



Brighten your home

Looking for an easy way to bring a new splash of style to your interior? Sounds like it's time for a light-bulb moment.

If you only think of lamps as functional tools, the workhorses that provide light so you don't stumble around in the dark, it's time for a new point of view.

Just like the artwork on your walls, lamps are powerful decorations that can infuse your home with personality.

For that reason, don't ever settle for a lamp that doesn't turn you on.

Finding a lamp that puts a huge grin on your face won't be a problem. The selection right now is simply amazing.

Today's designers have taken classic shapes and styles and re-

envisioned them, giving this new breed of lamps a timeless yet hip look that works in any home.

To help you pick the perfect one, first determine how the lamp will be used.

Do you need it for task lighting or to provide ambiance?

Next, zero in on what colours, shapes and finishes you're attracted to.

How about the lampshade?

Do you prefer dark shades, with their dramatic look, or light shades that add a bit of sunny brilliance?

What shape intrigues you? Circular, square, rectangular, oval?

For a lamp to work well in your home it has to be the right scale.

Don't make the common mistake of picking a lamp that is so little or

delicate it will be overpowered by the size of the room and its furnishings.

Instead, look for a lamp that's a bit beefier, carrying enough visual weight to hold its own on an end table.

Bigger is better is usually a good rule of thumb when selecting a lamp, but you still want to use common sense.

If your table is small, or if the lamp will be paired with very fine, delicate furniture, you will want one that is small enough to harmonise, not take over.

As you right-size the lamps in your home, you may find that some of your smaller lamps are displaced.

If they are good lamps, by all means find a new home for them.

For instance, if you have a pair of

tall, thin buffet lamps that you now realise are too small to use on the side tables in your living room, consider placing the pair on top of the dresser in your bedroom or on either side of the vanity in your bathroom.

When picking lamps for a room, resist the urge to make them all match.

Instead, walk on the wild side and mix them up with wild abandon.

Pull together an assortment of shapes, styles, materials, colours and dimensions.

Right now, we're seeing a trend toward lamps that are more transitional, meaning they artfully walk the thin line between contemporary and traditional decor.

Designers are achieving this care-

ful balance by creating a classic-style lamp out of a more contemporary material or in a trendy colour.

Another way designers are adding more pizzazz to lamps is by pairing them with great lampshades.

Some feature mod shapes, others unusual colours.

In fact, if you have a lamp you love, with good lines, form and scale, you could try simply switching out the lampshade to give it a new lease on life.

When you invest in a good, quality lamp, it will pay big dividends.

It will last you for years – probably longer than some of your upholstered furnishings.

■ Scripps Howard News Service



High-end inclusions help Huey make light work in the kitchen

Get the lowdown on Huey's new TV kitchen

A FUNCTIONAL, stylish kitchen ensures Iain "Huey" Hewitson feels at home on his new TV set.

Designed by Kitcheners, customised features include an under-mounted sink and an island bench with two cook-tops incorporated, so the chef doesn't have to over-reach himself when he's cooking.

Other design highlights are the chunky floating shelves off the microwave cabinet, plus Huey's personal touch of Moroccan tiles for the walls and splashback.

This produces a textured look. For the cupboards, Laminex laminate doors and panels were used in polar white and Blum

soft-close drawers feature Orga-Line storage.

On-trend long, rectangle handles grace doors and the Caesarstone benchtop is in pure white.

Halogen downlights set the mood and storms are sure to be cooked up in the Fagor pyrolytic oven.