

THE Experts

MASTER CLASS

ANN PYNE ON LIGHTING

"Many people will spend money on furniture, fabrics, and rugs when they decorate and then treat the lighting as an afterthought. But to me, the place to put thought—and maybe money—is into a light fixture, or whatever you want to call the thing that sheds light. Think of it as the 'shoes and purse' of a room, if you will—lamps are important in that way. But they are also poetic and permanent. A lamp symbolizes warmth and clarity, like the sun does."



▲ "Lamps are integral to the 'poetry' of a room," says **Ann Pyne, president of McMillen, Inc.**, which has been celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

◀ "Elegant as it is, this John Dickinson lamp is a bit like a big mushroom that's illuminating pieces of contemporary art pottery in the form of gourds. **It's an apt metaphor**, since it's in the corner of a country cottage, after all."



▲ "Lamps don't have to be expensive. **Be creative.** When my daughter went off to school, I took a pencil to a shade and wrote brief quotes from favorite books across it."



▶ "The different-colored glows given off by different translucent shades can be jarring to a room's overall effect. **Opaque shades feel modern** and can sharpen up a dated room."



THIS IS A REAL CANDLE, AND THE SCONCES HAVE ELECTRIC BULBS.

▲ "In fixtures derived from candles—like sconces or chandeliers—**use clear, flame-tip bulbs on a dimmer.** That way the light from real candles and the light from electric bulbs can be equalized, and the poetry of a candlelit dinner won't be ruined."



◀ "Whatever the style, **every lamp should have an aesthetic raison d'être.** I get a *Midsummer Night's Dream* feeling from this Christopher Spitzmiller lamp [far left]. And the floor lamp by Stephen Downes [left] makes me think of... well, a poem I love by Cavafy. It just glows, like the burning embers of a torch."

PRODUCER SHAX RIEGLER PHOTOGRAPHERS JAY ACKERMAN (PORTRAIT); BJÖRN WALLANDER (TOP INTERIOR); LARA ROBBY/STUDIO D (BULBS)