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## LIGHTBULB IDEAS

*Lighting experts illuminate clients about design options*

BY JULIE GEDEON

**INNOVATIONS IN LED LIGHTING** from such companies as Elan or WAC are transforming fixtures into art. "A lot of this lighting is so nicely streamlined now with the LED bulb integrated right into the design," says Claudio Selvaggi, owner of Litemode, a lighting showroom in Vaughan. "And LED bulbs have evolved into shapes with coverings that are more in line with traditional bulbs."

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Tiny LED lights have become an enticing option for chandeliers, albeit with a modern twist. "People are looking at LED's energy savings with more interest now that the designs and bulbs appear less industrial and there's a wider range of bulb colours and temperatures," Selvaggi says.

Litemode's 9,000-square-foot showroom reflects how interior design has embraced lighting in exciting new ways. The many ways of beautifying a home and spotlighting its strengths are on display with chandeliers, pendants, tracks, sconces, flush and mounted lighting, along with lamps, lanterns and chandeliers. They embrace traditional, transitional, modern and contemporary styles.

"Lighting has become a home's jewelry," says Selvaggi, who's been in the business most of his life. "It provides the sparkle and glamour."

So much has changed since Litemode opened its doors 25 years ago to focus on high-rise lighting. The company created a home showroom a decade ago to respond to the steady influx of new homeowners in the Greater Toronto Area.

Trained, experienced staff helps designers, decorators and homeowners to achieve their desired look at accessible prices. "We definitely recommend investing in a designer or decorator because their skills usually achieve a richer decor for less money in the long run," Selvaggi says. "But not everyone can go that route, so we're

here to help by asking customers about their preferred style, budget and goals for new lighting."

Staff members ask customers about the size, layout and prominent colours in their homes, and they encourage them to bring in photos and samples to assist them in their decisions.

"Crystal remains very popular," Selvaggi says. "We're also noticing more retro-vintage influences with Restoration Hardware being very popular, and with the older look of antique or French gold, for example, but with modern, simpler designs.

"People are much savvier about how recessed, track or angled lighting enhances a home's elegance by showcasing artwork or sculpting portions of a room," he adds. ▶