

## Lighting Considerations - An Introduction

How important is lighting in your home, office, or life for that matter? Well, without it we can't work, play, or even see when the sun goes down. Yet this basic necessity is rarely given the design time or budget on a residential construction project. Quite a bit of money is spent on the marble, woodwork, and faux painting in a high-end project, but where's the beauty if it cannot be seen properly?

Consumers are becoming more technically aware. Consumers want the latest technology in their entertainment, environmental, security, and yes, their lighting systems. I am not simply referring to the means of control of their lighting, but to the entire system. Consumers want a resource that can recommend the right fixtures, bulbs, placement, voltage, and control that will enhance their life in their home.

Historically, this has fallen to the electrical contractor, interior designer, or architect. While these professionals, as a whole, are extremely talented and competent, they lack the specialized knowledge required to optimize a system for a particular client. Just as a client will call upon a CEDIA member to design and install the distributed audio/video system or home theater, they should call upon a qualified lighting designer to develop the lighting system.

The lighting designer will listen to the needs of the client as well as the requirements of the other systems and professionals that are part of the project. A system will be designed that will provide proper illumination for the project while complimenting the associated systems. A lighting designer will usually charge a fee for the design that is refundable if the specified materials are purchased through him/her.