

## NEW HOMES & CONDOS

# Are you using the 'right' light?



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## LIVING BY DESIGN

**B**right, light and airy is key to so many well-designed functional spaces. When natural light is limited, the right light fixtures will function to illuminate the rooms while creating an aesthetic statement.

Rugs, fabrics, drapery and furnishings need to be properly illuminated in order to bring out their beauty, and create the right ambiance in the room.

After working on countless episodes of HGTV's *Income Property*, many of which were basement apartments, I was always faced with the challenge of making the spaces feel sunny and bright, through careful allocation of lighting.

Introducing the right amount of fixtures and the proper combination of lighting sources allowed the spaces to shine both on and

off camera.. Creating lighting plans are key to ensuring there is ample distribution of lighting in a space. At Dvira Interiors, we ensure that every client's lighting becomes an essential component of the design package, no matter how small the budget.

In order for artificial lighting to give your space the right look, feel and luminance you must not only rely on one lighting source, it takes careful laying of fixtures to create the right ambiance and tackle multiple functional zones.

There are three essential types of lighting that can be defined into different categories: Ambient, Task and Accent lighting.

Ambient lighting is your overall, general light source, typically this is your pot lights or basic overhead light source.

Task lighting, functions to illuminate a specific area

or zone, whether it's a desk lamp, or under cabinet lighting, this light source is targeted to your specific needs.

Accent lighting is meant to focus on a specific subject or area, it can create an optical illusion if used properly, commonly this type of lighting is used to highlight interior architectural features, artwork and also predominantly used outdoors to create an ambiance among landscaping.

Outside of function, we often use light fixtures to add drama to a space. The right pendant or chandelier can become the wow factor and the lasting impression for many rooms in your house.

Selecting the right chandelier for your room takes careful consideration of scale and style. If you are stuck on where to go or what to choose, call in the experts, a few hours at the right lighting store and with a designer can shed a lot of light on your lighting dilemmas.

My 'go-to' resource in Toronto for ample selections and outstanding knowledge is Royal Lighting.

### TIPS:

1. Look now for LED fixtures, these will stay cool and last much longer than your traditional bulbs.

2. Condo living can be frustrating, the lack of overhead lighting is common for many new and old buildings. The ability to install pot lights is impossible with most typical concrete ceiling construction. Compensate the lack of light with table lamps, floor lamps, under cabinet lighting.

3. Dimmers are a great way to control lighting and set the right ambiance. Install them on all major light sources and pot lights.

Lighting may appear simple but it takes the proper combination of fixtures to allow your spaces to shine. Explore the many options, and consider both function and aesthetics and go shed some beautiful light into your home!

— *Dvira Ovadia is principal of Dvira Interiors, a Toronto-based celebrity and award-winning designer who appears regularly on HGTV. For more information, visit [www.dvira.com](http://www.dvira.com).*



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