

# Captivating Residential Lighting

*LED is the new-normal for residential lighting, bringing amazing performance and capabilities. But why are so many not getting it really right and attaining truly captivating results?*

Lighting is the prime determinant for achieving the sweet-spot of mood and ambience in residential interiors, and investing in well-conceived lighting solutions is as important as investing in bricks-and-mortar. In contrast, poorly-conceived lighting is a home value destroyer and will be an ongoing irritation for home occupants to endure.

## DESIGN CONCEPTS

Achieving great results demands an understanding of design concepts like astute use of light and shade, glare control and balancing light on horizontal, vertical and ceiling surfaces. Luminaires need to deliver performance well beyond “just-good-enough”, so attributes like glare control, directional adjustability, colour temperature and colour rendering need to be on-point. Fixed direction ceiling recessed luminaires are the ubiquitous and trusty workhorses of residential lighting, but if used indiscriminately, they can starve walls and vertical surfaces, creating a bland and clinical feel within a living space.

## GLARE CONTROL

Residential recessed luminaires fall into two main categories, diffuser optic and mirror reflector optic. Diffuser types employ an opal diffuser to

spread a broad and soft beam of light. These are used in fixed luminaires for general, service and bathroom areas. As the bright optic is usually visible to the eye these need to be used with positioning care as direct glare can spoil an otherwise appealing interior.

Mirror reflector optics deliver defined and crisp pools of light to focal points with zero direct glare, and light with a 3D modelling effect that highlights the form and texture of interiors and displayed items.

## COLOUR TEMPERATURE

Colour temperature choices differentiate practical and functional areas such as kitchens and bathrooms from relaxation spaces like living areas and bedrooms. Thoughtful application of colour is essential as cooler colour light (e.g. 4000K) is a stimulant, and warmer light (e.g. 2700-3000) slows us down to mellow moods.

## COLOUR RENDERING

High Colour Rendering Index (CRI) LED light brings verve and vibrancy to interiors, and can make room colours look more alive and life-like. Once an expensive option for upmarket retail and art galleries, high CRI LED luminaires are now mainstream, available and affordable.

## GETTING IT RIGHT

It's all about quality luminaires together with a sound mix of techniques to lift and accentuate interior features, surfaces and textures. Getting residential LED lighting really right will deliver a captivating interior with wow-factor way beyond anything previously imagined. But astute product choice and informed design are vital ingredients in reaching this level.



Lighting Council New Zealand is the industry association for lighting manufacturing, importing, and distribution companies in New Zealand, and associated lighting industry participants. [www.lightingcouncil.org.nz](http://www.lightingcouncil.org.nz)

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