

BRIGHT IDEAS

Look up

Floor lamps can help to establish a soft ambient light that is perfect for quiet conversations and contemplation. The effects are simple but powerful.

Be bold

Don't rush into lighting up your house. Take time to reflect how you will use each space and consult a lighting expert. Make a statement. Be brave. Engage a designer to create a statement piece that will be custom-made to complement the character of your home. Go back to nature – green is the colour of choice when it comes to design trends for 2017.

Dim and dimmer

A dimmer allows you to modify the mood and transform the ambience of a space with the flick of a switch.



FELIX FOREST

A Pyrmont, Sydney, home designed by Arent & Pyke, right and below.



TOM FERGUSON

“Lighting is more than just functional ... My niche is in lighting as art that is reflective of someone’s home and life.”

“When it comes to finishes and tones, fake copper lighting fixtures are finished. Brass doesn’t date, and silvers are coming back in. Chromes and palladium tones are very forward as they can be polished like jewellery, which means they age gracefully,” he says.

Boots, who has more than 100 projects on the go, says he finds much of his inspiration in nature. He says those who are looking for an edgy modern look should move away from last season’s obsession with rose gold and consider going green.

“I am looking into materials that have a green patina. Mossy greens, sage greens, acidic greens, and the patina that you find on brass, which is beautiful,” Boots says.

“I’m really inspired by nature and am into textured finishes, which is in direct response to the fact we spend so much time on screens that we need that tactile experience.”

Arent & Pyke principal Juliette Arent, agrees green is the new hue because it takes its cue from nature and softens spaces by bringing the outdoors in. The interior designer says she has noticed a rebellion against minimalism as more and more clients request spaces that are curated to connect with nature.

“Lighting has the greatest impact on the ambience and mood of a room. Using bright hues like deep greens is a great way to inject personality into an interior and the layering of a furnishing scheme often depends on that,” she says.

“With lighting, we’ve noticed our clients are requesting more colour, more texture, more tactile and textured materials. There’s a fabulous pendant light from Apparatus that uses horsehair, which is a big statement and a material we haven’t seen before.”

Arent says she has noticed Australians are also thinking about the placement of lights to bring a space to life. “A space works best with a mix of floor lamps, pendants that drop down over a dinner table, a lamp light that is at eye level.”

Consultant at Custom Lighting Brett Ronald-Howell says when choosing lighting, everything from the room’s dimensions to the functional needs of the space must be considered. He says the general rule of thumb is to use warm white light in rooms intended for comfort and intimacy and a cooler white light in spaces such as the kitchen, garage and bathroom where you need the functionality of a bright light.

“The number one thing I recommend is to include dimmers, which play with the level of light you want and give you flexibility,” Ronald-Howell says. 