

Light *fantastic*

See your home in a new light with this guide to illuminating a period property

Feature Holly Reaney



SHOWSTOPPING STYLE

Contemporary kitchen design revolves around the island as its central point. Used as a space to cook, relax and entertain, it needs versatile lighting. A series of statement pendants will not only provide useful task lighting but also emphasise the island as the heart of the room. These antique French lights are from Kate Beard Lighting and perfectly complement the elegant Martin Moore kitchen.

While wallpaper, paint and flooring are always key considerations when redecorating, lighting is all too often an afterthought, left until everything else has been tidied away. However, it is one of the most important factors when it comes to designing a room. Not only does lighting serve a practical purpose, it creates ambience and can vastly alter the appearance of other decorative elements: a wall may look one colour in one light, and quite different in another. It is therefore important to consider lighting alongside other design decisions.

In the timeline of homes, lighting as we know it is a relatively new invention. Although the light bulb was first invented in 1879, it was expensive and evoked a great deal of fear among the public. Even as recently as the early 20th century, candles and oil-burning lamps were the main method of lighting the home. It was only with the advent of the National Grid, in 1935, that electric lights started to become the norm; by the end of the 1930s it was reported that two-thirds of British households were connected. However, in many older homes the electrics have not been updated for decades. ►