

Remodel, with lighting

Remodeling of residential homes today is "big business" and becomes ever more popular with homeowners as they outgrow their present home, and find purchasing a new and larger residence more and more costly.

The alternative, of course, as young children grow to teenagers and need more bedroom and study area, as the lady-of-the-house wants to add more appliances like a microwave oven in the kitchen or a laundry room on the first floor instead of in the basement, as the need for additional, and separate, entertainment and hobby areas expands, or a family takes elderly parents to live with them, is extensive remodeling.

It is at this point, while still in the talking and planning stage, before blueprints are drawn, that a home lighting inventory and reassessment should be undertaken. Lighting is one of remodelings most overlooked elements.

There are many changes and additions in home lighting that can improve the home and quality of life for its occupants. If your remodeling plans are not too extensive, the base lighting system usually remains in

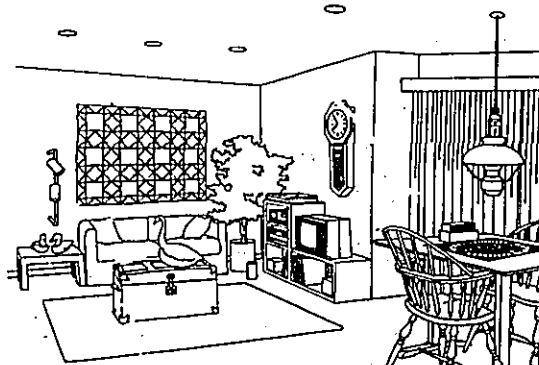
place. Typical modifications are rewiring for better control; substituting more efficient light sources for less efficient ones, and relocating existing fixtures for better task lighting and to eliminate unwanted glare (more wattage is not always better) and shadows: lighting a formerly dark corner of a small room can make the whole room seem larger and more inviting.

Structural Lighting

If your remodeling plans are fairly extensive, structural lighting is most easily, and economically, installed at this time. Structural lighting may include a lighted: soffit, cornice, cove, valance, wall bracket, canopy, toe mold, slot, top of cabinet, under counter or room divider. Recessed downlighting is a very important form of structural lighting. It is a fixture recessed into the ceiling and is very unobtrusive. The fixture may have a lens or diffuser. A lens either spreads or concentrates light; a diffuser scatters the light and hides the bulb.

Energy Consideration

Remodeling time is an excellent time



to think about energy considerations in home lighting. Lighting constitutes less than 11 percent of residential electricity usage despite the fact the average single-family home has nearly 28 lighting fixtures, as opposed to movable lamps.

How to Accomplish


How to accomplish this seemingly difficult assignment? First, make certain the architect or contractor you choose for your home remodeling is knowledgeable about home lighting. How? If possible, check out some of the projects he has completed and observe the lighting installations firsthand.

If this isn't possible, ask for references. Then, make certain that you, the customer, let the expert know about your lifestyle and activities so he will be equipped to make intelligent suggestions and choices in the selection of lighting fixtures, and devise lighting techniques appropriate to your home and your way of life.

Some Specifics

If you are redoing the kitchen, make provision for adding fixtures over the sink, under cabinets and any area where tasks are performed; and maybe, add a pendant light or

Continued on Next Page



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