lighting

Light Up Your Kitchen





CONTACT US

Thomas Michael Design Center
3127 Cranberry Highway
East Wareham,MA 02538

Phone : 508-295-1311
Email : info@tmkitchens.com
Web : www.tmkitchens.com

Light Up Your kitchen

Lighting can make or break how your kitchen looks, feels and functions. Lighting is equally as important as cabinets, countertops, appliances, backsplashes, flooring, sinks and faucets. You can buy a functional $70 faucet in a home center, but most likely that faucet will not add much to the beauty of the kitchen. A similar analogy holds true for lighting. Simply placing flush-mounted or recessed fixtures in the center of your kitchen ceiling can provide functional light, but that type of lighting may do little to beautify the space, create a mood or evoke favorable emotional responses. Effective lighting illuminates a space in layers using different components and strategies to paint the final picture.

Layers of light contribute not only to the functionality of the kitchen but also to its design and beauty. The different types of lighting that are used to layer light are:

- Ambient
- Task
- Accent



Ambient



Task



Accent



Ambient



Accent

LIGHT UP YOUR KITCHEN

Ambient lighting is the main source of illumination for most rooms in a home. The goal of ambient lighting is to provide soft, general illumination without necessarily drawing attention to the light source. Ambient lighting provides enough light for safe navigation, cooking and washing dishes and helps to define the space.

Depending on the location of the kitchen and the number of windows and doors, ambient lighting can be sourced organically, from sunlight. Other potential sources of ambient lighting can be chandeliers, pendant lights, recessed lighting and flush-mounted lighting.

Task lighting is employed to illuminate the activities that take place in the kitchen. It provides light to prepare food, cook, bake, read recipes and easily find ingredients, watch television or do homework. Recent technological advances enable designers to integrate task lighting into drawers and cabinets by installing LED strip lighting or puck lights. LED lights are often installed under wall mounted cabinets to illuminate countertops.

Accent lighting can keep your kitchen from looking ordinary or bland by highlighting open shelving, artwork, architectural details or other objects. A detail or work of art that draws the attention of the eye is referred to as a focal point. Light fixtures that provide light and shadows can make the space more inviting and comfortable. These may include track lights, recessed adjustable fixtures and spotlights. Accent lighting is subtle. A focused beam of light directed at a plant or highlighting a work of art, or a spotlight placed behind a plant and pointed upward through the leaves creates shadows on the wall that can make a kitchen more attractive.

Lighting controls such as dimmers and motion detectors should be a part of almost any lighting plan because they not only are more environmentally friendly, but they also they help to control utility costs and enable you to alter the look and feel of the room.

The look and feel of the kitchen also will be influenced by the colors used for floor and wall coverings, countertops, vanities, sinks and plumbing fixtures. A light color scheme will bounce light around more than if dark colors are selected because darker colors absorb light. Smooth, shiny materials will reflect more light than textured matte surfaces. Polished marble will reflect more light than honed black slate. More light is needed in a space with dark and textured finishes.

The feel of the room also is affected by paint colors. Different paints and colors have different reflective capabilities that should be discussed as part of the planning process.

The type and amount of light needed for a new kitchen will be dictated by the size of the space and the amount of daylight that the room receives from windows, doors and/or skylights. Electric light fixtures complement the light generated by Mother Nature. Mother Nature can be fickle, however. Clouds, rainstorms and other weather conditions can minimize the amount of daylight that enters the space. A lighting plan should account for the possibility that the sun won't shine brightly every day.

Generally, electric lighting supplements or replaces daylight but man-made light can't match daylight's intensity or color distribution. Exposed lamps tend to look warm or even yellow compared to sunlight coming to the space through skylights, windows or glass doors. Recessed lighting may be a good option to create a color palette that works in the space.

If recessed lighting is not wanted or practical, ambient lighting can be provided by pendants or surface-mounted fixtures installed around the perimeter in a cove. Pendants can deliver light upwards or downwards or in a combination of uplighting and downlighting. Pendant options are almost limitless and a great way to influence the look of the kitchen.

Highly polished stone and other reflective surface materials can amplify available light in the room, but also produce unwanted glare.

A kitchen lighting design is successful when all three types of light – ambient, task and accent – are layered together within a room to create a fully usable, adaptive space. Good lighting does not draw attention to itself but highlights the other design elements and fixtures in the space. Different light layers may be activated depending on purpose or time of day. For example, during the day, pendants over the island may not be needed at all, but when you start to prepare dinner in the evening all the layers providing ambient, task, and accent lighting become necessary.

Want to know the light that will make your kitchen shine? Give us a call at 508-295-1311 or visit our showroom at 3127 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA.