

# BRIGHT THINKING

Peter Jackson, director of the Lighting Gallery at Higham, near Bury St Edmunds, looks at modern lighting and how it can transform your home

**W**hen seeking advice about lighting trends and what people are buying, we asked Peter Jackson, director of the Lighting Gallery in Higham, Suffolk. With over 30 years' lighting industry experience, spanning manufacturing, design, and retail and a 3,500 sq ft showroom in which to expand upon his thoughts and show us the varied styles, it seemed an obvious choice.

## Functionality, style and flexibility

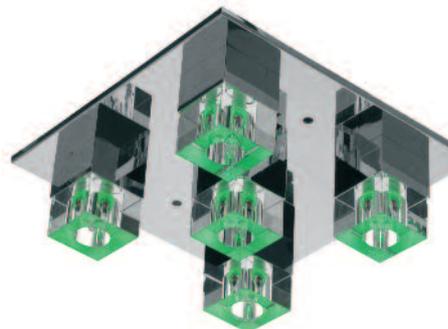
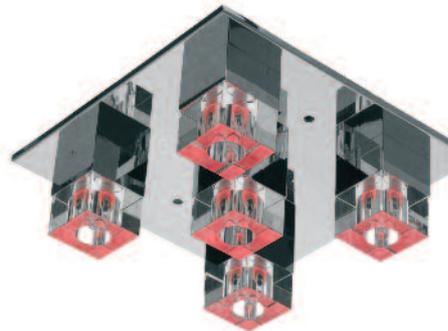
Peter explained: "Lighting makes a tremendous difference to any room, creating a feeling of space and warmth, accentuating design features, and creating a sense of style and panache. Poorly planned, it can just as easily spoil a room. Particularly when the economic slow-down means that more thought and planning is required, and perhaps a make-over rather than wholesale change is desirable, lighting can make all the difference to creating an entirely new feel to any room."

## Layers of light

"Layers of room lighting add depth and dimension to your space, and allow a room to become more multi-functional."

Every room should have three layers of light:

1. General or ambient lighting
2. Task lighting
3. Accent lighting



## Trends

"The current trend is towards chrome and crystal. Satin finishes were popular, but now highly polished chrome and mirrored black finishes lead the way.

Although we stock several ultra-modern designs, classic and contemporary looks remain popular, with a growing trend toward hand-made wrought iron British lighting. These offer traditional values and individuality, with added prestige because many can't be found on-line; they offer that "designer" feel without the high cost that usually goes with designer status."

## LED's and energy-efficient lighting

"The other significant trend is towards energy-efficient lighting. One of our latest LED light fittings creates much interest, and is an ideal background to change the look of a room. This remote controlled colour changing ceiling light allows you to change the ambience of your room from white to red, green or blue – you can even let the light control the changes and mix the mood at will."

## Some old values still apply

The lighting gallery has still managed to resist converting to an on-line store - as Peter reflects, "We have looked at converting to on-line, but I still think there is nothing better than seeing a light fitting, lit up and on display, to really appreciate its value and style, plus there is the added benefit of bringing in fabrics to match whilst getting help from an experienced lighting team."