

Let there be light, especially with these most beautiful and life-enhancing designs

People respond to the way in which an architectural space is illuminated, explains lighting designer David Morgan, whose company worked on the front windows of Burberry stores

The most recent range of sleek, Bauhaus-style lights to come from the imaginations of the designers at Radiant Lights in Highgate are named 'Shard' for a reason.

The modern LEDs under cabinet strips were initially designed by the company for use in the show apartments of the newest skyscraper to be installed in the landscape of London.

Now, anyone can have a piece of city glamour under their kitchen cupboards. "We try very hard to make the lights we design functional as well as beautiful. With indirect lighting and light coming from oblique angles without any glare, you can really enhance an architectural space," says David Morgan, who founded the sister design company to Radiant 35 years ago and was born in Muswell Hill.

David Morgan Associates has been invited to design lighting for everything from a concert hall in Azerbaijan to the front windows of Burberry stores.

The company is also responsible for creating the enviably warm glow of many show apartments that makes people want to snap them up the minute they enter. "Lighting is such an important part of a design, and quality of light is key," says Morgan. "You spend most of your time in artificial light and so this is important."

Challenge

There may have been developments in technology and design, but Morgan says his biggest challenge is that the human want hasn't changed at all. "Everyone is still drawn to warm firelight and sunlight. There is a very emotional response to the light that surrounds you. Technology just gives us better ways to achieve this, but we are always trying to achieve a similar thing. Different levels of light diffusion and different layers of light can achieve different responses from people."

A graduate of the Royal College of Art, Morgan fell into lighting design by accident, but now he would never look back. "It is an interesting area where science and art cross over. You come across many fascinating individuals in this field."

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