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6 Outdated Lighting Trends to Skip in 2024, According to Designers

As you contemplate your next design project, take heed of these lighting trends that experts say are on their way out.

By [Emma Taubenfeld](#) | Published on January 4, 2024



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PHOTO: IN4MAL / GETTY

Choosing the right lighting can sometimes be an afterthought for homeowners who are redecorating. Since standard lighting isn't usually the most exciting facet of designing your space, light fixtures typically take a back seat. However, lighting can completely alter the style of a room and enhance your space, so giving it the proper amount of thought and attention is wise.

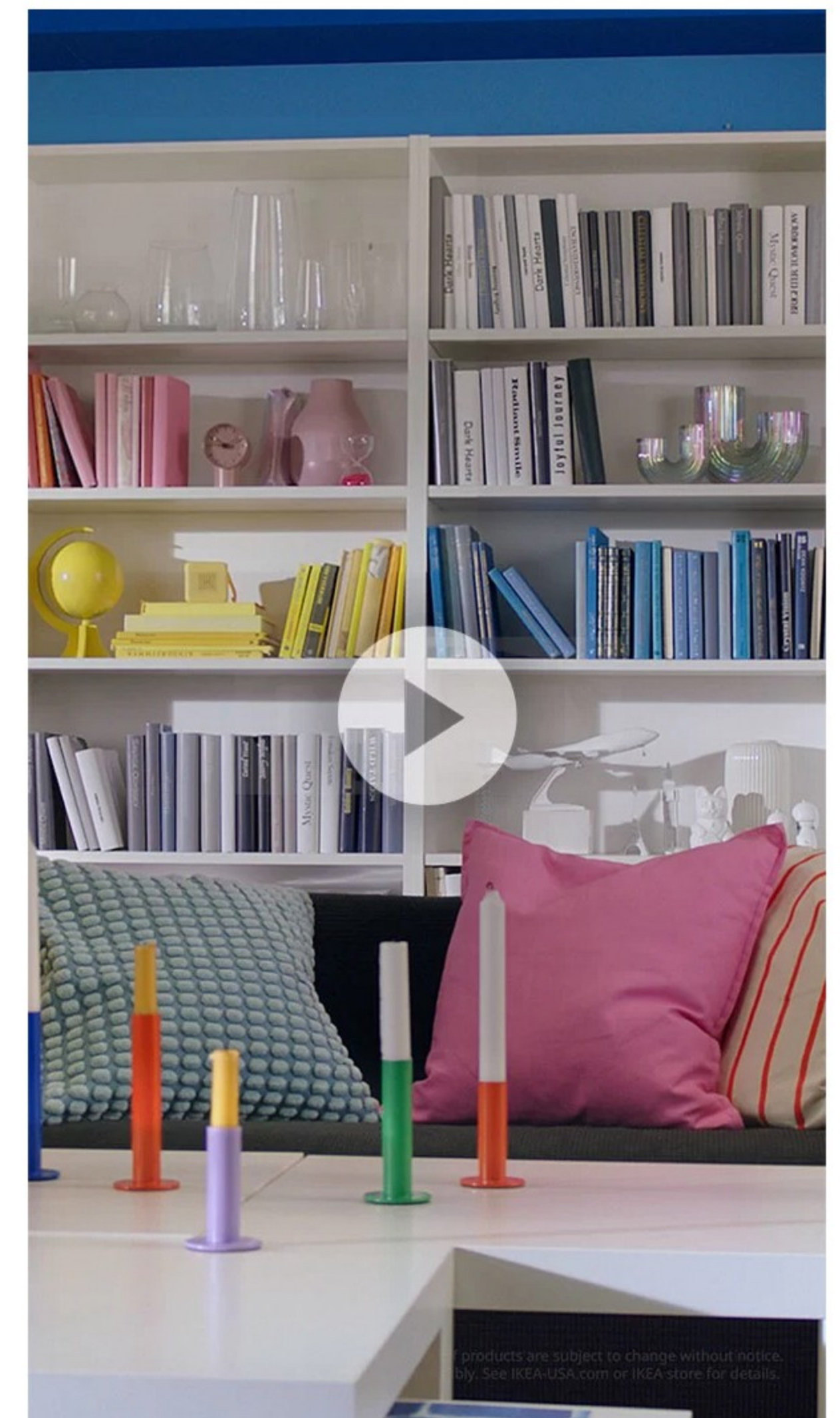
As trends wax and wane, it can be challenging to know where to start when it comes time for an upgrade. So, we spoke with interior designers who gave advice about what lighting trends to leave in the past and what to try instead if you're ready for a refresh.

MEET THE EXPERT

- **Kristin Harrison**, founder and principal designer of [Bungalow 10 Interiors](#)
- **Gena Kirk**, VP of Corporate Studio at [KB Home](#)
- **Alex Robinson** of [Mackenzie Collier Interiors \(MCI\)](#)

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Recessed Lighting

For those unfamiliar with the term, recessed lighting is a light fixture directly installed into the ceiling, making for "hidden" bulbs. "I think people are finally realizing that just putting recessed lighting everywhere can really make your house fall flat," says Kristin Harrison, founder and principal designer of Bungalow 10 Interiors. "Focus on putting levels of light all over your home (chandeliers, pendants, wall sconces, table lamps, and floor lamps). Don't rely on overhead lighting to set the right vibe for your home. It will do the opposite and can look way too harsh."



Builder Grade Fixtures

Besides not having much intention, builder-grade fixtures tend to be mass-produced without any leeway for customization. "I've seen a lot of homeowners just absolutely despise the standard builder lighting that is plopped down all over their homes," says Harrison. "The finishes aren't right, the sizing is off, and often there is no thought for what type of lighting is actually needed. Swapping those out can make the biggest impact on the overall feel of your home." Instead, opt for linear pendants, cluster lighting, or chandeliers for a style that's uniquely yours.

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Matching Lights

This should go without saying when it comes to any feature in a home, but not everything needs to look the same. "A lot of my clients think they have to match everything in their homes, especially their lighting," says Harrison. "One of the first things a designer will do is start curating pieces that you'd never think to put together to give you a way more custom feel."

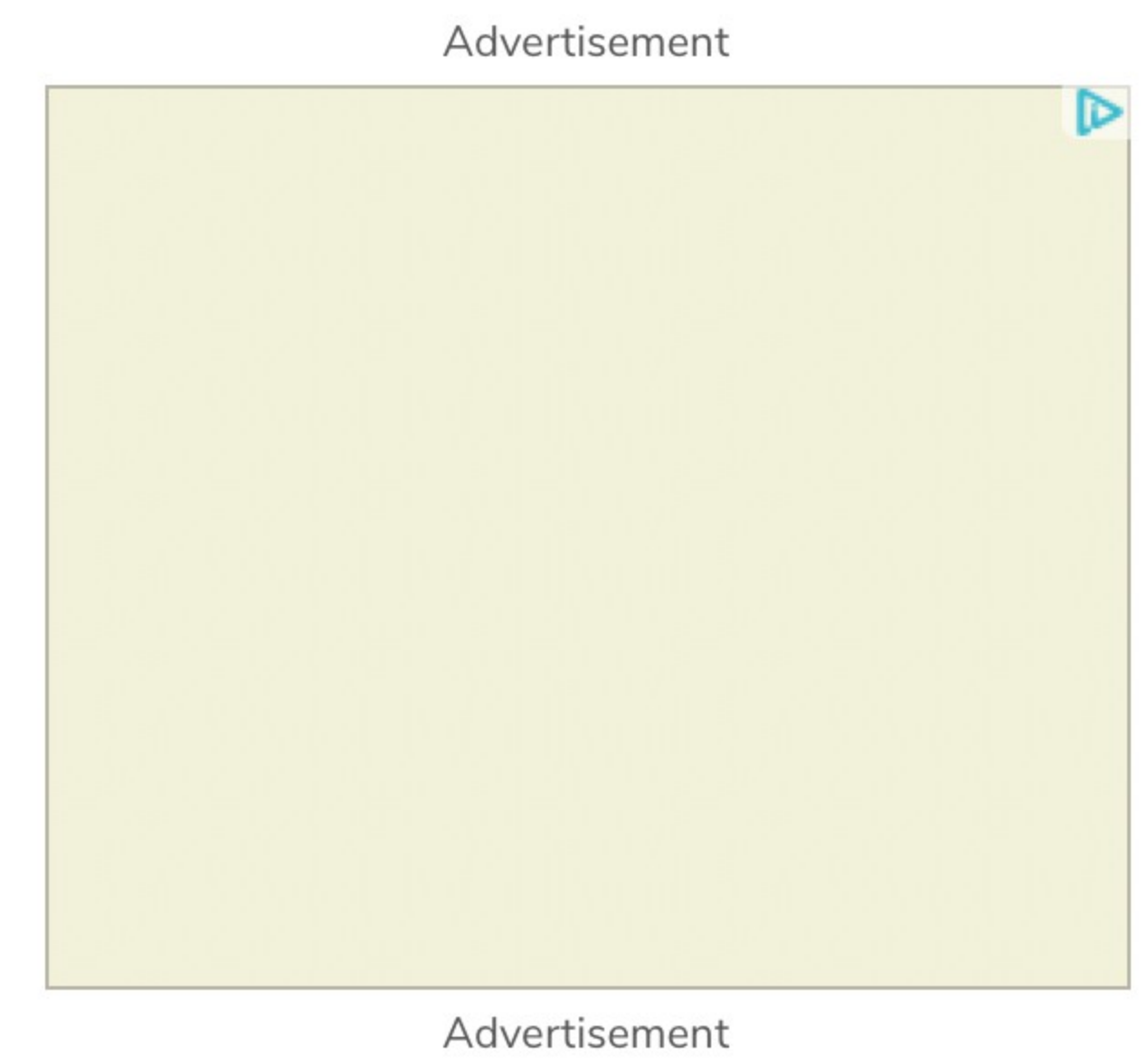


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Small Pendants

In new designs, you'll likely see fewer smaller fixtures. Designers and homeowners are opting for bolder lighting that becomes the focal point of the room. "Larger lighting fixtures are like works of art, showcasing different black, gold, and chrome metals, glass effects, and natural wood or wicker accents," says Gena Kirk, VP of Corporate Studio at KB Home. This trend is about proportion and balance—think impactful, not overwhelming."

Bath Bar Lighting

Horizontal bath bars are out, and decorative sconces are in, says Kirk. "These vertical wonders are incredibly versatile, providing ample mirror light when placed side-by-side and adding a touch of drama to any wall,"

she says. "The materials are endless, from natural quartz and metals of all shades to satin, clear, or seeded glass."

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Muted Lighting

Interior designers are opting for bolder color palettes and stronger statements in all aspects of the home—and lighting is no exception. "There's a notable surge in the incorporation of vibrant colors, diverse textures, and the utilization of unconventional materials," says Alex Robinson of Mackenzie Collier Interiors (MCI).

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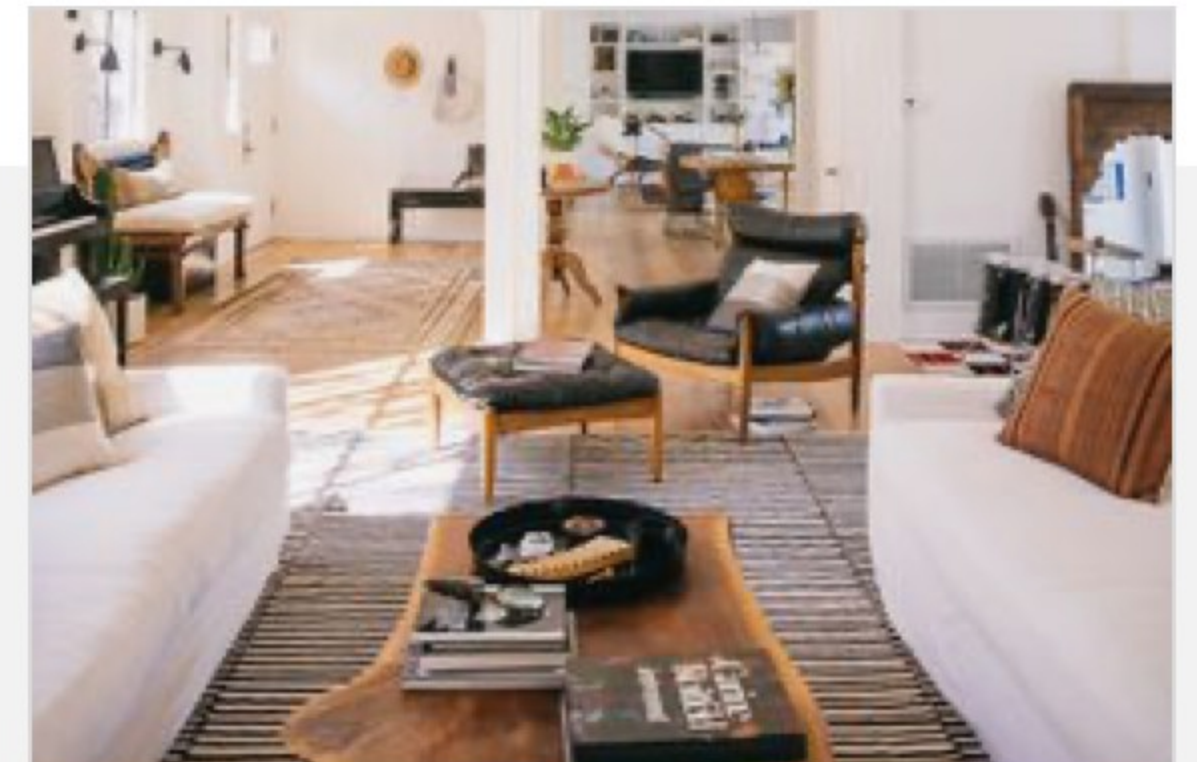
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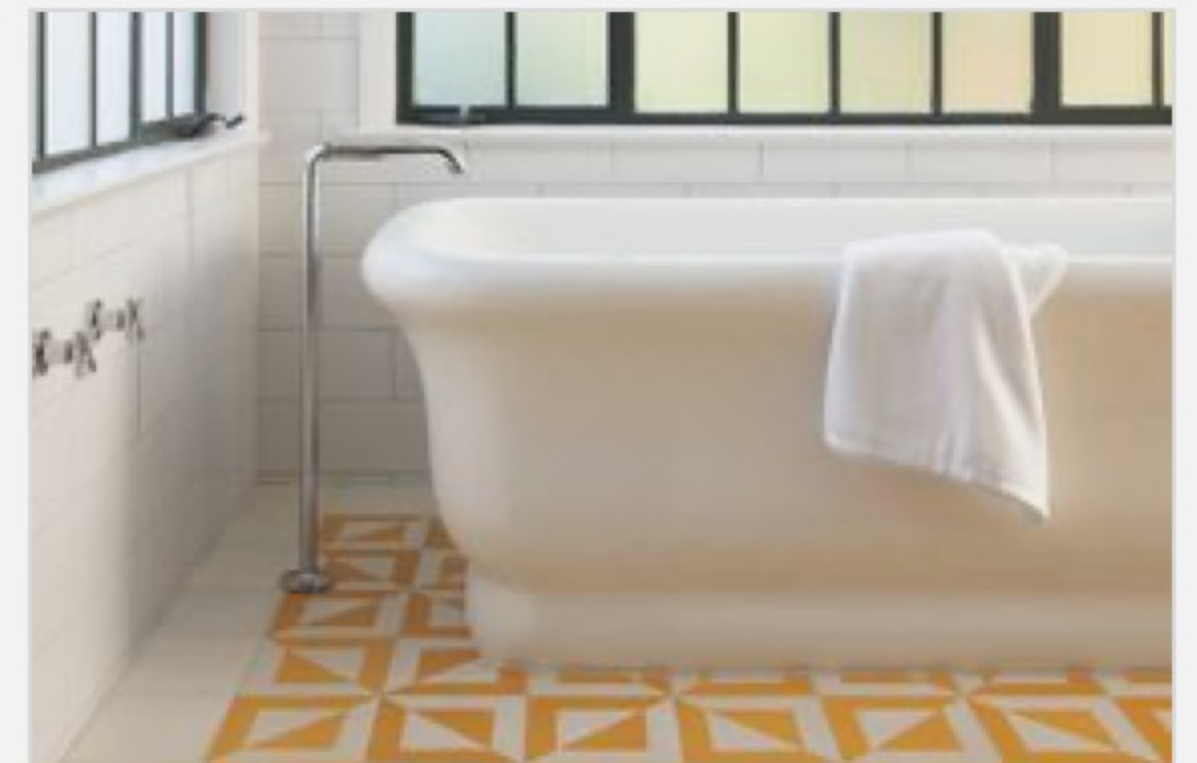
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