

Interior Designer
Dolores Pian
shares her ideas.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

It's been a long time since the first statement lighting fixture in the universe was created with a bang.

Back here on earth and in our homes, we mortals have been trying to replicate the same wow factor ever since.

Entranceways, bedrooms, kitchens and even bathrooms can use lights that make a statement. More often than not, we love to use chandeliers for this purpose. They are grand. They command attention. And, most definitely, they are striking.

Traditionally, chandeliers with tiny lights were gathered up into one large fixture and were central to the décor of a room, in most cases the dining room. Distinguished homes had Schonbek chandeliers with Swarovski crystals. We would also see fanciful, sweeping shapes of colourful glass from Murano and Venice, Italy – much like a grand dame in her wonderful gown attending La Scala Opera.

Over the past 10 years, traditional chandeliers have become objects of desire once again, evoking an era of glamour and style. Sleekly styled teardrops, without the faceted cuts, are the updated version of crystals, creating modern styling in a traditional fixture, such as the Crawford by Hudson Valley Lighting.

Today, lighting statements come in twos, threes or in clusters. Some are floating sculptures. Modern technology allows us to be more creative with different shapes and materials.

Artemide, one of the world's most progressive and grooviest lighting manufacturers, from Italy, regularly creates fantastical pieces that provide a lifetime of beauty and joy. One of their latest pieces, Chlorophilia, designed by Ross Lovegrove, cleverly up-lights a series of petals that act as prisms, producing light and shadows with the help of LEDs, creating a delicate, space-expanding effect.

Sometimes a statement chandelier is not a chandelier at all, but a large lamp that arcs overhead, such as the Arco, by Italian manufacturer Flos. It is considered an ageless classic suitable for any décor or function.

Light It Up

- Think of your chandelier as a stunning investment in visually-beautiful eye candy that will make an impression both by night and by day.
- In open-plan spaces, while your chandelier is the focus, it's good to mix sizes and type of fixtures that are flexible to your needs. The other fixtures don't have to match, but they do need to coordinate.
- Structurally, make sure your ceiling can support the weight of your light fixture. Not usually a problem but best to consult with your contractor. Better safe than sorry.
- There are so many wonderful options out there: traditional, vintage, transitional, modern, ultra modern, suspended, ceiling-hugger, colourful, clear, metal, glass, wood. No matter your tastes there's something to suit your personality and style.

Turn it On

- Buy quality bulbs with a colour temperature of 2700 K to 3000 K. The lower the number the warmer and cosier the atmosphere. Different lighting and colour temperatures will bring out different shades in your wall colours, fabrics and carpets.
- Dimmers set the mood and provide as much light as required when needed. Dimmers can also be calibrated to preset light settings to provide the atmosphere and the timing of your choice.
- Incandescent filament bulbs are still the best for that warm fiery glow. They are the softest and most flattering bulbs available.
- Halogens are crisp and warm and make objects look sensuous and rounder.
- Fluorescents make objects and colours look flat, despite the colour temperature.
- LED lights are efficient and can be warm providing that you choose a warm colour temperature. Beware of pointy hot spots – make sure that you have a diffuser to soften the light source.
- If you're feeling nostalgic and you want to see a clear bulb, Bulbrite produces bulbs that replicate the exposed filaments of clear bulbs through LED technology.

Although lighting's primary function is to see and be seen, it's important to think of your empty ceilings and walls like a canvas to create your personal statement. Now all you have to ask yourself is: How will I light up my universe and make my statement? **OH**

1. SWAROVSKI LIGHTING: Valterri Chandelier **2. HUDSON VALLEY LIGHTING:** Crawford Chandelier **3. VESOI:** Infedele Suspension Light **4. ARTEMIDE:** Chlorophilia **5. FLOS:** Arco Floor Lamp **6. BULBRITE:** LED Filament Bulbs