



Left: A post light can be a statement piece for all your outdoor lighting, such as Hubbardton Forge's wrought iron post and post top.

Right: Lighting outdoor walkways and landscaping is a great way to improve the look and value of your home while enhancing safety and security. Photos courtesy of Creative Lighting Designs.



*new ways to make
your home shine*

CREATIVE LIGHTING DESIGNS



THESE DAYS, SHEDDING LIGHT ON A ROOM INVOLVES MUCH MORE THAN SWITCHING ON A LAMP. With so many choices and styles available, lighting can get complicated and expensive unless you have an expert guiding you through the process and introducing you to all the new, fun, dramatic, and even practical choices that will make your home shine.

“A lighting designer can help you by pulling together a cohesive lighting plan,” says Lois Horan, vice president of Creative Lighting Designs in Lebanon. “Gone are the days of illuminating a single area with a single lamp.”

KNOWING WHAT'S NEW

Experienced lighting designers like those at Creative Lighting Designs are up to speed on the latest technology and products on the market, says Lois, and can provide a lighting plan that works for your lifestyle and budget. They offer personal consultation—in your home, the showroom, and even through computer technology—that can save time and money and avoid costly mistakes.

“We’re constantly upgrading our education,” says Lois. “We know what’s better, newer, faster, cleaner. We know who consistently delivers quality lighting. We know what works for people and what doesn’t.”

The three lighting designers at Creative Lighting Designs in Lebanon will consult with clients in their home or take them through their showroom, showing them what’s available and advising them about options for a thoughtful lighting strategy.

“We can walk them through and make suggestions,” Lois adds. For a fee, a computer program can plot the house plan and pop it up in 3D so clients can look at the proposed lighting design. You can do a “fly-through,” Lois says, so you can see all the lights in action.

A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH

A thoughtful plan of “layered” lighting provides a multidimensional approach, she explains, adding, “There are lots of places you can tuck lighting.” In the ceiling, newer, smaller can lighting provides general lighting, which Lois says she is excited about. The

TOP 10 LIGHTING TIPS

Lois Horan offers her best advice for successful home lighting.

Try to allocate 6 percent of your budget to lighting. Most builders and homeowners tend to allocate only 1 percent.

Consider using pendants in unusual ways.

Make sure the landscape lights are halogen, which will melt the snow in our northern climate.

Don’t skimp on ceiling fans. It’s a good place to put your money.

Consider the color of your bulbs.

Whenever possible, put every light on a dimmer. You won’t regret it.

Don’t illuminate a room with just one lighting fixture.

If you’re illuminating artwork, use an LED bulb, as it won’t fade the art.

Don’t forget the staircase, which is often overlooked. Consider lighting the stairs.

Consult a professional lighting designer. It won’t cost you anything, but it could save you time and money.



Left: Layers of light make this room come to life with task and ambient fixtures.

Above: The correct cove lighting design will provide a dramatic effect that will enhance any décor.

small recessed lights can also be installed in older homes, which was not possible with the earlier larger lights with metal housing that got hot. Now, you can cut a hole in the ceiling and snake a wire and install the lights without worrying about the insulation because the new lights are cold, she adds.

For a dramatic effect, specific areas can be flooded with light, drawing attention to a feature such as a distinctive fireplace. Cove lighting above crown molding can “wash” the ceiling with light for another radiant layer. For real drama, tiny fixtures in the ceiling called “beauty spots” shoot out tiny beams of light in patterns such as stars onto the ceiling.

“It’s breathtaking when you walk into a room,” says Lois. Bringing it down to another layer, task lights under cabinets make cooking and prep areas in the kitchen brighter. Tape lights—peel and stick LED lights—can be placed under toe kicks in the bathroom for additional night lights or

under stair treads for safety. Attaching all the lights to dimmers allows control over individual areas.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF LIGHTING ADVANCES

What’s more, says Lois, lighting doesn’t just help us see—it also affects mood. Using different bulbs can affect the mood of the room and its inhabitants. “You can alter the color temperature from warm to cool,” she explains. “A 3,000 to 5,000 Kelvin bulb is a cooler, blue light that’s crisper, brighter, whiter—like daylight.” You might use it in a room with a lot of art, for example, to bring out a beautiful painting. For a fireplace setting, you might use an inviting yellow hue.

Seniors and millennials are the fastest-growing segment of the population to take advantage of advances in lighting. As people age, their eyesight changes, making them sensitive to glare. Going from light

to dark can be difficult too. Improving visibility is important to quality of life as well as safety.

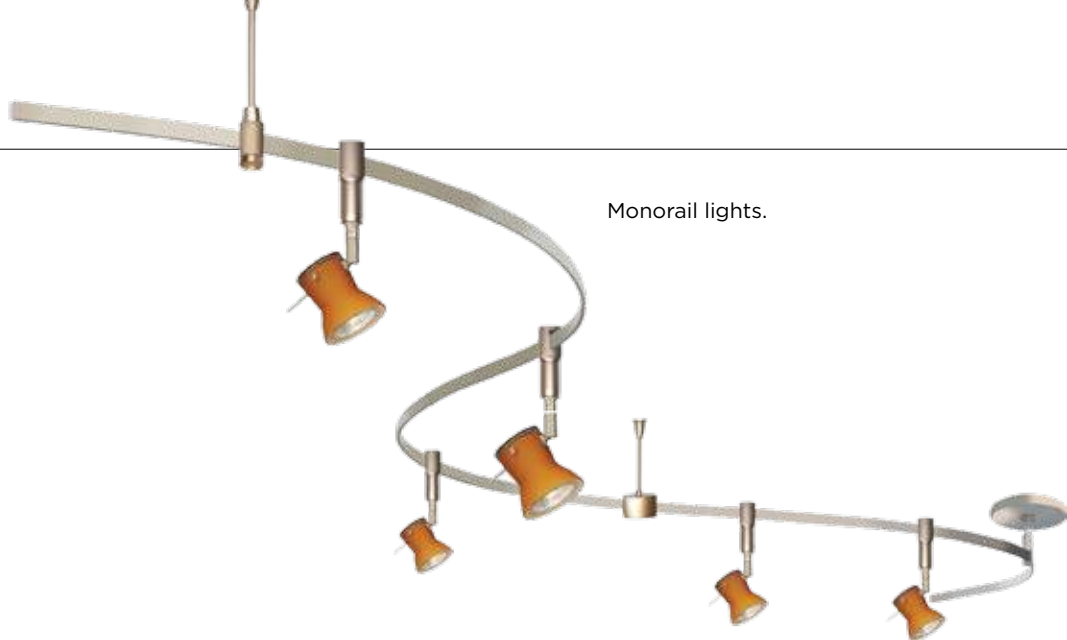
“Seniors need different lighting than a family with children does,” explains Lois, so a lighting plan that includes proper brightness without glare and features such as illuminated stair treads is important. Millennials are tech savvy and seek lighting they can control with their phone, she adds.

Millennials are also driving some of the trends that Lois sees for 2016. The industrial look is big with lamps and fixtures made of metal or natural materials such as stone, wood, and concrete. Brass is making a comeback, she adds, although it’s now called soft gold or caramel. Some have a waxed patina that doesn’t look like brass. Sphere and orb lighting are also very on trend.

In bathrooms, “a lot more people are going outside the box,” Lois notes.



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Monorail lights.

They don't always go with the traditional vanity lights, choosing pendant lights instead. Pendant lights are also popular over nightstands in the bedroom or as overhead lights in kitchens. Also in the kitchen, "We do a lot of monorail lights," Lois says, which are a newer version of track lighting. "You can bend it into interesting shapes."

With so many options and products, consulting a lighting designer is a smart move. "If there are any issues, you have a friendly face to talk to," says Lois. "We get to know our clients really well and how they live. We build friendships with our clients." **TW**



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