

ROBERT SINGER

ROBERT SINGER & ASSOCIATES

An early start in theatrical lighting design made the transition to the architectural environment a natural one for Robert Singer, who founded his architectural lighting design firm in New York over 25 years ago. Now based in the Aspen area (with a sister location in Arizona), the award-winning designer has adhered to the artistic inclination that inspired him early in his career. "We treat our designs like paintings," says Singer. "We are given a canvas, and then enhance it with layers of lighting until we have created the depth, quality and drama the environment deserves." With each project, he reviews the client's lifestyle, observing the overall architectural and interior design of a home to ensure a seamless integration of lighting elements. Singer says that lighting may often be visually imperceptible, but that's indicative of great success. "The best designs are usually quiet," he says. "They are felt, and not seen."



What makes your lighting unique?

It's the way we integrate our designs into the architecture. We try to push the envelope without overpowering.

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

It provides warmth, comfort and security. It can make a home come to life by enhancing the architectural elements of the home—both interior and exterior—and hide what we do not want to see.

What is your current design obsession?

I try not to obsess. Having a design obsession can stifle your creativity.



What's your most recent prized creation?

We treat every new project like a prized creation. But back in the day, I sculpted an 18-foot-long crystal iguana chandelier for the Café Iguana in New York City. It was the centerpiece of the space, which I lit from the interior and exterior. The quality of light reflecting off the crystal was magical.

Which item in your own home would you never part with?

Photos. They give us a history of where we came from, who we are and what we have become.

What should homeowners splurge on when it comes to lighting?

First and foremost, a qualified lighting consultant. Secondly, a control system. It is critical in a large residential environment.

What challenges you in your work?

Trying to push the envelope on every project. We are currently working on an incredible contemporary home, and our challenge is to create a design within budgetary constraints. The architecture is so stimulating and calls for us to integrate new details in many of its features.

Name your dream project.

It's hard—I have been blessed with the opportunity to work on so many wonderful projects throughout my career—but maybe a resort project in Bora Bora.



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