

RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING

JULY 2007

Vance

www.ResidentialLighting.com

Winds OF CHANGE

- CONTEMPORARY POURS ON THE CHARM
- LEDS STORM THE HOME FRONT
- INTERIOR DESIGNERS HAIL LIGHTING TRENDS

PLUS:

Las Vegas Market Preview

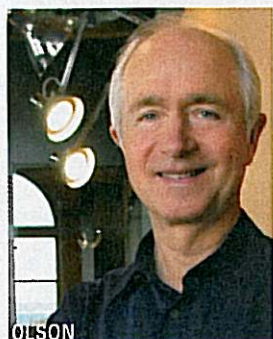
By Design

Based on their unique perspectives as purveyors of home furnishings trends, interior designers weigh in on what's *en vogue* in lighting design and specification.

The Total Package

JIM OLSON

Architect/interior designer and principal,
Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects, Seattle



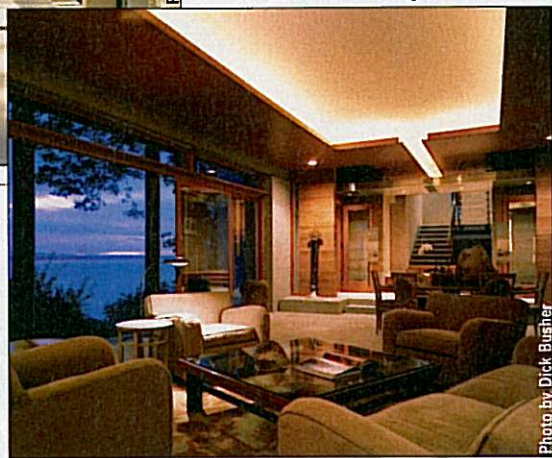
OLSON

"Lighting design is critical to a design concept; you absolutely need it to create an overall environment. In the things I'm doing, energy efficiency has become extremely important. We do this, of course, with fixtures, but also through [techniques] like daylighting—finding ways to bring light in naturally. I'm also using a lot of dimmers and dimming systems to create ambience, but they save energy, as well. We try to focus light just where it is needed, instead of using only general illumination.

"Another thing we're doing is cleaning up the ceiling. You have a lot of flexibility with track lighting, but it can be cluttery. In many cases, we can set a trough inside the edge of a soffit, and we set the lights up inside so they're flush with the ceiling. Square recessed lights are also very nice. We line them up in a row; it looks organized and really helps to reinforce the rectilinear lines of a room.

"There's a definite trend in architecture to create homes where the inside and outside spaces are continuous. So, it's becoming more and more important to really pay attention to and balance the indoor lighting with the outdoor lighting. We treat it as one thing, so at night, the lights in the home are able to be dimmed and you can look out the window to see lights in the trees or in the garden."

Photo by Dick Bisher



(Above) To keep the ceiling clean in contemporary dwellings, Olson sets recessed fixtures up into the ceiling along metal runners. The technique also contributes to the design of the room, Olson says.

(Right) Olson works with dimming systems to keep light levels low and comfortable. He also highlights outdoor architecture so the outside becomes part of the interior space when the inside lights are dimmed at night.

Photo by Paul Warchol

Coastal Comfort

MARY ANN SCHICKETANZ

Architect/interior designer and principal,
Carver + Schicketanz Architects, Carmel, CA



SCHICKETANZ

"Our firm is so small and our clients are people who look for very specialized solutions, so we're not usually part of what the trend is; that's not what our clients are looking for. [That said], we've just finished working on a really big project in Texas and a very small, jewel-like project on the [California] coast, and I think what they share is that we tried to stay away completely from drama lighting [or high-contrast lighting]—which is something one has seen a lot over the past 10 years.

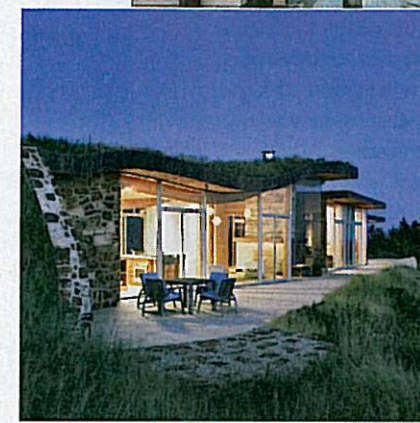
"Our clients are looking for a very comfortable environment, so you have good ambient light levels and very subtle highlights, rather than a dark room with dramatic highlights. We achieve this with decorative fixtures, as well as ambient lighting. Though we do collaborate on decorative fixtures—partly to ensure those used are part of our design vision—when it comes to ambient or spotlighting, how that is achieved is really all the lighting designer's skill. We work with Terry Ohm [of San Francisco's Ohm Lighting] here in California and Curtis Liberda [of 2clighting] in Dallas.

"Light brings to life every interior space, so our job as interior designers and architects is to light the space perfectly. So, we're placing the windows, the skylights and openings in the shell in [such a] way that, during the day, we create a balanced, comfortable environment. The goal of the lighting designer is to create that same comfortable, balanced scene at night.

"[Foreign shows like EuroLuce] are an incredible source of inspiration. Our clients love exotic designs when it comes to fixtures, though they don't look to be exotic just for the sake of it. They look for solutions that are specific to their cause. For example, we just did a changing room for a residential pool, and we placed glass cubes on the water and wanted them to glow at night. The lighting designer did a fantastic job of making that entire cube of frosted glass glow evenly—like a floating, shining ice cube. [These are] the type of specialty items I'm talking about."

(Above, right and inset) According to Schicketanz, her job as an architect and interior designer is to design the space for how it will look during the day. The lighting designer lights the home so it also looks amazing at night.

(Right) Schicketanz creates comfortable environments for her clients, who are looking for "atypical" solutions. For the Treadwell House in Big Sur, CA, Schicketanz and lighting designer Terry Ohm outfitted the open living room with airy, mismatched pendants, keeping lighting on the walls to a bare minimum.



Photos by Bob Canfield, Bob Canfield Photography