

LIGHTING TRENDS FOR 2009

Mark Hensman is the Managing Director at GIA Equation. Here, Mark discusses with Interior Design Today the bold statement that lighting can create and the potential that carefully placed and directed lighting can give.

“Over the last few years, an increasing awareness with regard to the potential of light has led to a greater expectation and use of artificial light within virtually all types of interior. This is applicable to both the residential and commercial markets.



“One of the increasing trends in interiors is the use of ‘lighting furniture’ – decorative floor, wall and pendant lights that are used to assist the interior theme of a space as well as to provide illumination. I think this is part of an increasing awareness of design and the use of designer objects – furniture, fabrics, lighting etc. Whilst working on the interior lighting design scheme for the Paramount Club at the top of Centre Point in London, we worked with designer Tom Dixon. At Paramount, decorative lighting is a key feature of the scheme’s interior which was achieved without compromising the quality and technical performance of the lighting. It is a good example of the manifestation of what is now becoming a significant lighting trend.

“We are now starting to see this influence on the High Street, where design classics such as the Poul Henningsen Artichoke (1958) and the Verner Panton Shell (1964) are inspiring retail lighting products. These retail ranges are perhaps not as good as the real thing, however the influence is there all the same.

“Another major influence in terms of product development is the increasing focus on sustainability. Shortly our good old friend the GLS lamp

(the common light bulb) will be no more, as EC legislation will see it removed from sale and replaced with more energy efficient lamps. These include miniature compact fluorescent lamps and LEDs, both of which are now being developed at considerable pace.

“The quality of light from both these sources has significantly improved and will continue to do so in the near future. This combined with technical advances, such as being able to dim compact fluorescent lamps from standard wall dimmers, (the sort that you buy from B&Q for £15.00) will make these more efficient lamps much more viable, even in the simplest of residential interiors.

“And LED’s? Well they are not quite there yet, despite all the hype, but they will be very, very soon. Undoubtedly, when they arrive they will prove to be a significant trend in the way we view and think about light.”

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