

RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING

JULY 2007

Vance

www.ResidentialLighting.com

Winds OF CHANGE

- CONTEMPORARY POURS ON THE CHARM
- LEDS STORM THE HOME FRONT
- INTERIOR DESIGNERS HAIL LIGHTING TRENDS

PLUS:

Las Vegas Market Preview

Thinking Green

LESLIE MARKMAN-STERN, ASID

Interior designer, Leslie M. Stern Design, Chicago



MARKMAN-STERN

"I have a very strong feeling that we should approach interiors in such a way that the space is designed for any user; for accessibility but also for comfort and beauty. Design is so expensive, and there should be a lot of thought put into it, so you're designing so the client doesn't have to change things five years down the road because certain things

weren't considered.

"The whole green movement is something I'm beginning to see now, and of course, I expect to see more of that in the future. It's global warming and everything else that's going on—the cost of oil, what we have to pay just to drive our cars or heat our homes. People are becoming more energy-conscious. My clients are [increasingly] aware that there are more and more products

coming out that are energy-efficient and that aren't institutional-looking. They can be beautiful and energy-efficient, and they save the homeowner a lot of money. Like it or not, we're going to start to see more requirements for design professionals to bring energy-saving solutions to projects. It's already happening in California.

"Besides green, another trend I'm seeing is the [increased importance] of the bath. [It has] become so big in the market now, and lighting is an essential part of creating the relaxing settings that people love. It's important for the task aspect, as well. In some cases, I turn to commercial products for my residential interiors because I feel like, a lot of the time, they're ahead of the game. But I'm only going to bring products into my clients' homes that are the right scale and that have the right aesthetic. The lighting, especially in the bath, has to be soft and comforting.



"The use of natural light is also something that I'm taking into account for my clients. I think we're going to see more of that, too. It's inexpensive, and it's something you don't have to turn on. It can be a powerful source of light during the day, and you can play it to your advantage at night if it's lit properly."

(Above) The bath continues to be a focus area for Markman-Stern and her clients. In this whimsical washroom, the interior designer used recessed lights positioned away from the vanity and two fiery glass pendant lights suspended from the ceiling in front of the mirrors to keep the light level soft and comforting.

(Left) Floor-to-ceiling windows let in a maximum amount of daylight in this two-story great room. Markman-Stern used the natural light to her advantage, merely supplementing it with a few decorative fixtures and architectural solutions to provide task and ambient lighting at night.

