

## THE LIGHTS

"Whenever I meet with clients, one of the first things we talk about is lighting," says Justin Horn of **Paradigm Kitchen Design**. "Lighting is so fundamentally important to any room in the house, and the kitchen is no exception."

Horn starts with good primary lighting, the general lighting that's most often projected from the ceiling. Task lighting, important for the work you do in the kitchen, takes the form of under cabinet lighting, illuminating work surfaces. "Task lighting can also be directional ceiling lighting that's focused on specific work areas, such as islands," explains Horn. Finally, decorative lighting adds a finishing touch to the kitchen. "Depending on the style of the kitchen and cabinetry, it may be appropriate to have an antique fixture hanging from the ceiling," explains Horn. "Or a wall sconce can add a strong design element, even if it doesn't light one thing in particular."

It's indicative of the trend toward treating the kitchen the same as any other room in the house. "Especially in newer homes, with the kitchen is so open to the rest of the home, whatever we choose has to respect and compliment the rest of the house," says Horn. "The furnishings, fittings and materials that people choose for adjacent rooms have to work well. Today's kitchen doesn't really look like the kitchen

## Kitchens Sizzle

of the past; it looks more like a fundamental architectural element of the home, and not just an afterthought that's hidden away."

Horn sees this city's natural environment play a strong influence on home design, played out in the kitchen with the preference for natural materials. "In Vancouver we have a real connection with the outdoors, with everything being so natural and green and lush, and people want to bring some of that inside the home," says Horn. "There's a real tendency to have earthy colours and natural materials in the home, and you can make that work in traditional or modern design."