

6D REAL ESTATE

New lighting provides for an easy home makeover

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

When was the last time you installed lighting to create ambiance in your home? It is frequently considered a functional necessity, but lighting often remains an overlooked element in setting the mood for every room in your house.

You can layer lighting the same way you layer fabrics and texture in home decorating - use it to add interest and emphasis to certain areas while creating a harmonious feeling. Consider different types of lighting for each room - living room floor lamps for reading, two-level chandeliers for a dramatic entryway, or track lighting for highlighting decor.

Track lighting provides a versatile light source. It allows you to slide and position light fixtures along the tracks to direct light where you need it most. Some tracks are flexible, which means you can create fluid curves and interesting shapes. The lighting fixtures that attach to the tracks come in a wide variety of styles and colors to help create the mood you seek.

An innovative system from Westinghouse Lighting makes track lighting affordable and easy to install. With their LitesNow track lighting kit and a pair of scissors, you can transform your home's lighting in about 15 minutes for around \$40 to \$80. Use a LitesNow kit to highlight a special piece of art in the living room. Add subtly to the ambient light in the bedroom. You can even wrap the LitesNow track lighting system around a pole or beam to add light and dimension to overlooked spaces. The line also features a pendant kit which can be placed over your kitchen island for attractive and practical task lighting.

"With the LitesNow track lighting system, you can quickly install accent lighting anywhere there's an outlet," says George Mabin, divisional general manager, lamps and decorative electrical accessories for Westinghouse Lighting Corporation.

The tracks range in length from 4 feet to 15 feet. Simply select the size that best meets your needs and cut the flexible track to the desired length. Using the plug-in LitesNow system, apply the track anywhere on ceilings or walls with the flexible, 3M adhesive-back track and PowerTape. Snap on the lights, plug the system into the nearest outlet and admire how stylish your room looks.

Available in plug-in and hardwire styles, the LitesNow track lighting kits come in four designs including original, accent, pendant, and firefly. Each comes complete with all of the components needed for installation.

You can customize your lighting kit with a wide range of accessories. Choose from colored shades in frost, amber, blue, and red, metal shades and replacement light bulbs.

For more information, visit www.westinghouselighting.com/litesnow or call (888) 417-6222.

Back to school design, cool



PHOTO: IARA CONTENT

A smart study space goes a long way toward smart study habits.

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Parents and kids alike are discovering that creating a smart study space in a bedroom or playroom goes a long way toward creating smart study habits.

And nothing makes that easier than stylish kids furniture that creates the ultimate multi-functional kids space - one room where kids can sleep, play and study.

According to the experts at Pier 1 Kids, a solutions-based children's furniture and accessories retailer, flexible, functional, stylish rooms are the answer to the year's first Pop Quiz - What are kids and parents looking for to get ready for Back to School?

"Dual functionality is big. It's not about separate rooms for every function. Parents want to get the most out of the rooms where they live - especially when it comes to the kids," says Pier 1 Kids director of merchandising Peter Fowler. For moms, that means pieces that pull double duty. Right now, organization and entertainment go hand in hand.

"Regardless of how big the space is, moms want the efficiency of great furniture that can be used to hold the computer and the TV, and store DVDs, gaming systems and games, CDs and toys," says Fowler. "And of course, kids want a room with a style they can call their own. With the right furniture, both can get exactly what they want."

Last year, Pier 1 kids introduced a teen loft that allows for sleep, study and storage all in the same general space. "The response has been unbelievable," says Fowler. "Our teen loft struck a chord with both moms and kids and when that happens, it's the best of both worlds. By using bookcases and cabinets that can work side by side or be stacked, along with desks and hutches, kids can really customize their space."

And, as parents are making bigger investments in kids' furniture, it's becoming increasingly important for the furniture to be flexible enough to change with their kids' needs. Manufacturers are catching on. Transitional toddler beds can transform into bunk beds, which can grow into twin beds.

For kids, that flexibility means they can create their own look, and their own style. They want their rooms to look and feel like

them, to fit their personality and be a comfortable place to do their schoolwork and play.

"Room style is just as important as it's ever been," adds Fowler. "More than ever, kids of all ages are giving their parents tons of input into not just what their rooms look like, but how they're configured, what furniture and accessories go in them and what the color scheme should look like."

Moms on the other hand, want the rooms to fit with the décor she's established in the rest of the house. According to Fowler, the two can easily coexist. The key is choosing furniture that provides not just the solutions you need today, but the ones you might need next year, or three grades from now.

How many times have you heard, "Mom, I don't like my room any more. Can we change it?" How wonderful that now, the answer can be "Absolutely!" And you didn't even flinch.

To find the Pier 1 Kids store near you or view the catalog online, log on to www.pier1kids.com

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