

ON THE COVER



Gothic cathedral-style home in west Plano showcases local artisan talent in handcrafted details. See Page 6.

COVER PHOTO
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LET THERE BE
light

WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING THE RIGHT LIGHTING SCHEME

FOR YOUR LIVING ROOM, DALLAS-BASED INTERIOR DESIGNER NICOLE ARNOLD

USUALLY GETS RID OF THE MOST COMMON HOUSEHOLD ACCESSORY

“Every builder puts in a ceiling fan with a light kit and those are the first things I say to get rid of,” Arnold said. “Those lights are going in different directions and aren’t pointing in the right spots, and usually are just tacky globes. If you have to have a ceiling fan, at least get an attractive looking one and don’t put a light kit in.”

dard bulb box when striking the perfect color and lighting balance in their home.

“It’s about creating cohesion; everything in the room needs to agree somehow,” Arnold said. “You can even have an eclectic room, but it has to balance in some form.”



For four years Arnold has been using her personal intuition to help clients create rooms that reflect their personality and lifestyle. The former sales and marketing executive thrives on encouraging each client to think beyond the stan-

There are two things you must consider when it comes to selecting the right lighting – the type of bulb and the lighting sources available. For rooms boasting cooler tones like blues and greens, Arnold recommends fluorescent lighting and LEDs. However, she warns against using them when complimenting warm hues like reds or oranges. For this, Arnold recommends GE Reveal bulbs, which best resemble a natural light source.

“They are perfecting [them] more and more each day, but they’re really still challenged with the temperature of the light – not the heat but the color temperature,” Arnold said. “That means it stays that real white-

bluish color. It's not attractive if you have warm colors in your kitchen [for example]."

On the other end of the spectrum are incandescent lights, which possess more yellow and orange tones. These can make blue upholstery look green, and therefore should be coupled with the warmer tones.

Recessed lights in the ceiling with dimmer switches are a must in any living room, as it allows you to adjust the room's "mood," Arnold said. Recessed lighting and indirect lighting from lamps, sconces and/or spotlights for artwork work together to create the perfect lighting balance.

"People always think about light coming down, but there's also a lot of accenting you can do with lights going up," she said. "Have a pin light going straight up and it just creates a really cool effect on the wall. You can do it on top of mantels or light artwork from the bottom up and have a completely different effect than lighting it from the top down."

Triangulation is the best way to create depth in a room, especially one with only a couple of windows or none at all. The idea is to arrange lamps in three different parts of the room as a way to balance the light. If a room isn't big enough for three individual light sources, add a reflective surface, like a mirror or crystal.

For those with pricey artwork on the wall, consider using bulbs specifically designed not to damage its surface.

Thanks to modern technology and an array of lighting sources to choose from, it's easy to personalize your living space without the costly price tag associated with a new furniture set or the elbow grease of a paint job.

"The lighting in your room is key to evaluating color before you put it on the wall," Arnold said.

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