

LED Lighting Trends in Design by Ken Lam

Ken Lam, principal of Navigate Design, brings us the LED Lighting Trends he sees taking the design world by storm.

by New York Spaces



Morah; Photo courtesy of Navigate Design.

The Advancement of LED Technology

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LED technology has come a long way from the early days of expensive fixtures and lamps that were only available in a harsh white color temperature. This advancement over the course of the last ten years has given interior designers massive freedom to manipulate and perfect the ambience of a given space.

Initially, the clear long-term benefits of energy efficiency were often overshadowed by short term ROIs, as consumers were hesitant to invest in a new and unfamiliar product. Moreover, the inability of LED technology to produce warmer lighting prevented many hospitality and residential designers from replacing their halogen lamps. Despite the applicability of cooler lighting in retail design, the need for more versatility encouraged the advancement of LED technology. Now, interior designers are no longer constrained by high costs or a limited color spectrum—they are able to specify wattage, light level, and dimming system as easily as they were with halogen lamps.

These advancements are becoming increasingly more important in building projects with strict regulations on power consumption, as the low wattage LED becomes crucial to creating a quality lighting design without sacrificing quantity.

Moreover, the improvement in LED technology is allowing for far better hospitality design. The

increased range in color temperature makes it possible for designers to set the right ambience with familiar decorative fixtures such as chandeliers, wall sconces and vintage tungsten lamps—all of which now employ the use of LED bulbs. Even the invention of day-lighting systems that can gradually change color temperature are perfect for hotel guest rooms and restaurant spaces that have different service and lighting needs from morning to night.

Thanks to these vast applications of recent LED technology, interior designers now have complete control over their projects, no longer bound by physical materials to define those spaces.



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