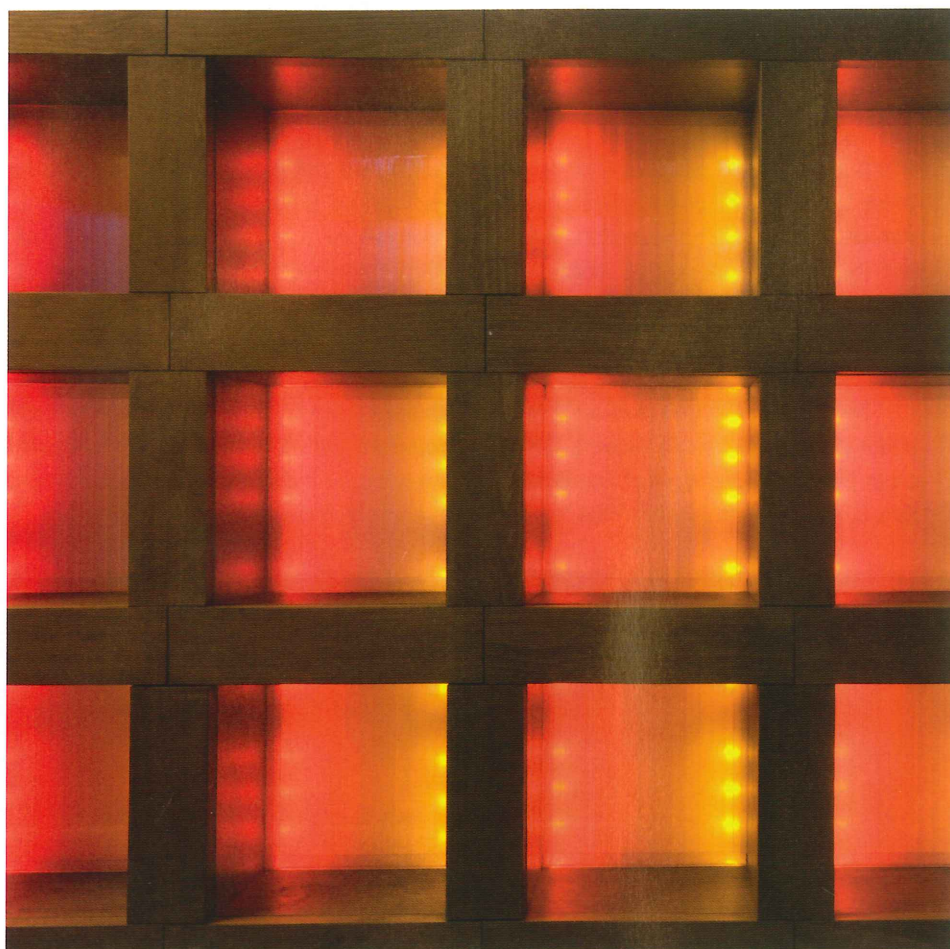


Everything Is Illuminated

Our most visible source of energy consumption is all around us—the lights in our house. We asked several local lighting designers about trends and technology in energy-efficient lights.



LOOKS VERSUS LAMP LIFE

There's a compromise between energy efficiency and aesthetics, says Alex Hill, principal of Leax Lighting Controls, in Basalt and London. "People are used to warm and fuzzy incandescents," he says. "Fluorescents and LEDs [light-emitting diodes] tend to have a brighter, whiter light." Combine energy-efficient lights in high-use areas of your home with more atmospheric lights for entertaining. The hue of your walls can also help balance a light's color quality. "It helps the perceived color of a light if it has a warm surface to reflect off," Hill says.

Advises Kale Lacroux, who, with Justin Streeb, recently opened Lacroux Streeb Lighting Design in Basalt: "The more you can get a space to glow naturally, the brighter it will seem. Use less wattage and fewer fixtures in an appropriate fashion, and it will seem brighter."

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LEDs backlight cubbyholes at the Snowmass Village Recreation Center.

Solar Opposites?

Installing solar panels may require some tactful negotiations with your homeowners' association

BY JEREMY SIMON

Planned residential communities are notorious for legislating an intentional, uniform aesthetic—whether it's enforcing narrow color palettes, restricting political signage, or making you drag your kid's basketball hoop out of the driveway.

Given the ascendance both of renewable energy and planned communities, it's no surprise that pro-solar residents sometimes butt up against homeowners' association boards regarding the uncharted territory of residential solar panel arrays.

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EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED

*Continued from page 73***TAKE CONTROL**

A control system “can really cut back on energy consumption,” says Lacroux. It may include consolidated switches, timers, dimmers, and sensors that, for example, adjust a lamp’s output level depending on how much natural light comes in. Soft-start dimmers turn on lights over a few milliseconds rather than instantaneously, increasing bulb life by about 25 percent, says Hill.

FLUORESCENTS

Sardinsky calls this the big “F” word. “Ninety out of 100 people are going to frown and say ‘I hate fluorescents,’” he says, “but there are state-of-the-art fluorescents, ones that generate rich, warm light and don’t flicker.” Use these higher-end, linear fluorescents for task and general lighting in spaces like workshops, laundry rooms, and closets. The trick is finding them; most have to be special ordered through an architect or lighting designer.

What about the spiral-shaped compact fluorescent lights that are getting so much buzz? “CFLs work really well in commercial settings, but I’m not a big fan of them in residential settings,” admits Lacroux. He advises trying them in table or floor lamps so that the shades diffuse the sometimes-harsh light.

LIGHT-EMITTING DIODES (LEDS)

“The sexiest technology is LEDs,” says Robert Sardinsky, principal of Rising Sun Enterprises in Basalt. You might be familiar with these ballpoint-pen-sized bulbs in headlamps or flashlights, but in the past couple of years, they’ve shown up in residential lighting applications, too. Possible uses, says Sardinsky, include task lighting, sidewall lighting that illuminates steps, and indirect lighting atop beams or columns. The bulbs come in colors, too.

The downsides? LEDs are pricey, about two to four times (or more) the cost of traditional lighting sources, says Sardinsky. But they ultimately use 75 percent less power and last three to ten times as long. And when you compare the costs of two different types of bulbs, emphasizes Lacroux, remember that over the course of the more expensive bulb’s lifetime, you might be replacing the other bulb two or three times.

LOW-VOLTAGE HALOGEN

Halogen bulbs, which last longer than incandescents, have long been popular for providing concentrated beams of light. Newer halogen IR bulbs incorporate a heat-mirror technology that, says Sardinsky, boosts efficiency about 30 to 40 percent.

IN TOWN ON THE RIVER

This condo has been completely remodeled! Twelve foot ceilings, wood-burning fireplace with an oversized deck on the Roaring Fork River. New flooring throughout, Bosch and Sub Zero appliances and custom cabinets. This condo comes fully furnished and is located just a few blocks to the gondola at the end of a quiet street. \$2,125,000

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