

MANSION GLOBAL



A contemporary-meets-classic fixture adds elegance to a breakfast nook in a home designed by Achille Salvagni.

AMENITIES | DESIGNERS CORNER

How to Choose — and Hang — Your Chandeliers

Lighting helps to create the atmosphere of a space

BY JENNIFER TZESES | ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 17, 2018 | [MANSION GLOBAL](#)

Each week Mansion Global tackles a design topic with an elite group of designers from around the world who work on luxury properties. This week we look at how to choose and hang the right chandelier for your space.

A chandelier is the ultimate accessory for a space. "It creates an atmosphere as much as the lighting—the layers of the chandelier, the many small details from which it is made, the clarity of the crystal, the texture all add up to a magnificent look of grandeur," said Tel Aviv-based interior designer Lauren Reik.

"Lighting is what makes the atmosphere of the room, what makes it sexy, charming and soulful," said Anna Lloyd-Jones, creative director, ALJ Studio.

For ideas on illuminating your space with style, follow these tips from the pros.

Set the Room's Tone



Designed by Babcock Peffer, the soaring vaulted ceilings of this dining room befit a statement light source that commands attention.

Photography by Francine Fleischer

"We believe in layered decorative lighting, and a chandelier is an important component of this. It helps to create an even ambient light, which lights the ceiling and objects in its vicinity. It can also serve as a sculpture or a work of art because it is often installed in a location where it commands a presence.

"The scale of the light fixture should speak to the architecture of the room as well as the height of the ceiling. A simple rule of thumb is to add the length and width of the room together in feet. Whatever this equals in feet is converted to inches to give you a ballpark number. For example, a room that is 12 feet by 12 feet = 24 or 24" diameter [for the chandelier].

"Height varies by the location and purpose. Ideally, no one should have to look through the light when they are standing at the table.

"There are so many bulb varieties these days that it can be overwhelming. For most residential spaces, we prefer the warmth of an incandescent bulb. If using LED bulbs, this means 2700K or less. The bulb also needs to be attractive and clear, especially if it is exposed. We love the Filament bulbs.

"That said, having a dimmer installed is just as important as the bulb. This gives you the flexibility to use a brighter bulb that can be helpful when you need more light to see but can also be dimmed to create a cozy, romantic mood for evening."

—Allison Babcock of Babcock Peffer Design in Sag Harbor, New York

Consider the Logistics



A feathered light fixture adds whimsical flare to this office space designed by Phillip Thomas.
Photography by Antoine Bootz

"Chandeliers are works of art that elevate a space. Correctly proportioned chandeliers can have the ability to make a room feel bigger. "The key when selecting a chandelier is to start with the height of the chandelier. You never want to feel that it is coming down on top of you. As long as you pay special attention to the height, the length and the width can be to your liking. In a space with low ceilings, I find that a shallow chandelier that is broad in length and width can help make that space feel bigger.

"I don't discriminate on where chandeliers can be located. To me, they are works of art that add texture and interest to a space.

"Over a dining room table, I tend to hang them no lower than six feet off the floor to the bottom of the fixture. In other spaces, I like to maintain a minimum of eight feet between the bottom of the chandelier and the floor.

"The key with bulbs is the color of the light. It should resemble traditional incandescent lighting as closely as possible. To that end, I often select 3000K as the color temperature for an LED bulb."

— **Phillip Thomas, founder and principal of Phillip Thomas Inc. in New York City**

Be Creative



A traditional-style chandelier adds old world glamour to a modern space designed by Lauren Reik.
Photography by Oded Smadar

"Using a chandelier in an uncommon space, such as a guest bathroom or a corner in a house, allows me to add a touch of playfulness and theatrical effect.

"My favorite chandelier style is the 'French-and-Rock-Crystal chandelier.' It is usually associated with a luxurious lifestyle and fine materials. An interesting combination is to place an early 19th-century fixture in a modern space.

"The light bulb should be as unique and elegant as the ornament itself. I prefer using a carbon bulb in a glass pear shape with a visible reel. It complements by blending in."

— **Tel Aviv-based interior designer Lauren Reik**

Think About the Space Itself



The centerpiece of this dining room designed by Anna Lloyd-Jones is the graphic light fixture, which adds an artistic touch.
Photography by Nick Smith

"Whatever the area, make sure your chandelier has space to breath. In large open areas, you can go big and bold, as a smaller piece will just get lost and won't have a desired impact. Similarly, in smaller, confined spaces, you wouldn't want to have an oversized piece as it will immediately overpower the room.

"The use of the room will dictate the style of the chandelier. While a couple of simple pendants would look great over a kitchen island, in the dining room, go for the wow effect and make a feature out of it. The scale of the room should be considered, as well as the size of the furniture. I like having the diameter and proportions of the chandeliers smaller than the furniture beneath them. For example, if it's a dining table, then you can take between half to a third of its length and this will be your chandelier length. It's always a good idea to complement the shape of the furniture and the room by repeating its shape in your lighting piece.

— Anna Lloyd-Jones, creative director of London-based ALJ Studio

Photography by Nick Smith