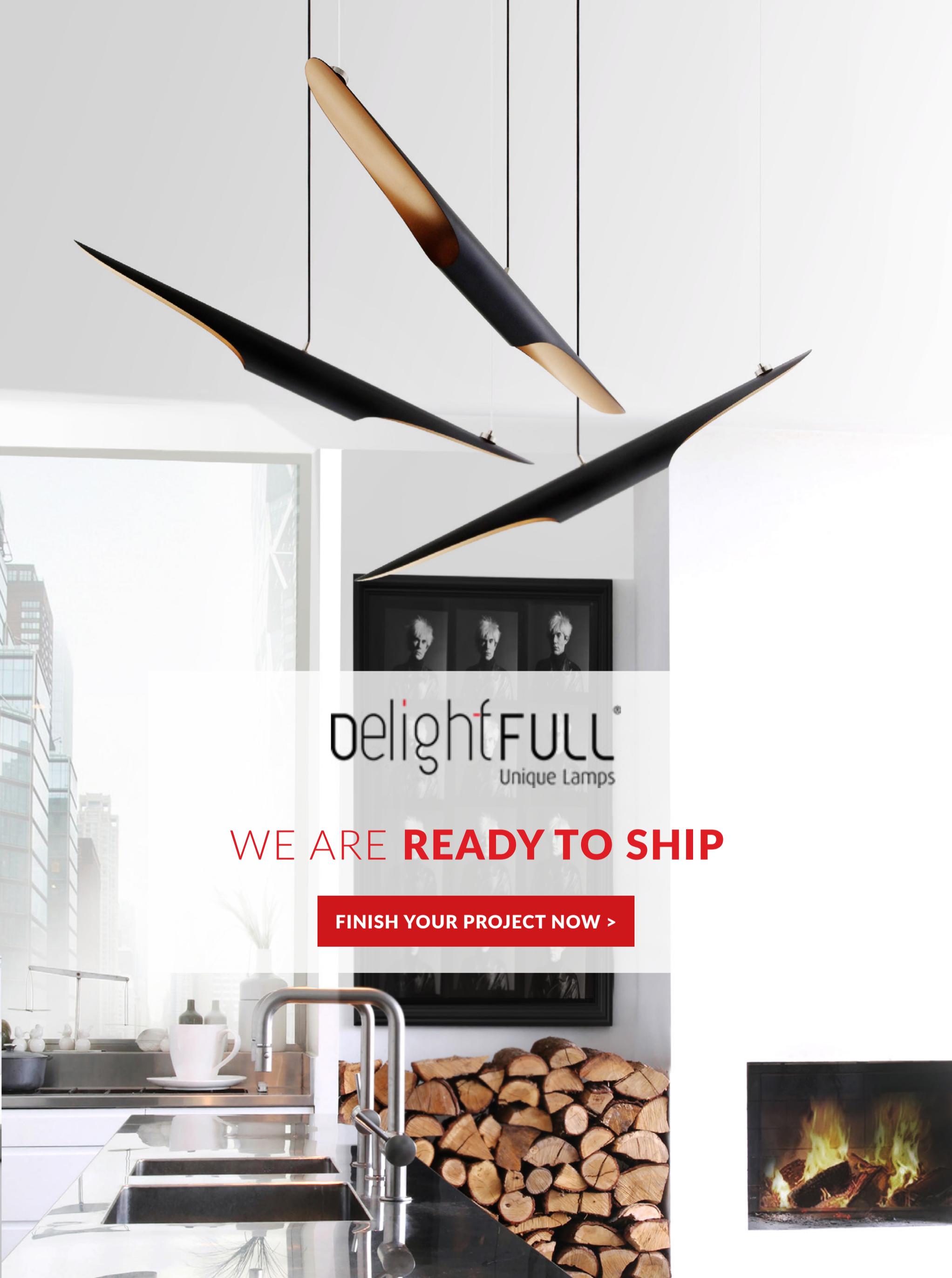
A close-up, black and white photograph of a person's hands using a long, thin metal rod to adjust a brass lighting fixture component. The person is wearing a dark jacket with white stripes on the sleeve. The background is blurred, showing other parts of the fixture and a person's face in profile.

TECHNICAL LIGHTING TIPS

BULBS, CEILING FIXTURES AND LIGHTING TECHNIQUES



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INTERIOR DESIGN TIPS
TYPES OF BULBS AND CEILING FIXTURES

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INTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS

SPRING 2017



Once again we want to recall the importance that a light bulb can have when you are developing an Interior Design project, as much as we want to help you choosing the most appropriate type of ceiling fixtures among all the options that do exist.



If you're wondering how to choose the best lighting bulb for your interior design project, we have the answer. There are several infographics that may help you with this matter. They will show you which is the best option and they will explain you why. We really want you to be elucidated about all the bulbs you can find at the market.

But there's more about this article. We believe that several mistakes can be avoid concerning lighting projects if you know which are the best lighting fixtures for the room you are working on. Each space has special needs, and they will get their special solution... But you need to know how to do it. Unique Blog wants to help you!

BULBS

Three of the most common energy-efficient lighting types include halogen incandescent bulbs, CFLs, and LEDs. Let's see the characteristics of each one of those lighting bulbs. Even so, LED really is the the best option regarding its low energy consumption.

LEDs

The light emitting diode (LED) are semiconductors that convert electricity into light. LEDs are a type of solid-state lighting and are one of today's most energy-efficient and rapidly-developing technologies. The thing is that this kind of lighting use only 20%–25% of the energy and last up to 25 times longer than the traditional incandescent bulbs. More: LEDs use 25%–30% of the energy and last 8 to 25 times longer than halogen incandescents, as well. LEDs are more expensive but even so, they will make you save some money because they last a long time and have very low energy use.

HALOGEN INCANDESCENT BULBS

This kind of lamps have a capsule inside that holds gas around a filament to increase bulb efficiency. They are available in a wide range of shapes and colors, and they can be used with dimmers.

Traditional incandescent and halogen incandescent bulbs can be mixed up. As you can read here, both incandescent and halogen bulbs are based on the concept of two parallel metal wires transmitting an electrical current to a tungsten filament that connects them, heating the filament to a point where its heat is reflected as light and they both put a glass housing around the wires and filaments to amplify the light that is produced. The major difference between an incandescent bulb and a halogen bulb is the gases that each produces within its glass bulb. The purpose of gas production is the same in that it is meant to slow evaporation of the filament and keep it from rusting. Both incandescent and halogen bulbs go dark when the filament wears out. Incandescent bulbs fill with a mixture of 93 percent argon and seven percent nitrogen, both of which are inert gases. A halogen bulb adds a halogen gas, such as iodine or bromine, creating a chemical reaction that regenerates evaporated tungsten and puts it back on the filament, helping to extend the filament's life and therefore the life of the light bulb. However, incandescent bulbs are less efficient than halogen bulbs are, using about 90 percent of the energy that they consume to produce heat and turning less than five percent of it into light.



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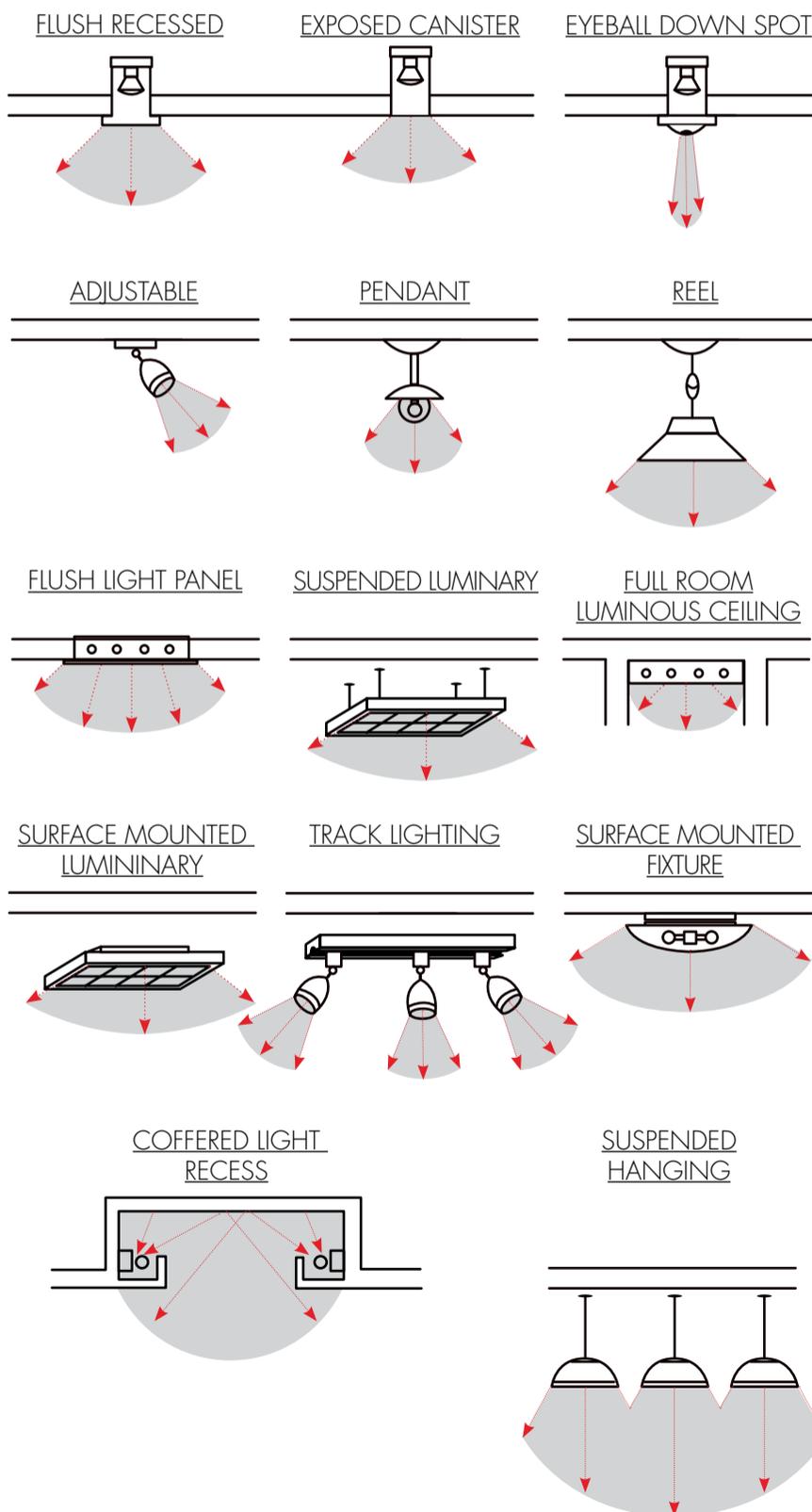
A halogen bulb adds a halogen gas, such as iodine or bromine, creating a chemical reaction that regenerates evaporated tungsten and puts it back on the filament, helping to extend the filament's life and therefore the life of the light bulb.

CFLS

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are simply curly versions of the long tube fluorescent lights you may already have in your kitchen or garage. This kind of lamps uses about one-fourth less energy than traditional incandescents and lasts ten times longer than a comparable traditional incandescent bulb that puts out the same amount of light. A CFL uses about one-third the energy of a halogen incandescent. CFL bulbs are available in a range of light colors, including warm (white to yellow) tones that were not as available when first introduced. Some are encased in a cover to further diffuse the light and provide a similar shape to the bulbs you are replacing. Fluorescent bulbs contain a small amount of mercury, and they should always be recycled at the end of their lifespan.

CEILING FIXTURES

In what concerns lighting fixtures, there are many types you can choose, inclusively, if you need accent light. Take a look at this overview of the types of fixtures available and tips on how they can satisfy your lighting and decor needs.

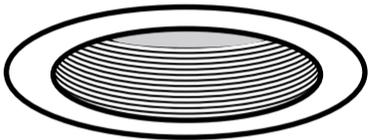


In what concerns lighting fixtures, there are many types you can choose.

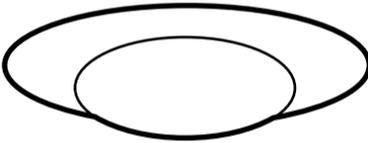
Recessed lighting sends a band of light in one direction; it can be used to provide ambient, task or accent lighting to highlight decor details.

A BRIGHT IDEA MATCH A LIGHTING STYLE WITH YOUR DESIRED BULD STYLE

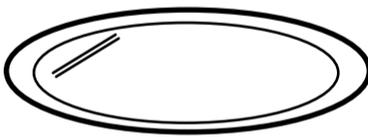
TRIMS OR STYLES



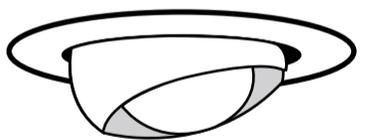
Baffles. Can minimize glare in lighting applications.



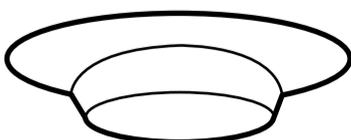
The most economical choice for recessed downlighting in the *open* style.



Reflectors. Maximizes light output in residential and commercial environments.

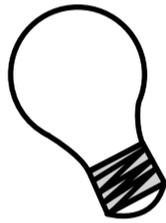


Eyeballs. Provides adjustable / directional lighting applications.



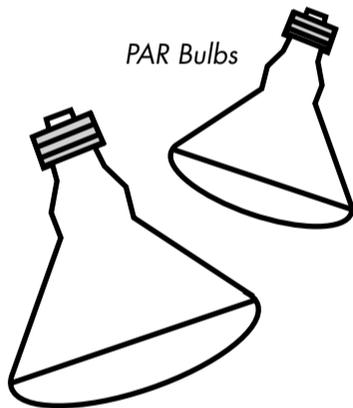
Lens. Diffuse light, shield the the lamp and deal for closets, bathrooms.

BULB STYLES

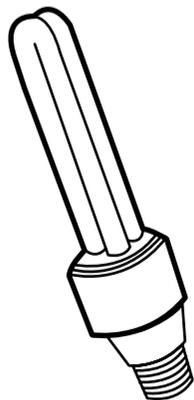


Standard light bulbs. Can be used in reflector and lens-fitted trims for general lighting applications.

PAR Bulbs



Parabolic Aluminized Reflector. Or PAR lamps, have built-in reflectors and are used for general lighting, "wall washing" and display lighting.



Compact flourescents. Can't be dimmed when installed in a incandescent light.



RECESSED LIGHTING

(the first example in the infographic you just saw) is one of the several options for ceiling fixtures. Installed above the ceiling, this type of lighting is used as focal point light. It has an opening that is in contact with the ceiling. A recessed light requires at least 6 inches of clearance above the ceiling. Recessed lighting sends a band of light in one direction; it can be used to provide ambient, task or accent lighting to highlight decor details.

Do you need some guidelines for choosing and placing recessed lights? You can see many solutions on [how to install recessed lighting](#) by clicking here.

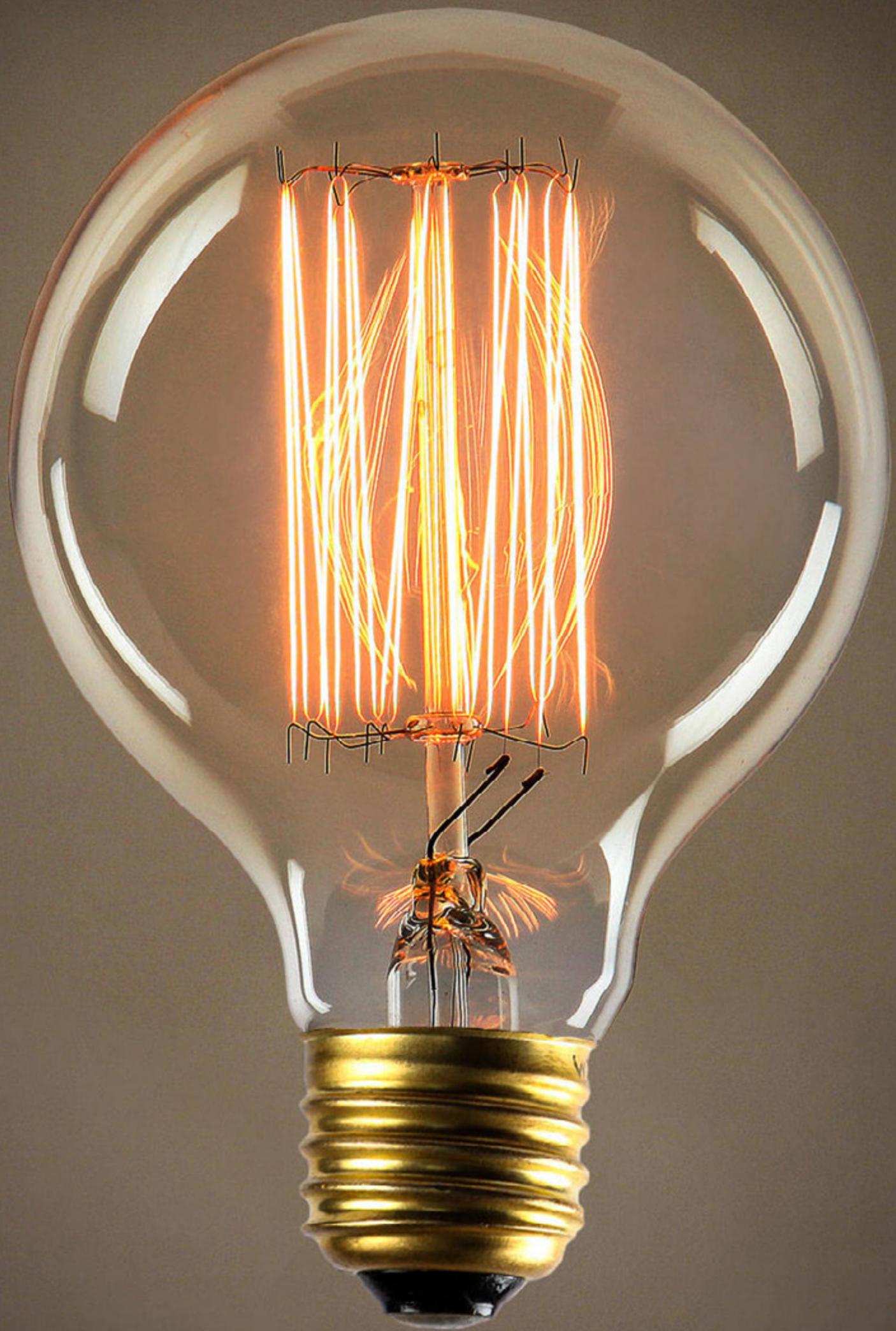
Now that you know the importance a light bulb can have in any Interior Design project, and now that you know which is the most appropriate type of ceiling fixtures for your project or home, leave us some feedback. We hope this will be helpful.



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FILAMENT BULBS RESISTANCE



The filament lamp is a common type of light bulb. It contains a thin coil of wire called the filament. This heats up when an electric current passes through it and produces light as a result.



Incandescent light bulbs have filaments which are made mainly from the element tungsten, the metal element used for the filaments in incandescent light bulbs.

Experiments were made with different materials to use as the filament, including natural fibres, pure metals and alloys of different metals, to find the material which had the longest life whilst glowing brightly enough to give out visible light. The metal Tungsten was found to be the best, because of its high melting point (almost 3700 K) and good resistance to electrical current.

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LIGHTING TECHNIQUES
DOWNLIGHT AND SPOTLIGHT.
DIFFERENCES YOU MUST KNOW



When planning a new interior design project, there are many aspects to consider. Your budget and timeframe are not the only elements in the spotlight. You really need to look very carefully at the elements that will make your project stand out.

A very important part of any interior design project is ensuring that you have adequate lighting available, and that it works in a way that will enhance the environment and complement your décor. Because a bad light can transform an expensive room into a cheap and uncomfortable place.

Lighting can be quite technical but yet it is a wonderful medium to work with. It requires knowledge since you need to choose the right products to work with, and you need to choose a lighting supplier that can deliver a variety of high quality, modern lighting products for you to work with. Lighting designers can also design the perfect layout in your home, allowing you to create the ideal environment for the particular room or area in the house.

LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY

Lighting and equipment technology are always increasing and this means that there are literally hundreds of new products available every year. In order to use the latest design trends and learn about new products on the market, lighting designers need to constantly attend décor shows, interior design workshops, or product launches for new lighting solutions. Keeping ahead with the trends will allow you to provide the best possible service to your customers, or simply just a professional touch to your own project.



Lighting designers can also design the perfect layout in your home, allowing you to create the ideal environment for the particular room or area in the house.

LIGHTING TECHNIQUES

There are many different lighting techniques that can be used and you can manipulate light to create almost any effect you want. You can use light to place emphasis on focal points or you can use light to attract attention away from a particular point or corner in your house. You can also use different types of brightness, depending on the amount of light that you want to let into a room. Softer light provides a calmer atmosphere, where brighter lights are ideal for areas that are busy, like an entertainment area.

DOWNLIGHTING is a popular technique where you can add a moderate amount of light in specific areas of a room. This is ideal to use in rooms that have a lot of natural light during the day, but not so much at night. These downlights are perfect to add to a room to provide a moderate amount of light during night time.

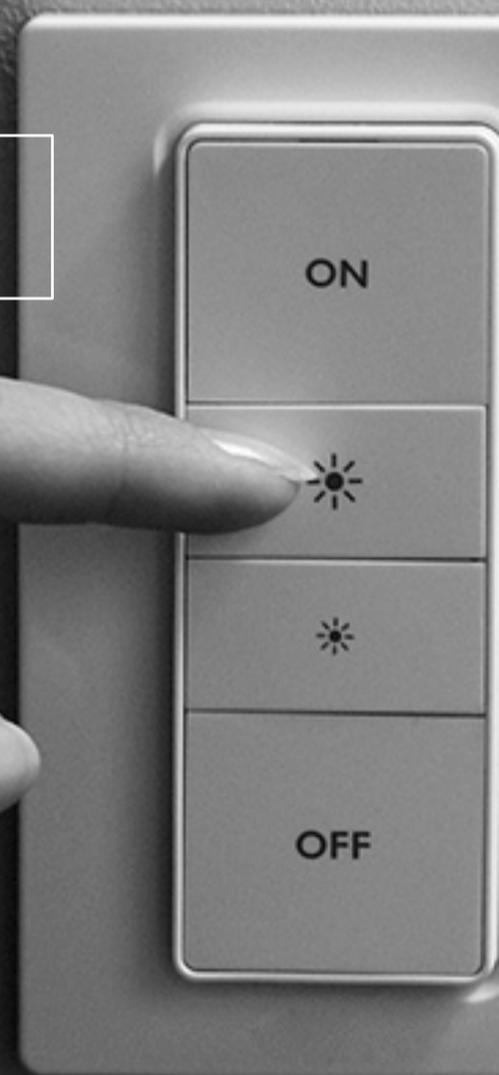
TASK LIGHTS OR SPOTLIGHTS

Accentuate a specific area or workplace, much like a desk. These lights should be at least 3 times brighter than the rest of the light in the room to be effective. Accent lighting adds a shimmer to make your objects like paintings and sculptures stand out. Halogen lamps (that is not the same as incandescent bulbs, as you can see here) are the best type of lighting to use for this. Just make sure that the light is at least 3 times as bright as the rest of the lights. You don't have to be an expert in lighting for it to be effective, but sticking to basic techniques will surely help you create the perfect environment in your home. Always make sure that you buy the correct type of lighting products so that you can get that perfect effect.

Main differences between downlighting and spotlight techniques: Downlight should be used for large area illumination, as it gives more even spread of light over wider area. On the other hand, spot lights should be used for highlighting specific area or display due to its narrow beam angle. Never use only spot lights in whole showroom. Spot lights should be chosen with care, as most of them cut & waste the light beam in angle adjustment.



TYPES OF DIMMERS
CHOOSING THE CORRECT ONE





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Dimmers can reduce the voltage supplied to the lamp, which results in a light output decrease of the light bulb. With a dimmer you may set the light levels depending on your mood. Direct advantage? You will note a reduction in consumption and that will make you save money.



Another advantage is that it increases lamp life in order to replace lamps less times, so, automatically you reduce the replacement of a lamp and maintenance costs. Be carefully by choosing the correct dimmer, if you select the wrong type it may not work, could reduce lamp life or even blow the dimmer.

RESISTIVE DIMMERS (LEADING EDGE)

Compatible with resistive or inductive loads, leading edge dimmers are able to short the A/C cycle at the leading edge of the input waveform, hence the term 'Leading Edge'.

Incandescent and halogen light bulbs are the most common bulbs where leading edge dimmers are applied. Also low voltage transformers are dimmable, as well as LED drivers. These dimmers are available in 250w, 400w, 600w and 1000w modules. Note that they also have a minimum load requirement of 25w, 40w, 100w and 150w respectively.

RESISTIVE DIMMERS (TRAILING EDGE)

Trailing edge dimmers are more expensive to produce and purchase. They incorporate many features such as soft start; smooth control, silent running and multi-way dimming that promotes the life of the lamps and fittings.

They are commonly used to dim laminated, wire-wound or toroidal transformers, which are certain types of low voltage transformers on the primary circuit. Trailing edge dimmers can also dim incandescent, halogen and LED lamps effectively.

The price of a trailing edge dimmer is higher but it has many desirable attributes over its leading edge counterpart and in certain situations may be more appropriate.



Incandescent and halogen light bulbs are the most common bulbs where leading edge dimmers are applied.

INDUCTIVE DIMMERS

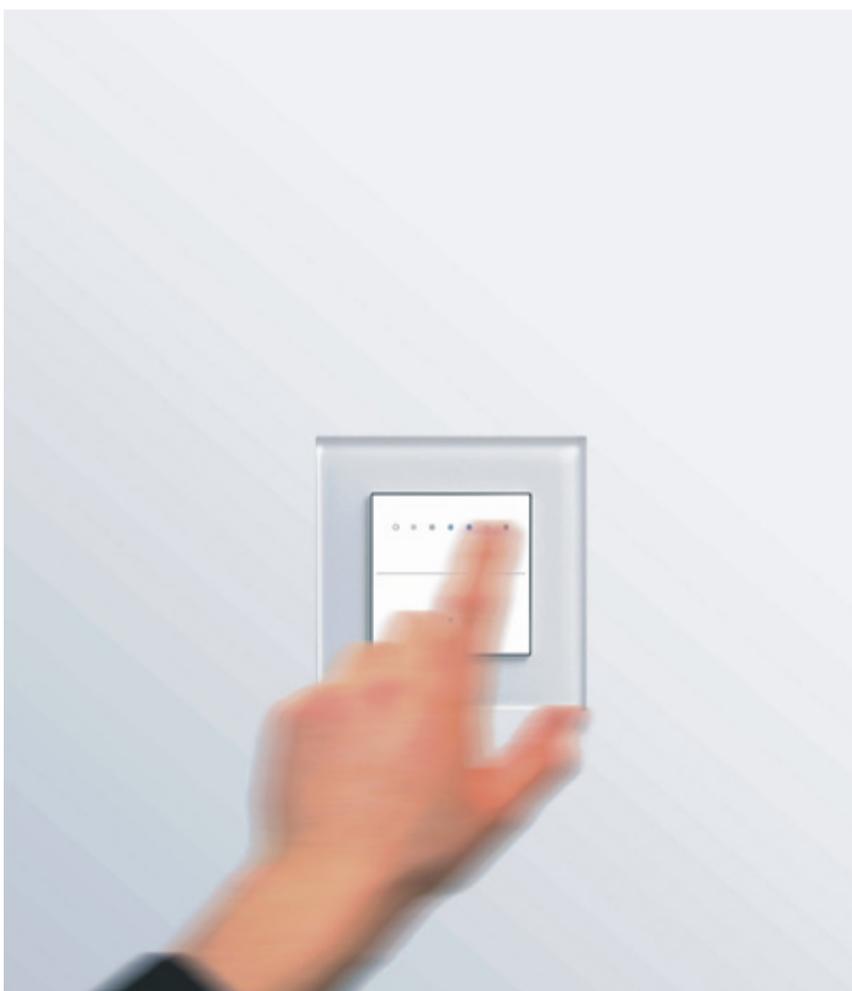
Inductive dimmers aren't used in home settings. They are located on the secondary side of a low voltage or LED lighting scheme. They are rated in VA (Volt Amps) rather than watts and have already been over rated to deal with the rush of current from the transformers, as Sye Yehya explains.

DIMMING FLUORESCENT FITTINGS

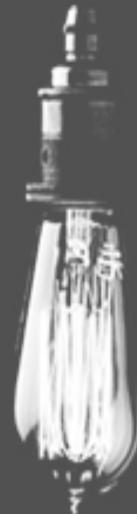
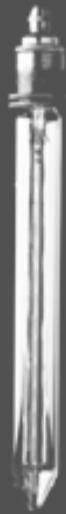
Dimming Fluorescent Fittings are expensive to install and are mainly used for commercial applications. These can be dimmed between 3% and 100% lighting by using a suitably rated dimmer but must incorporate a separate on/off switch. Although they're still expensive, the price will be reduced as they become more popular.

DIMMING LED LAMPS

Voltage dimmable LED light bulbs can be dimmed using a normal resistive dimmer. They'll consume very low wattages and are very energy efficient. Non-dimmable LED lamps cannot be dimmed, of course. If you fit a dimmer to non-dimmable LED's then you'll cause damage to the dimmer or lamps. Dimming low voltage LED lamps is also easily achieved by either dimming the driver on the primary (mains) side or on the secondary (low voltage) side. Primary side dimming is the more easiest to achieve. The LED driver would need to be of a constant current type and dimmable.



Dimming Fluorescent Fittings are expensive to install and are mainly used for commercial applications.



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