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facturer that designs a unique collection of high-end light fixtures. "Lighting can enhance the decorative style of a home." Though frustrated that it's taken so long to get the word out, Shott sees the industry moving in a positive direction. "Architectural firms are hiring interior design groups and bringing the process of lighting much more forward in the process. It's a fantastic trend that's taking place...we want the lighting to complement the architect's overall vision of the house. A lot of architects aren't even aware of what lighting is available."

One look to avoid is what designers have dubbed "the cave effect." If a fixture is placed too far from the wall, the illumination (the lighting effect) will show on the lower third of the wall, creating a design that looks like a cave. This is not a good plan. In a typical home with nine-foot ceilings, lights should be placed no more than 18 or 24 inches from the wall. Most of the time, contractors install lights four to five feet from the wall or right in the middle of the ceiling.

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Marc Houston of Illuminations Georgetown designed the interiors and the lighting plan for a residence in Arlington. He achieved a romantic atmosphere in the dining room (top), where he juxtaposed accent lighting from a Flos Romeo Louis II suspension light with a pair of Leucos Vittoria wall sconces, which highlight the elegant Thibaut wall covering. In the master bathroom (above), Houston combined several types of recessed lighting with a pair of Romeo Babe K-S suspension lights to highlight the beautiful tile and fixtures. The lower recessed lights illuminate the stone floor.

PHOTOS BY MARC HOUSTON

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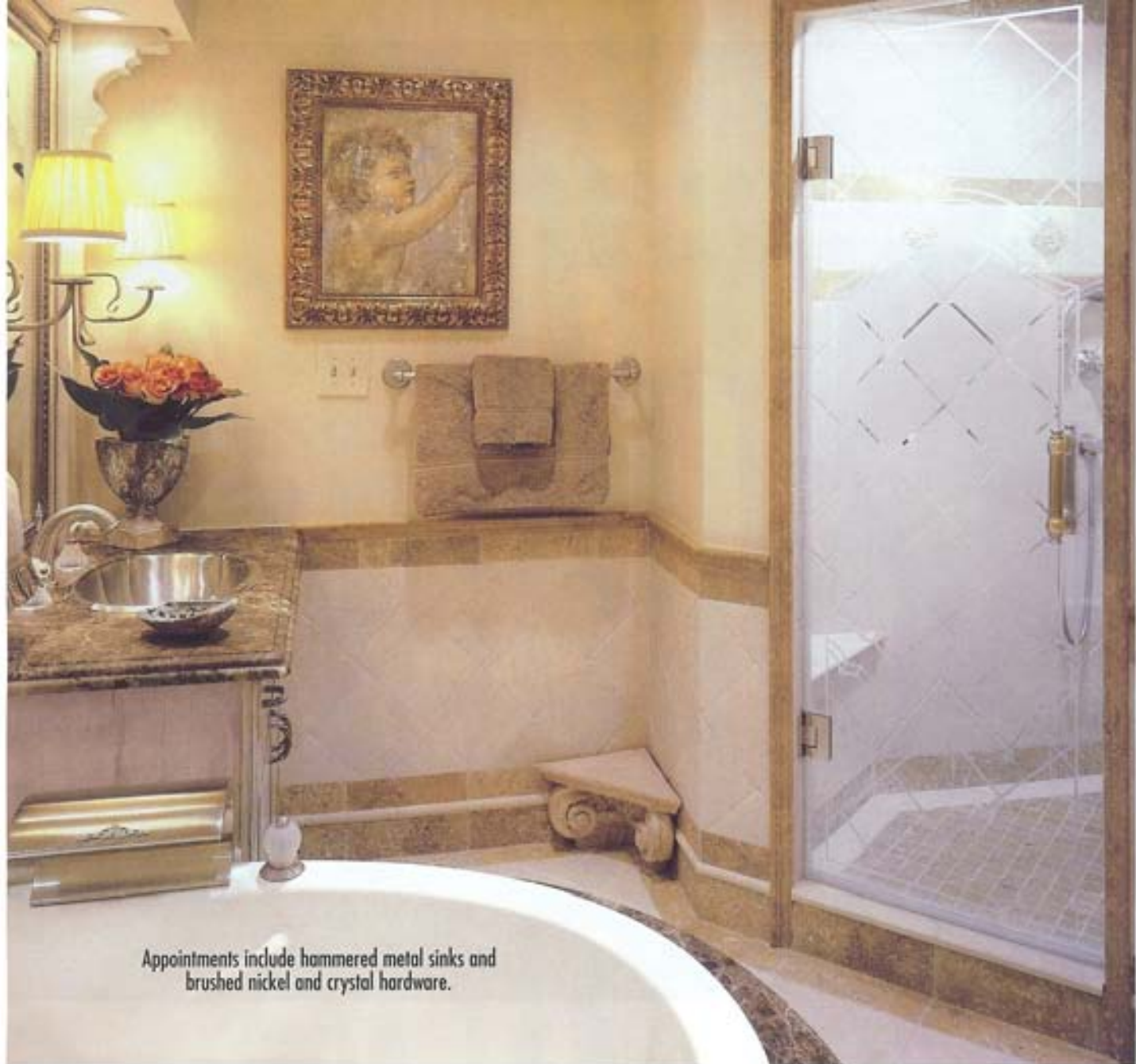
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Appointments include hammered metal sinks and brushed nickel and crystal hardware.

"WITH COLORS AND MATERIALS, WE WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE A TIMELESS LOOK," SAYS SAVENA DOYCHINOV.

ple jets, a handheld unit and a bench; to save space, the designers added a niche to hold soaps and shampoos. The toilet was enclosed, but to create a sense of openness, the designers chose a sandblasted glass door with a trellis pattern. "It creates privacy but also allows the light to flow," says Doychinov.

From the hammered metal sinks and brushed nickel and crystal hardware to

the marble heated floors and custom, antiqued cabinetry, each design element radiates luxury. "With colors and materials, we were able to achieve a timeless look," says Doychinov.

As a final touch, Hawthorn commissioned artist Jeanne White to create a trompe-l'oeil floral painting above the large whirlpool tub. The motif accents the room's Neoclassical design and

adds a personal touch by incorporating angelic portraits of the homeowners' two sons.

"The room provides a great sense of European charm with luxurious materials, from the stone to the quality of the fabrics," says Hawthorn. "Even though it's a relatively small space, it provides everything you could possibly want in a bathroom."

All too often, the intricate details of the design a homeowner has labored over disappear after the sun goes down because lighting wasn't an early priority or even considered as a design concept.

calming and relaxing. Try and re-create the way the showroom highlighted a fixture or tile," he suggests.

Take, for example, the installation of recessed lighting in a typical room. A contractor will install four recessed lights, one in each corner. By placing two of those lights together in one corner and two in another corner, the homeowner will get a more dynamic look.

"We need to instill a better appreciation for lighting," says Bill Shott, CEO of Hammerton, a Utah-based lighting manu-

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Barbara Hawthorn also focused heavily on lighting in Bezu, a new restaurant she designed in Potomac. She incorporated six layers of light in the overall space (above) to create atmosphere, focal point light, task lighting and overall general lighting. In the dining area (top), she created four layers of light that include recessed lights to accent the stone walls; pendant lights to illuminate the table tops and create atmosphere; recessed lights in the glass mosaic niches for a touch of glamour; and recessed ceiling lights for general lighting.

Turn on the Lights

Often overlooked, a carefully thought-out lighting plan can make or break the ambience of your home

By Cari Shane Parven

Though its name should put it in the proverbial spotlight, illumination as a design concept is in need of an image boost. Many homeowners fail to realize the power of illumination. The reality is that lighting has a dramatic, exotic, pervasive effect on a room.

"Illumination is the difference between night and day," says McLean, Virginia-based interior designer Barbara Hawthorn of **Barbara Hawthorn Interiors**. Hawthorn has placed an emphasis on lighting in her residential and commercial designs for years. While many designers realize the importance of lighting, their ideas are often brought in too late. Hawthorn says that illumination should come up for discussion earlier in the process, when contractors and architects are still talking about which wall to tear down, which stone to use and which faucet to select.

"Illumination should never be an afterthought," says Quinn Murph of **Illuminations**, a showroom in Georgetown's Cady's Alley that specializes in lighting design and fixtures. "Think of lighting as a building material. I approach light as a support for architecture or space rather than seeing architecture as a support for the fixture."

To position illumination in its rightful place in the design timeline, the difference between "lighting" and "illumination" must first be understood. As Murph explains, lighting is the fixture; illumination is where the light is thrown by the fixture.

Illumination is all about giving definition to architecture and interior design. While



Interior designer Barbara Hawthorn infused this modern living space with multiple layers of light. She finds that the best solution for high ceilings is to use lighting on cable wire. Hung from cable, pendant lights can provide spot, accent, ambient and decorative lighting. Lights inset over the fireplace create a substitute for art, while a dramatic wall sconce creates its own focal point on an accent wall.

people take into consideration lighting fixtures, 95 percent don't take illumination as a design into consideration," says Murph. He points out that often homeowners invest in fancy tile, stone or other materials but then fail to show them off with the proper lighting. All too often, the intricate details of the design a homeowner has labored over disappear after the sun goes down because lighting wasn't an early priority or even considered as a design concept.

For example, if you've spent thousands of dollars on a polished nickel faucet, make

sure the lighting highlights the piece. "If the lighting fixture is put right in the middle of the shower stall, it highlights only the floor of the stall. But if you've spent \$5,000 on the shower system, the trims, the valves and the expensive rain shower head, it's so you can see it," says Murph. The same goes for lighting something such as marble, which can look like concrete if not properly lit.

"Too many times contractors put lighting in, in a generic way," says Murph. "They don't take into consideration illumination that is both practical as well as beautiful,



"Uhter Marsh" acrylic on canvas 30"x 40"

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A Colorful Mix

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through Jayson 15, Washington, DC. **Window Shades:** Custom through Designing Solutions. **Fan:** Emerson Fan Company.

DINING ROOM

Bolier Table & Display Cabinet: through Jayson 15, Washington, DC. **Custom Painted Sisal Rug:** Ellen Jacobson through Designing Solutions. **Christian Liaigre Lighting Fixture:** Holly Hunt, Washington, DC. **Drapery Fabrication:** Yi's Interiors. **Drapery Fabrics/Trim & Chair Fabrics:** Ground Works through Lee Jofa, Washington, DC. **Dining Chairs:** Baker, Knapp & Tubbs, Washington, DC. **Recessed Lighting:** Evolution from Lightolier.

POWDER ROOM

Sink, Pedestal & Hardware: Vitraform.

GREAT ROOM

Rug: Scroush, Kensington, MD. **Green Leather "Wedge" Sectional:** American Leather. **Drum Ottomans:** Lee Industries through American Eye, Washington, DC. **Fabric/Trim on Drum Ottomans & Toss Pillows on Sectional:** Ground Works through Lee Jofa, Washington, DC. **Custom Coffee Table & Bar Consoles:** David Hynes, University Park, MD. **Custom Cabinet Behind Sectional:** Iain Lowrie, Alexandria, VA. **Billiards Table Light Fixture:** "Remains Lighting" through Holly Hunt, Washington, DC. **Lamp Shades & Roman Shades:** Custom through Designing Solutions. **Roman Shade Fabric:** Hinson, Washington, DC. **Roman Shade Trim:** Kravet, Washington, DC. **Urban Bar Stools:** Century Furniture, Washington, DC. **Bar Stool Fabric:** Lee Jofa, Washington, DC.

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