

Bright ideas for BEDROOM LIGHTING

The key to getting the mood just right is in the art of layering up on light sources – be inspired by these glowing designs and find out how to mix and match your favourites

Words: Yvette Filor



A similar bedroom design starts from £15,000. Kelling Designs. For a similar lampshade try KDLoves

Bedside lamps

Did you know having a light source by your bedside is just as important, if not more so, than your main overhead illumination? "Lighting at the bedside is essential if you like to read, but it will also add a warmer, softer glow to the room at night," explains Emma Deterding, founder and creative director of Kelling Designs. "A pair of matching table lamps on either side of the bed are ideal for this. Finish these with some beautiful shades; neutral tones will keep the scheme fresh and light, while bolder, patterned designs will add interest and allow your personality to shine," she adds. Indeed, picking out a lampshade that looks just as good turned off as it does on can help enhance your scheme, so think carefully about what style you want to go for. Bedside lamps don't have to be wired into the wall which can be a plus, but make sure you leave enough space on the side table for a book and a glass of water.



1 Greta table lamp, £195, Curious Egg, curiousegg.com 2 Heathfield & Co. Amelia lamp in volcanic frit glass and antique brass, from £822, Luxdeco, luxdeco.com 3 Feather table lamp in white, £425, Lime Lace, limelace.co.uk 4 Zira Monkey table lamp in Silver with shade, £82.80, Där Lighting, darlighting.co.uk 5 Sand tube table lamp, £149, House of, houseof.com. 6 Industrial scissor lamp, £149, Auburn Fox, auburnfox.co.uk >





Berl Frank Moshio pendant light, £282, Nest

Hanging pendants

This style of bedroom lighting has become more popular in recent years, though may take a bit more forward planning as additional electrical wiring will need to be added into your ceiling. If this is achievable, a hanging pendant on each side of your bed can help frame your headboard and works particularly well in smaller spaces, where floor area around the bedside may be limited. "Bedrooms aren't as bound by practicality and ceiling height as hallways or living rooms, where there's often a lot of movement, so low-hanging pendants over bedsides are indulgent touches that can be added with confidence," explains Peter Legg, lead designer at Där Lighting. "Choose designs with textured elements and combine them with an upholstered headboard and quilted throw for a sumptuous scheme." A design with a shade or a smoked glass bulb means you'll have a subtle glow rather than a glaring light in your face when laying in bed at night, though you may be limited on having directional task illumination with a hanging pendant.



1 Original BTC x Beata Heuman Alma pendant in Natural, £489, Original BTC, originalbtc.com 2 Sleek tinted glass globe 7-inch pendant in Smoke Grey, £89, Industville, industville.co.uk 3 Lambeth pendant with rescued fire hose strap in satin brass and yellow, from £378.60, Retrolight, retrolight.co.uk 4 Transylvanian Roots Flourish Sienna pendant lamp, from £195, Mindthegap, mindtheg.uk 5 Seta natural rattan lampshade, £79, Lights & Lamps, lightsandlamps.com 6 Chiara pendant light in brown marbled glass, £169, Cult Furniture, cultfurniture.com





Wall lights

There's a lot more variety to choose from when it comes to these fittings – there are sconces, pull-outs, up and downlighters, and even detachable torch designs, as well as the choice of having these wired in or not. Whatever look you opt for, think beforehand about what you want the illumination for. If reading is important, for example, a moveable task light will be useful, especially if you can adjust the brightness, too. "Have fittings on dimmers that can also be controlled independently from each other," advises Jo Plimsy, founder of Gong. This is especially helpful if you share your bedroom with a partner. All wall light designs will add low-level ambience to your space, but to save energy Ava Kelly, energy saving expert at Love Energy Savings, recommends adding timer switches where possible. "These can be set to come on during off-peak hours, ensuring you're running your bedroom lighting at the cheapest possible time, which can save up to half of the cost."





Ceiling lights

As the largest source of light in your bedroom, ceiling fixtures are not to be overlooked. In fact, it is often useful for this to be the starting point of a design. "We always recommend having a beautiful pendant as the centrepiece of a bedroom," says Ian Cameron, creative director of Cameron Design House. "It draws the eye in and brings the whole space together. Pendants with multiple tiers and dynamic configurations add drama." Check how bright your ceiling solution is to determine if light sources are needed elsewhere in the room – while covered material shades can look luxurious and dramatic, they may not provide enough illumination overhead, so you'll want additional task or wall fittings to be brighter. Similarly, if you have a glass chandelier where lots of light shines through, you may want to fit a dimmer control to allow you to adjust the brightness as needed.



3 Dovain Studio Sergio Prieto Contemporary Arty ceiling lamp design in metal brass, £1371.76, 1stdibs, 1stdibs.com
 4 Rattan double cylinder Easyfit shade in matt black, £41, BHS, bhs.com
 5 Meduse silk light in pink, £850, Gong, gong.co.uk
 6 By Boo Unbelcablefable pendant lamp, £145, Cuckooland, cuckooland.com

