



What most influences your designs?

The visions of the interior designers and architects we work with. For me, lighting design is not just repeating the same things over and over, but finding new ways to light something.

Why is proper lighting such an important element in the home?

It can take a bland, uniformly lit space and give it visual interest. If you pay attention to the design, you can create contrast and be comfortable in the space.

What defines your style?

We're constantly trying to find smaller and less obtrusive functional lighting so that the architecture, art and decorative lighting can stand out more.

What are you seeing right now that's "hot" in lighting design?

In addition to the shift from traditional light sources to LED-based products, I also see the use of color more. A little color can go a long way. Too much, and it starts to lose impact, but the right amount can have a huge impact and is fun for entertaining.

What's your current design obsession?

I am always looking for pinhole accent lights. It must have the right adjustability, glare control, light output and ease of aimability.

What's your most recent prized creation?

We are finishing up a Spanish Colonial home in the Denver area and we used a lot of indirect lighting throughout the landscape. When you stand back and look at the house, it's just beautiful.

What challenges you in your work?

I think the biggest challenge is really striving to improve the energy efficiency of our designs, without sacrificing quality, functionality and aesthetics.

Name your dream project.

If artist Dale Chihuly ever builds a house in Aspen, I would love to work on it. Lighting glass sculptures is a challenge, but when it's done, they really pop.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID O. MARLOW

GREGG MACKELL

186 LIGHTING DESIGN GROUP

ACCESSORY FIND

Haines Faceted Table Lamp, \$2,156; bakerfurniture.com



Gregg Mackell founded his architectural lighting firm in Golden in 2001, aptly referencing the approximate speed of light—186,000 miles per second. Ever since, Mackell has conceptualized lighting design plans throughout the country, even educating his peers with presentations on the subject. Of his own creative vision, Mackell says, "I like to adapt our style to each project, rather than apply our design style to a home. We tailor our design to the client and the architecture." A thorough analysis accompanies projects at their inception, from where artwork is placed—it can determine lighting placements, he says—to surface finishes and the location of furniture throughout the home. "Lighting is a composition," says Mackell. "You want people to notice the architecture and interiors, not just a particular lighting effect." And with each design, Mackell continues to innovate, striving to reinvent lighting in ways it's never been used before.