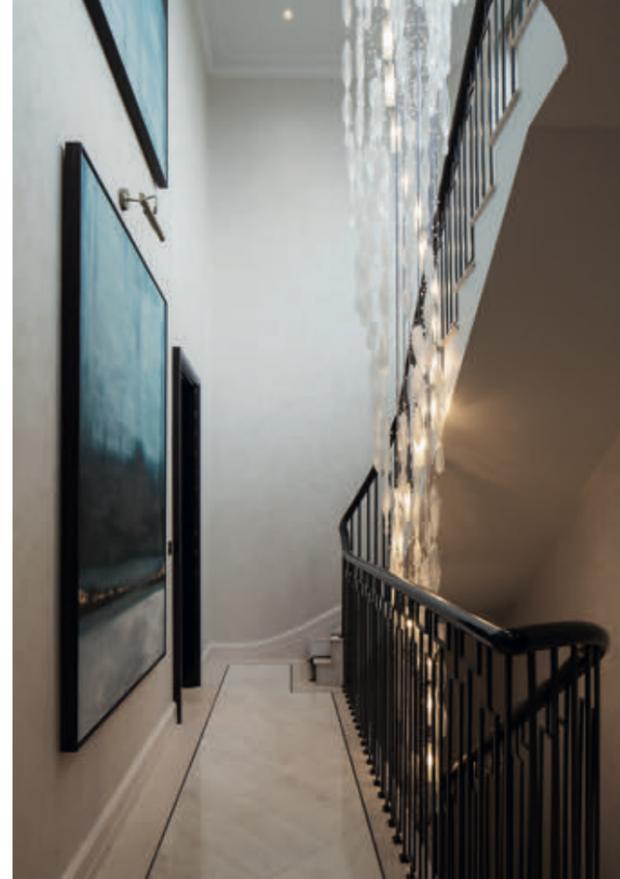
While statement pieces continue to dominate living rooms as well as entrance hallways, they are increasingly finding their way into the living and dining spaces, often over the main island, designers say. Instead of elaborately decorated chandeliers, there is a move towards “the introduction of more colours, as well as a move toward more geometric shapes”, Chilvers notes.

Nulty concurs, pointing out the rising popularity for statement pieces with a more minimalist approach and the use of materials like ceramic, copper and brass: “We are seeing a trend toward decorative lighting, but with more modern minimalist features. The grand elaborate crystal chandelier is gone.”

FEATURE



Paul Nulty's lighting designs for Eaton Place, Belgravia, London



PAUL NULTY

London-based lighting designer Paul Nulty believes statement lighting should be as unique as your home's interior. "If you buy something off the rack, it's a bit like buying artwork at Ikea", he quips.

"A good designer should help personalise your lighting. For example, we worked on a project where we took love letters a husband and wife have written to each other over the years and resurrected them in a sculptural piece that 'rose' from the kitchen up the stairs and into the living space," says Nulty, who won Retail Lighting Project of the Year at the Light Middle East Awards 2018 for his work at Casamia, the Middle East's largest design showroom in Dubai.

Light fittings should be entirely contextual because the quality of light will change depending on where and how you use it. He notes that interior designers often go wrong by choosing "a fixture that is stunning and expensive, but they don't consider its effect on the space. It's important to not get transfixed by beauty, and examine the materiality of the

object, be it a chandelier or a side table lamp.

"Often, not enough attention is paid to the quality of light that emits from that beautiful object within its specific space — for example, how will the light cast shadows?"

Thus, good lighting design needs to consider individual elements within a space, "the feature wall, the position of the sofa, the dining table. You start to light those individual elements before the entire composition comes together", he adds. */PL*

TIP: "VANITY LIGHTING" FOR THE BATHROOM

Dynamic lighting is particularly useful for ladies while doing their make-up. Choose cool lighting when prepping for the day, or warm lighting while getting ready for an evening event.

