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Architectural Adornments

Lighting is one of the most essential, yet often overlooked aspects of residential design



text by LYNN MORGAN
photography by TOBBY TONNAY

People don't realize the impact of bad lighting," says Gerald Olesker, the chief designer for Lantern Masters, the Westlake Village-based lighting specialists. "Bad lighting kills the ambiance. It's like a gray day."

For the past 27 years, this family-owned company has created custom-designed and hand-crafted indoor and outdoor lighting fixtures for houses from San Diego to Martha's Vineyard, and around the globe. Gerald Olesker is educated as an architect, and a member of the Institute for Classical Architecture, which gives him a unique understanding and expertise in the way that lighting integrates with architecture, and allows him to create designs that are both beautiful and practical.

"Many people think of lighting as the last element in a home design," he continues. "They wait until the project is already done, and then scramble to apply it later on. It needs to be considered in the architectural design phase, just like the landscaping or other significant details.

left: Three "Jamie's Pendant" ceiling fixtures, named for the original client Jamie Tisch, line the hallway of this Newport Beach home. The architectural details and wainscoting were reminiscent of a Paul A. Williams estate, so Gerald Olesker created these cylindrical fixtures of solid brass with a painted finish to compliment them. They are fitted with clear, pipe-blown glass, heavily pitted with air bubbles for character and texture. All the corridors in the house have these same fixtures for visual continuity.