



The right way to LIGHT your kitchen

Lighting plays a key role in how you live in and enjoy a space. We've asked six experts for their advice on how to get the best out of your kitchen's lighting scheme

Words: **Sally Smith**

↑ This Villa Minale kitchen is designed around the Buster and Punch hardware collection. The Caged wall light in a satin black marble, £435, works well with the industrial look. busterandpunch.com



Q “Why is it important to consider lighting from the very start of the kitchen project?”



Jane Powell
Design consultant,
Roundhouse
roundhousedesign.com

A “If the lighting scheme is not well thought out it can take a lot away from the finished project's look and feel. A lighting plan should always be included as part of the kitchen's initial layout, to account for the practicalities of installation such as where the wiring will run. Don't forget to revisit the lighting plans when the finishes and colour of the cabinetry have been decided. Also bear in mind the décor and furnishings in the rest of room, not just the kitchen. You'll be surprised how much difference it makes to how you finally decide to light the space. A good example is how you use plinth lighting. It works well illuminating a dark wooden floor, but you would get a lot of reflection if you chose a shiny floor tile.”



↑ The designers at Martin Moore placed the island centrally, allowing them to hang three statement pendant lights from the roof without disturbing the ceiling's framework. The large Spun Reflector light by Davey Lighting, priced £739, is available from Original BTC (originalbtc.com). martinmoore.co.uk

← The clever use of LED strip lighting in the ceiling of this galley-style kitchen project illuminates what could have been a gloomy space. Similar LED strip lights are priced around £18 each from Simple Lighting (simplelighting.co.uk). roundhousedesign.com

“How can a lighting designer help make the most of the kitchen’s lighting, and why is it worth employing one?”



Melanie Shaw
Design director,
Brilliant Lighting
brilliantlighting.co.uk

“There are a lot of crucial decisions to make, in terms of design and décor, that will impact on the success of your kitchen. Incorporating a comprehensive and well-thought-out lighting scheme is one of the most complex elements to get right. It can be a daunting exercise to choose a system that is going to work for you, especially without fully understanding all the possibilities available in terms of the latest technology. A lighting designer will advise on the ideal light fixtures and fittings that are going to optimise your kitchen and work within your agreed layout in terms of task, accent, and ambient lighting. Work with your kitchen designer to integrate the fittings into the furniture and units for the most discreet look. Remember, the under-shelving, cabinetry, and plinth lighting should always be consistent with the other lighting in the space.”



↑ This lakeside home uses 2700k warm white LED strips above the tall units and underneath the island bar. A similar lighting scheme would cost around £2500 to £3000, with a lighting design fee of around £1500.
cornflake.co.uk



Jamee Kong
Head of design,
DesignSpace London
designspacelondon.com

← Try an alternative to traditional pendants with the three-bulb Luxor lantern from Pooky. Priced £330.
pooky.com

“Task lighting is crucial in the kitchen, but how can you best ensure all your work areas are well lit and the kitchen functions as it should?”



“When planning a lighting scheme, you must always make task lighting a priority to ensure you have a well-lit and safe working environment – especially for all your food prep areas and work surfaces. A popular solution is to use recessed LED light strips fitted under wall units or shelves. They will provide a constant source of light without casting a shadow over you when preparing a meal. Avoid using white light in the kitchen area, as the cool element can affect the tone of the materials and the look of your food. I would always recommend ‘warm white’ light bulbs, as this effect is closest to natural light. A clever option is to add dimmers to all your lights, so the task lighting can be turned to a lower level when you’re eating or entertaining.”



↑ This McCarron & Co (mccarronandco.com) kitchen needed flexible lighting to account for the limited natural light. Contour LED tape by John Cullen Lighting, £117 per m, along the plinth provides a soft floating effect around the island.
johncullenlighting.com



*
On-trend
finish



↑ The designers of this Martin Moore kitchen integrated lighting in the larder cupboard. Standard LED under-counter lights, around £84 each, fitted on micro catches come on when the door is opened.
martinmoore.com

← This kitchen has incorporated a layered scheme with recessed LED strip lighting. The Foscarini (foscarini.com) Aplomb pendants, from £308 each, are in a grey cement finish. Kitchens by Hub Kitchens cost from £40,000.
hubkitchens.com

→ In this DesignSpace London kitchen, the client wanted to keep the ceiling clear of suspended lighting – so trough lighting was rebated above the island as well as along the plinth above the wall units. Find a similar lighting bar for around £22 for a 1500mm tube at Wholesale LED Lights (wholesaleledlights.co.uk). designspacelondon.com

↓ The lighting scheme for this kitchen project is controlled by a pre-set control panel. A similar system from John Cullen Lighting would cost from £2500. johncullenlighting.com



“How can you create mood lighting in the kitchen that will also work in adjacent dining or living areas?”



Eleanor Bell
Lighting designer,
Eleanor Bell Lighting
eleanorbell.co.uk

↓ Inspired by Mount Fuji these ceramic and silicone lamps, £320 each, will add a softer, natural light to your dining table. handandeyestudio.co.uk

“When I start talking to new clients about their lighting requirements I always ask them to think about the space in terms of zones. It’s not just a kitchen you are planning for, as you’ll use the space in different ways throughout the day. Your lighting scheme will need to give you the flexibility to set a range of moods, from entertaining and cooking to watching TV. When these zones have been agreed, the next step is to translate this to the number of circuits you will need so each lighting area can be switched on and off separately. Then, within each of these zones, you can vary the lighting levels by using dimmers to set a specific scene. Smart home lighting systems that can be controlled via a keypad or mobile device are now widely available – but it’s not for everyone and you can still get the same flexibility with a panel of switches.”

“Are there any safety issues or regulations regarding light installation in the kitchen you should take account of?”



Darren Staniforth
Technical expert,
NICEIC
niceic.com

“In most cases you won’t have to worry about extending your circuitry when you are installing lights in a new kitchen layout, as the energy ratings are so much more efficient than they were years ago. This means you can add a lot more lights to your existing scheme without worrying. An important thing to remember is to ask your electrician to check the IP ratings on your individual lights – especially for fittings in close proximity to water or steam, such as over your kettle or hob. This rating tells you whether the light is safe for use and has sufficient protection against water. A light with a rating of IP65 is virtually waterproof. Currently there are no regulations for IP ratings in kitchens, but if you are unsure I would recommend choosing a bathroom light fitting; this way you’ll know they will be waterproof and safe.”



Antique collectors own this DeVol Peckham Rye Classic kitchen, where brass sockets and switches complement the Arabascata marble worktop. Similar vintage wall lights are priced from around £89 from Industville (industville.co.uk). devolkitchens.co.uk



↑ These pendants are available in two sizes, giving you the option to create a one-off waterfall cluster as a feature light. Both pendants are by Jonathan Rogers from Heal’s, and are priced £199 for the small and £399 for the large version. heals.co.uk

Q “What are the current trends in lighting for kitchens?”



Phillip Hine
Design director,
Cornflake
cornflake.co.uk

A “We are seeing a change in the type of lighting used. In open-plan spaces, it has long been popular to install snap-in spots with a chrome or white fitting to blanket light a large room, leaving a pock-marked, ugly ceiling. A modern alternative is using ‘plaster-in’ lights, which are recessed into the ceiling and then plastered over, giving a much softer and cleaner finish. Clients are looking for a less clinical look nowadays. The aim is to create a lighting scene that gives the impression a feature piece – like a statement chandelier – is providing the main source of light to a space. However, it should be the background lighting you are not directly looking at that is producing all the light. When designed well, the concealed lighting integrated into the cabinetry or wall units will be doing all the work.

KBB



↑ Gigi Foyle, founder of Bag&Bones, added this bespoke red neon flex statement light measuring 143 x 75cm to her own kitchen to make it brighter and add a real focal point.

bagandbones.co.uk

↓ The blue filters in this kitchen are also available in a variety of other colours, including red, green, yellow, and magenta. The price for Occhio wall lights start at £800 (supply only). A lighting design fee for a similar project would cost around £1500.

futurelightdesign.co.uk

