

Randall Whitehead, Lighting Design

“GOOD LIGHTING, BEAUTIFUL LIGHTING... AND JUST PLAIN SEXY LIGHTING”

Randall Whitehead

Author, designer, innovator, and lecturer Randall Whitehead is the leading personality in the U.S. today in the field of residential lighting. He has drawn upon his experience from over a quarter century of consulting practice to develop a unique and comprehensive body of knowledge about lighting and how it affects us everywhere we live and work. Randall has appeared many times as a guest expert on The Discovery Channel, HGTV, and CNNfn. He has developed an extensive series of seminars on lighting design and has produced them throughout the United States, Canada and South America.

Randall is the author of seven highly acclaimed books on lighting design, the most recent of which is *Residential Lighting, a Practical Guide* (John Wiley and Sons, Newark, New Jersey, December, 2003). He is also a contributing writer for many trade and consumer publications including *Sunset*, *House and Garden Horticulture Magazine*, *Professional Lighting*, *Architectural Lighting* and *Residential Lighting*. Randall is frequently interviewed and quoted by leading publications including *Good Housekeeping*, *Metropolis*, *Architectural Record*, *Interior Design*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He has practiced lighting design for a wide range of clients, and has worked on the homes of several celebrities, including Bing Crosby and Jerry Garcia.



* www.randallwhitehead.com



EDITORS NOTE:

We would like to thank Sierra Select for hosting such a wonderful event. The food was superb and the drink plentiful. The staff at Sierra Select is top-notch. They have a great attitude and are more than knowledgeable when it comes to demonstrating any piece of their entire Miele line of appliances.

At the very moment one arrives at such an event, they can immediately see, hear and feel the buzz of excitement surrounding them. The power of networking is essential in today's market and one can't get too far in the field of design without being involved in what I am calling "The Players Club." Interior design is more than a profession, it's a community. It never fails me, that every time I attend events such as this, I feel more and more a part of this alliance or community, or as I call it "The Players Club."

I encourage you, whether you're a student or a professional in the field, to help yourself and your future by getting involved in the local events.

To you & your future ~



Angela Victoria Rasmussen



“YOU’RE TELLING ME IT’S SEXY AND EFFICIENT?”

The following is a quick review of some key points that Randall discussed.

We as humans are like moths to light. Lighting creates drama and effects how we feel and how we view the world we live in. “Lighting your home well can deliver an unexpected benefit: with the proper lighting, you can end up looking ten or more years younger” says Randall.

He continues by saying that “Recessed down-lighting can accent bags under the eyes, wrinkles, and other things you'd prefer to hide. Proper use of ambient light can greatly improve how you and your family and guests appear in your home. Humanizing light means layering light to light people first, then objects, furniture and art.”

A lot of people are currently afraid of switching to fluorescent simply because of their experiences with the color, the look, the flicker, and quite frankly the annoying BUZZ. The same negative response applies with LED lighting as well. Though LED lighting is a newer technology, it is advancing at unbelievable rates, taking us away from that contrasty blue light. Randall assures us that fluorescent and LED luminaries now look like the soft and warm candlelight that we all desire to view, and be viewed in. He shows many beautiful examples of the change in fluorescent and LED technology that takes us into a new era of gorgeous lighting and away from that blue, orange, yellow, and green tinge of the past.

LIGHT LAYERING:

“There is no single light fixture that gives you everything you need to illuminate a room properly. The trick is using a variety of light sources to create a flexible, inviting space. I call this *light layering*,” says Randall. Light performs four basic functions:

Light Layering:

- **Task Lighting** is lighting by which you do work such as under cabinet lighting in kitchens, or reading lamps.
- **Accent Lighting** is used to highlight objects and add depth and dimension to an environment. Recessed adjustable fixtures, track lights, portable up-lights and directional landscape lights are all in this category.
- **Decorative Lighting** adds sparkle to a room. Decorative fixtures are the supermodels of lighting - their only purpose is to look pretty. Chandeliers and candlestick-type wall sconces fall into this category. Decorative luminaries should not be used as workhorses for lighting a room; when they're too bright they can overpower other design elements.
- **Ambient** is gentle fill light. It softens shadows on people's faces and fills the volume of a space with a warm glow, as from a roaring fire. Ambient light comes from illumination that is bounced off the ceiling. Sources such as opaque wall sconces, torchieres, pendant hung indirect fixtures, and cove lighting can be used to create ambient light.

Randall's' TOP Ten Tips:

- 1.** There is no single light fixture that can perform all lighting needs. Light Layering is our special design methodology, in which a number of light sources are blended together to create a successful design.
- 2.** Do your furniture layout before attempting to create a lighting system. The lighting should relate to the way each room is going to be used.
- 3.** Always try to include some exterior lighting in your overall design. It not only keeps windows from becoming "black mirrors" at night, it also visually expands your interior spaces.
- 4.** Get all the players (homeowners, architects, interior designers, landscape designers, lighting designers, and contractors) working together as soon as possible on your project. The team approach produces a cohesive result, where all the design elements work together because all the design professionals work together.
- 5.** Choose one adjustable recessed ceiling fixture that can serve as a down-light, accent light or wall-wash and use it throughout the house. Don't mix trims - it draws too much attention to the recessed fixtures themselves.
- 6.** Put interior lights on dimmers whenever possible. This will allow an unlimited number of light levels for all people living in the house.
- 7.** Do not put exterior lights on dimmers. Incandescent light, when dimmed, becomes more amber in color. Green plants look sickly under yellow light.
- 8.** Check all the door swings in the house. Make sure that switches do not end up behind any of the doors.
- 9.** Locate a panic switch for security lights in the master bedroom. It's no fun running to the front door in the middle of the night to turn on the outside lights.
- 10.** Don't just put light switches for the main rooms and landscaping at the front door. Most people enter their homes from the garage. This is where a second set of switches should be located.

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GENERAL TIPS:

- The best way to get the color you want is to conceal the laminar within a decorative shade or lens fixture that is translucent.
- **BATHROOM:** Lighting from both sides of the vanity mirror is best. Light from above is typical but ages the person glancing into the looking glass by 15 years.
- **WARDROBE:** design with lighting temperatures of 5000K (Daylight) for best color coordinating of clothing.
- You have to spend at least \$12 to get a good compact fluorescent laminar.
- Lighting fixtures made from wood put out a great candlelight glow.
- Lighting Fixtures made from resin also put out a great candlelight glow.



Wood Pendant



Resin and Natural Materials



Natural Granite Sconce

Visit Randall's website and get a whole list of categorized Lighting manufacturers to help guide you on your sexy and efficient lighting quest –
RandallWhitehead.com/enlightenment/manufacturers.php



Hosted by:
Sierra Select/Miele
680 8th St. Ste. 169-C
San Francisco, CA 94005

Written & Photographed by:
Angela V. Rasmussen