

The big question

A new regular feature where we ask some of the top people in the industry to share their expertise.



What is the single aspect of an



Debbie Anastassiou

Despina Design

Let there be light

Imagine you have gone to see a stage production. You have heard that a tremendous amount of work has gone into building a spectacular set. But as you sit there you feel disappointed.

Why? You cannot see anything spectacular... in fact you cannot see anything at all!

Yes, a designed interior just like a stage set, is not complete until it has

been properly lit. Interior design is the art of creating spaces which fulfil the functional and aesthetic needs of those occupying them.

Lighting is the only aspect of an interior that will single-handedly either jeopardise or fulfil this end.

Apart from being a necessity, light is also a major design element.

I am not talking about providing a few lamps of good lines and colours to go with the decorating scheme.

Rather, I am focussing on the interplay of general, task and decorative lighting.

The true professional takes into consideration the amount and location for its purpose, compatibility with the colour scheme, level of illumination, type, scale and style of light source and the relationship between natural and artificial illumination.

Additionally there are so many different ways to enlighten a space.

We have diffused, direct, indirect, semi direct, semi indirect, not to mention types of light to consider: warm, white, cool.

Lighting will enhance or diminish the ambience, size, colour and texture of an interior.

Light alone will not create beautiful interiors. But take light out of the equation and sadly behold as balance, proportion, scale and colour fade into oblivion. ■



Craig Steere

Craig Steere Architects

Functional layout

Function is the most important aspect of an interior. Addressing an interior's function, which includes planning and layout, is not the glamorous part of designing but an interior can not work well without careful planning.

Responding well to a client brief is what makes the interior really work from a functional aspect.

There is no real point having a space