

Light Hearted Designs

Lamps, being essentially mobile, have the advantage of being added to a room at any stage to easily and quickly complete – or completely change – a style.



Adding a table or floor lamp can alter the whole décor or ambience. Placing a contemporary lamp in an old cottage can help resist a ‘twee’ look, and classic designs can bring elegance to a modern space.

Christopher Guy Harrison, the award winning, internationally renowned furniture designer, founder and CEO of the luxury furnishings brand, Christopher Guy, told us “Lighting is an important consideration for any room, as it creates ambience and can set the tone of the room. It is important to choose lighting that suits a variety of uses. For a more subtle look, table lamps on lighting circuits create moods.”

As part of the Mademoiselle Collection 2014, Christopher Guy’s new lighting range is inspired by beautiful design of jewellery pieces and motifs of the 1920’s Art Deco era.

“Lighting can radically influence the feel of a room, making it warm and inviting, comfortable and cosy at the flip of a switch,” stated Nicki Massey, Managing Director, DesResDesign. “The ‘Refined Country’ look is set to be big in 2014 and is a trend that is set to continue for some time. We all love to bring the outdoors in and this new trend using country style designs and materials does just that. Think chic understated elegance rather than twee and traditional and you’ve got this trend right!”

Nicki advises picking natural materials such as distressed wood and linen that blend effortlessly into your surroundings and you’ll have a trendy country interior that is stylishly lived in. ▼



'Woodland' from DesResDesign



'Quito' floor lamp from the Iris Design Studio

▲ "Our new lamps with country dogs, country birds and woodland designs capture this trend perfectly," she added. "These sophisticated lighting options at DesResDesign create a relaxed environment which is sure to stand the test of time. The fantastic thing about the country style lighting is that you are able to still make a statement with oversized table and floor lamps without overpowering or drowning a room."

Floor lamps in the traditional sense have definitely come round again but now they have a new status as an expressive object not just a light source.

"As lighting designers we are expressing ourselves through material form and surface patination," said Nicola Cox of Cox ▼



An industrial look from Chelsom

▲ London. “The lamp allows us to think about the design as a piece of sculpture before we consider the functionality to provide a glow and atmosphere to an otherwise unnoticed part of a room. It’s fun to do the unexpected. Lamps give you the ability to play with heights in an interior, drawing the eye up marrying floor to table to wall to ceiling. Often interior designers are looking for a piece that will give their design balance and colour as well as decoration and purpose.”

The hospitality sector is using lamps more with a key trend being the rise of the residential look for guestrooms and public spaces.

“Guests want hotels to feel like a luxurious home away from home and they want their guestroom lighting in particular to reflect this, to be stylish yet functional,” explained Lucy White of Chelsom. “One of the biggest challenges for us is creating a distinctive residential look yet maintaining

the contract function and quality required. The pressure from clients to create unique and memorable interior schemes has never been stronger, and lighting plays a huge part in that which in turn means higher levels of design are required across the board, blending cutting edge styling with the latest LED technological developments more than ever before.

“There has been a distinct shift in the style of hotel lighting schemes over the last 12 months, there’s definitely a lot more individuality when it comes to design. We are starting to see a much more eclectic mix in terms of both styles and fittings especially in the guestrooms; colours are bold and shades are becoming more vibrant with textured fabrics such as linens, weaves and naturals seeing a surge in popularity heading in to 2014.”

In addition to the rise of the residential look, another current trend seen by Chelsom this year is the industrial look.

“There has been a much more functional look and feel to products lately,” said Lucy. “I predict there is a lot more of this to come; think exposed mechanical joints, over-sized switches, swivel joints and visible engineering. Last year we saw brass make its comeback after threatening to do so for a number of years, and this year I think we will see more in the way of alternative finishes such as antique, distressed and satin becoming the most popular choices with mixed finishes on the same product to create feature pieces.”

When we asked Charles Edwards, the owner of the eponymous Charles Edwards, what colour trends they were seeing, we were ▼



'Kabang' lamp by Jimmie Martin (LightIQ)

told that navy was coming through strongly.

▲
“The saturated inky colour mixes effortlessly with many other finishes, which makes it an easy and elegant addition to a neutral interior scheme, or a versatile base to start from,” said Charles. “Clients are using the colour on silk shades and as a custom paint

colour on light fixtures.

“The douppion silk is complemented by nickel metal work for a contemporary look. In contrast, pairing polished brass and a gloss navy paint creates a classic nautical look on the Ledbury gatepost lantern. The pewter finish on the Studded Tole shade

light softens the impact of the high gloss Farrow and Ball Hague Blue paint.”

When London-based design and architecture practice Studio TILT approached iconic British brand Anglepoise® to help transform the Chancery Lane Club into an inspiring co-working space, their aim was to balance an informal, collegiate atmosphere with a highly effective business environment.

“The dynamic and flexible interior would be the antithesis of the traditional, staid office environment, incorporating a private meeting space, singular workstations, co-working desks and relaxed lounging areas,” described Richard Sellwood, Managing Director of Anglepoise. “Anglepoise Duo1227 desk lamps were chosen to enhance the visual impact of the high-low bench that zigzags the central columns to create individual working zones. A bright chrome finish was chosen to complement other high quality materials employed, such as the rubber flooring and oak veneered joinery. With their smooth flowing movement and fingertip control, the high performance lamps create an ideal working environment and enhance the sense of personal space.”

Having scoured the latest range of trade shows including Paris, London and Frankfurt over the last couple of months, Rebecca Weir, Design Director at LightIQ, has noted that the three dominant themes were certainly innovation in design, integration of lamps into pieces of furniture such as side tables and pencil holders, as well as a bolder use of raw and recycled materials particularly wood.

“The drive in innovation is certainly due to the flexibility in design provided by the LED as a light source, allowing designers to ▼



Coral Table Lamp by Cox London

▲ achieve what was unimaginable only a few years ago,” said Rebecca. “I see this trend continuing as specifiers become more confident in the progress of the LED not as an energy efficient alternative but as a light source that can be used in a wholly new and dynamic ways.

“This is an exciting time for manufacturers as we are on the cusp of a new wave of technology which has started to bed in to the market and take a foothold in peoples’ homes. However, I feel the public is always quite slow to grasp new ideas and it will take time. An example of this would be the new and growing ranges of exterior lamps, which are extremely good value and provide a wonderful ambient night scape framing outdoor seating spaces, however, we have managed to specify very few in UK projects.”

Sian Parsons, Associate Designer at John Cullen, agrees that LEDs are the future.

“The main trend in lighting is the power and beauty of LEDs. LED chips, engines and lamps have come a long way since the cooler (in colour and situation) LEDs of the 90s dance club!” she said. “The warmth of white, whilst not matching oil burning lamps, has now become a colour we are happy to recommend to all clients in their homes, whatever the style and age of property. And they offer fantastic money saving reductions in power consumption, so homes run more efficiently and without the need to lamp (light bulb) change so often.”

Sian has also seen leanings towards more bespoke and decorative lighting, including the starry sky effects that they have used in the floor of a basement lightwell terrace, the ceiling of a sauna/steam room and in the floor of a swimming pool. “These tiny star light effects are created from just 14w of ▼



Midus by Christopher Guy

▲ LED chips run through fibre optic cables to the surface," she explained. "Combined with colour changing linear LEDs, these areas are transformed into mystical and highly luxurious spaces, without having to create the interior only from hard/soft furnishings."

"In recent years, LEDs have become a must have for all lighting," added Iris Kadouri Rizenbah, Head Designer at Iris Design Studio. "We see more and more hidden and smart light fixtures being used, whilst table lamps and floor lamps are becoming more of decorative objects. When planning a space, many will first choose architectural fixtures, but table and floor lamps are still required as a statement of style and design."

"The second influence of LEDs is that more often, portable lamps that do not provide quality lighting will disappear from the market. The spread of the light, its volume, colour, and the ability to control the light that is coming out of the fixtures, these are all a must have."

People are becoming more and more educated about lighting in general and are making smarter choices about them.

"Our portable lighting designs are often ordered with more or less bulbs, with different heights, and with or without dimmers," Iris continued. "We know our clients are always looking for that piece, that would fit to their exact needs, and that is why our lamps are designed with incandescent or LEDs to meet those exact client needs."

And with no need to organize fixed wiring, placing or re-positioning table and floor lamps can almost immediately – and literally – brighten a space!