

# Lighting is such an important decorating element

Even though lighting is such an important decorating element, it is often an afterthought that is a shame. Lighting sets a room's mood—whether it is serene or dramatic—with the flick of a switch. So, get your rooms out of the shadows and into the spotlight of stardom with the right light.

The key to achieving the best light

for your room is to mix it up. First, focus on lighting from general sources. General lighting is the basic component of interior lighting. Replacing sunlight, it provides an area with overall illumination, usually with fluorescent or incandescent lamps on the ceiling or chandeliers, recessed and hanging fixtures. One

quick way to achieve a pleasing ambience, is to use a dimmer switch.

Next, consider adding some direct light for task lighting from floor lamps and torchieres, as well as stylish table lamps that cast pools of light for reading and entertaining. As its name suggests, task lighting illuminates areas where specific tasks

are performed.

Remember that if you use a broad lampshade, the pool of light will be wide; if you use a narrow lampshade, your pool will be small. Also, the height of the lamp will affect the cast of light. The higher the lamp, the more diffuse the light will become. They are inexpensive and change a room's mood with just a twist.

Finally, think about your need for accent lighting, which adds drama to artwork and unique home furnishings. Track lights and floor canisters fit the bill for accent lights. Tiny candle lamps,

strategically placed can prevent a wall of bookshelves from disappearing into dark, shadowed oblivion. Since the intent of accent lighting is to accentuate, it requires more light on the object or area being spotlighted, and thus, should be at brighter than the room's general lighting.

When you're shopping for a new lighting keep in mind where you are going to place it and the lighting needs it must satisfy. Then illuminate your room brilliantly and elegantly with the power of the right light.

*This article brought to your by the Decorating Den.*

## ANNOUNCEMENT



John (JP) Pears

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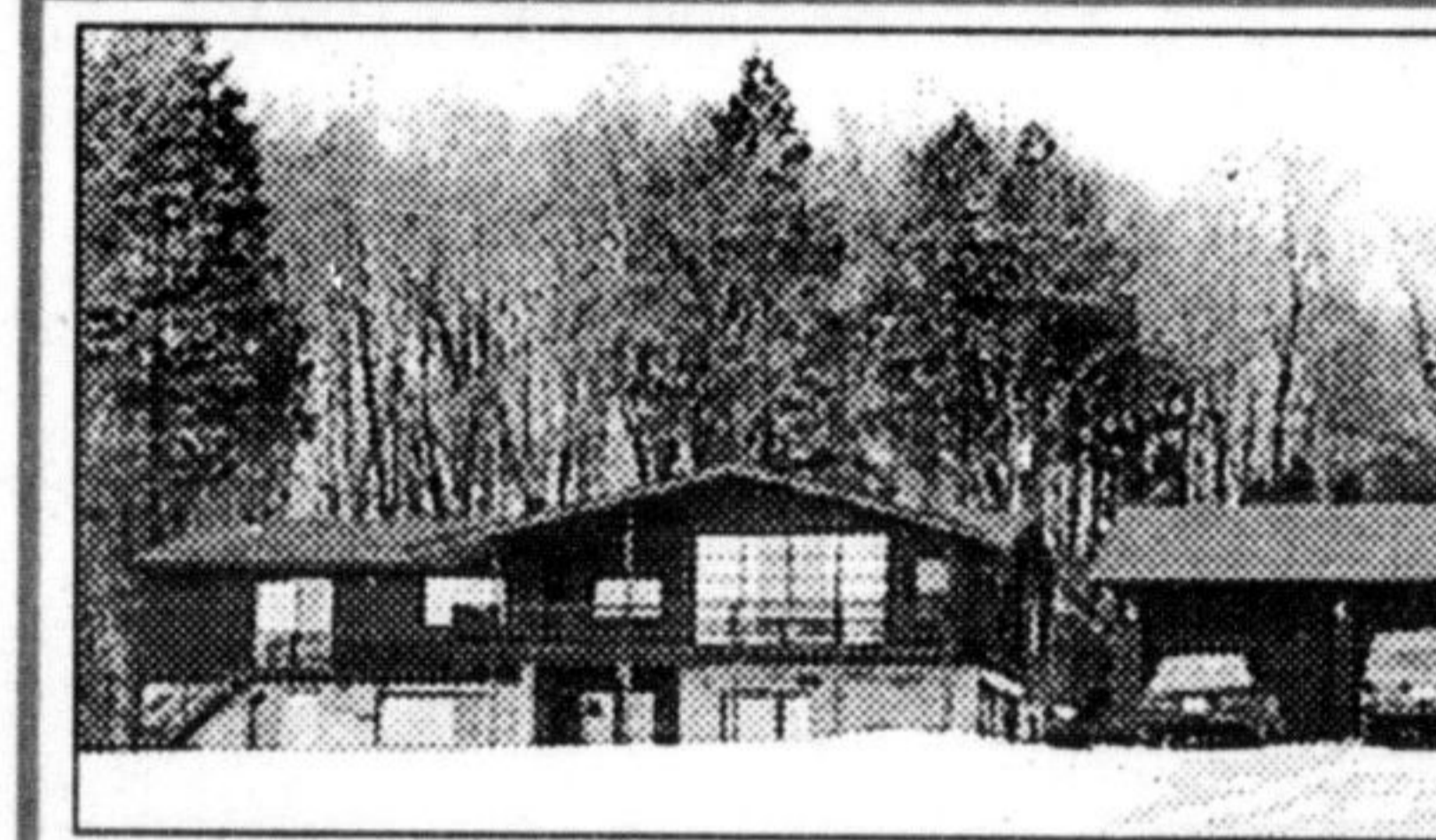


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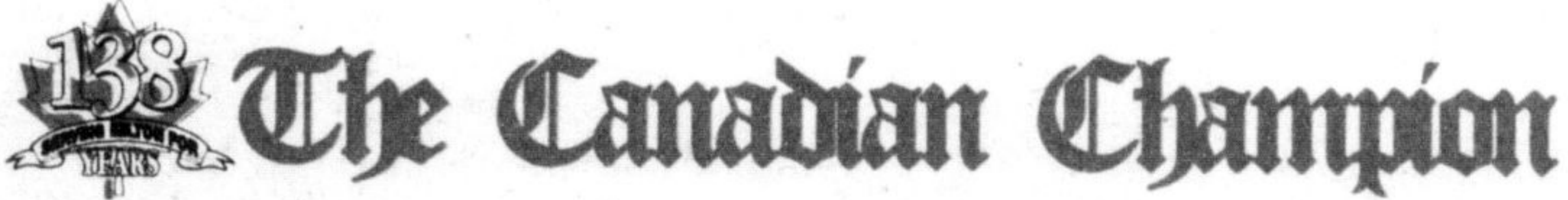
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