

SPRING 2013

Dining Room

DIVINE LIGHTS

Go beyond traditional forms of lighting to cast your dining area in a whole new glow.

BY PAM GEORGE

HERE WAS A TIME when every stylish dining room had a chandelier dripping with crystals. No more. "Many people are now open to having fun with their dining-room lighting," says Elissa A. Morgante of Morgante-Wilson Architects in Evanston, Ill.

The number of options can be dizzying, so before you shop, take stock of the room size, as well as the table's size and shape. "Keep things in proportion," advises Kerrie Kelly, a Sacramento, Calif., interior designer.

Since the fixture is a statement piece, it should complement your overall décor and represent your personality, says Manja Swanson, chief creative officer of lighting retailer Lamps Plus.

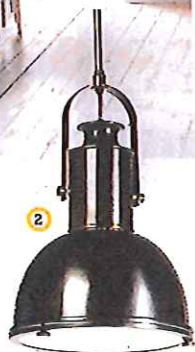
And don't necessarily limit yourself to one fixture. Hanging multiple pendant lights is becoming common. Morgante, for instance, hung 35 small pendant lights around one client's dining room so "the whole room was aglow."

Whatever your choice, make sure you're happy with it. "Memories will be made around—or in this case under—it," Swanson says.

Check out some of the latest trends.



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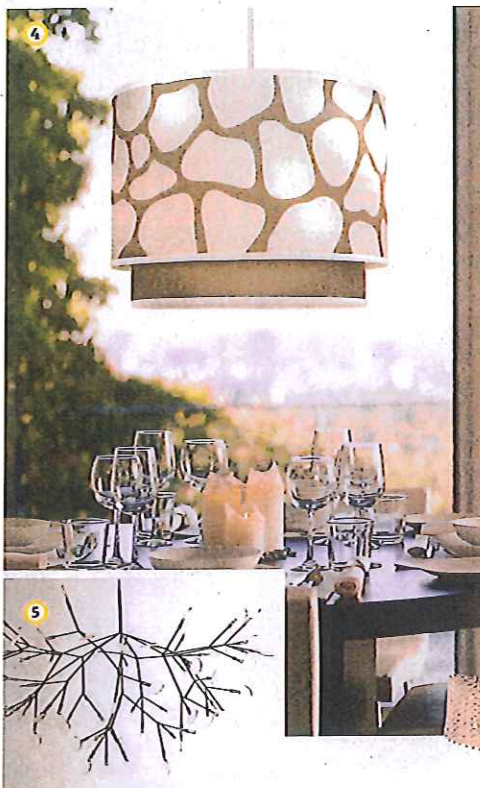
1. THINK COLOR. A pop of bold, expressive color can give a conventional light fixture some personality, says designer Ronald White of RWD in New York. A yellow pendant lamp from Ikea brightens up a kitchen. \$99.99, Ikea

2. SET AN INDUSTRIAL MOOD. Despite a practical appearance, lighting fixtures that pay homage to the industrial age suit many of today's homes. "Most of my clients are definitely not into the formal spaces anymore," designer and author Stephen Saint-Onge says. "They're looking for something casual and

inviting. Bringing in industrial-inspired lighting is something that works well with that mood." A retro photographers pendant, modeled after studio lights, fits the bill. \$349, Ethan Allen

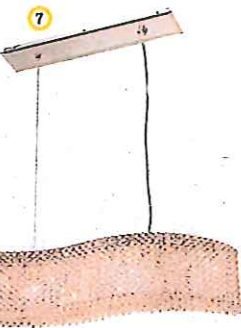
3. RECYCLE & REUSE. Many of Saint-Onge's clients like to repurpose vintage finds. "It's a great way to add character and visual interest to a space," he says. By Gordon Living produces wine bottle chandeliers to order. You can use your own bottles from a favorite winery. \$700-\$2,500, custommade.com

4. MAKE IT ROUND. A cylindrical



fixture is both contemporary and retro. Consider a double cylinder like the Cobblestone model from Oilo, which adds texture, color and pattern to the space. Hang one over a round table or several over a long table. The taupe and white handmade shade is made of 100-percent woven cotton. \$294, oilostudio.com

5. ADD WHIMSY Airy metal fixtures introduce lightness to a room, says White. The Heracleum pendant light by Moooi might be delicate but it makes a strong impact. Hang one or two depending on the table length. \$3,428, olighting.com



6. TWEAK THE TRADITIONAL Chandeliers are no longer stuffy. Shake things up by selecting one with wood beads and hanging wood pendants—it's refined and rustic at the same time, like this Eminence chandelier. \$1,599.95, softsurroundings.com

7. GO GLAM. Pendant lights can extend horizontally as well as vertically, a trend that's been shining over kitchen islands for a few years now. But you will want to save this elegant Schonbek Refrax Wave crystal pendant for the dining room. Swarovski Spectra crystals offer some serious bling. \$3,157.99, lampsplus.com

Designer TIPS

- Use a dimmer switch to control the brightness. Kids can do homework under the high setting, while diners can enjoy the soft ambience of low lighting.
- Remember you're setting a scene—the table and food should be properly illuminated.
- Use layers of light throughout the room. Sconces and table lights can augment your overhead light.
- Take the rest of the room into account. If your dining area is open to the kitchen, consider the look of the backsplash, countertops and appliances when selecting light fixtures.
- Interior designer Kerrie Kelly recommends using string and paper cups to determine how far pendants should hang from the table before you buy.
- Use LED bulbs for hard-to-reach fixtures. The bulbs don't have to be replaced as often. Some last up to 20 years, according to GE Lighting.