

# HOMES & REAL ESTATE

## DESIGN RECIPES

### Try these lighting tips in any space

By Cathy Hobbs  
Tribune News Service (TNS)

**L**ighting can greatly enhance or diminish a space. Poor lighting can make a home feel dark and gloomy, while a well-lit home can feel bright and welcoming. Lighting can also be used as a stylized element to improve nearly any room of the home. From ceiling pendants to wall sconces and chandeliers, a number of traditional and innovative lighting solutions can help you enhance your space whether you are looking for elevated aesthetics or more functionality.

Looking for lighting ideas? Here are some top tips.

**1. Go industrial.** Industrial style fixtures are more popular than ever and can work well depending on the style of your space.

**2. Think function.** Whether it is a pendant to provide lighting over a sink or an island or a table to dine, be sure to pay attention to functionality.

**3. Go for glam.** In spaces like dining or entry areas, don't be afraid to make a bold statement with your lighting fixtures.

**4. Formal or casual?** Whether you are looking to



**A pendant placed over a kitchen table helps add functionality.** [DESIGN RECIPES/TNS]

make a formal statement or prefer a fixture that is more understated, it is helpful to decide before making a lighting purchase.

**5. Make a welcome statement.** Homes that are poorly lit from the outside are not only unwelcoming

but can potentially create a safety issue.

**6. Consider adding wall sconces.** Whether in a powder room, bathroom or bedroom, this additional lighting can help add to the design of a room as well as functionality.

**7. Go energy efficient.** From pendants to wall sconces, LED fixtures are more popular than ever. The lights typically burn for thousands of hours.

**8. Try interesting light bulbs.** Transparent bulbs and industrial-style bulbs

can help add interest.

**9. Add recessed lighting** when possible. It is OK to add both recessed lights as well as fixtures in the same space.

**10. When in doubt, more is better.** You can never have too much light in a space.

## GARDENING

### The limitless benefits of our environment



**Taylor Clem**

Take a deep breath and feel air fill your lungs. How often do you think about the air you breathe? It is common knowledge that plants provide the oxygen we breathe through their photosynthesis process. This direct benefit we receive from plants is described as an ecosystem service.

Ecosystem services are the benefits derived from our environment. Although our oxygen supply is a well-known ecosystem service, the amount of ecosystem services benefiting humans is innumerable. Due to the sheer number of ecosystem services, researchers organize ecosystem services

into four categories: provisional, cultural, regulating and supporting services.

Supporting ecosystem services provide habitat for various species and ensure genetic diversity. Biodiversity is a keystone to every ecosystem service. Without biodiversity, ecosystem services have dwindling impacts. Florida's development puts increasing pressure on natural habitat-impacting species and their genetic diversity. Through smart growth and conservation practices, we can help balance Florida's development with the need to maintain strong supporting ecosystem services.

Provisioning ecosystem services are outputs associated with ecosystems, which includes services that support fresh water, food production, medicines, or raw materials. Florida's waterways and waterbodies

are a great example of an ecosystem service. In 2016, Florida's seafood industry accounted for 3.16% of agriculture receipt, supported 4,000 jobs, and contributed \$407.6 million to Florida's economy.

Regulating ecosystem services are the hardest benefits to see but have a substantial impact, which includes climate control, moderation of extreme weather events, water treatment, pollination and biological control. Carbon sequestration and storage is a critical regulating ecosystem service provided by our environment. The various plants and trees in our different ecosystems capture and store carbon in their plant tissue, which helps manage greenhouse gases.

Cultural ecosystem services are considered non-material benefits, but relate to the services that support

recreation, tourism, aesthetics and spirituality. Recreation associated with our environments provide physical and mental health benefits to our community, nation and world. Florida's outdoor recreation industry is dependent on cultural ecosystem services. A 2017 report from Outdoor Industries Association reported that Florida's outdoor recreation industry annually accounts for \$58.6 billion in consumer spending, provides 485,000 jobs, provides \$3.5 billion in state and local taxes, and contributes \$17.9 billion in wages.

Ecosystem services are vast, numerous and interconnected among one another. Any disruption of an ecosystem service is resonating. Florida's social, economic and environmental livelihoods are deeply tied to healthy ecosystem services. Whether vital for

our economic development, public health, or climate mitigation, every ecosystem service beneficially impacts every Floridian.

The upcoming ecosystem service series will highlight benefits and examples from the different ecosystem service categories. As you go about your week, summon your adventurous Took spirit and explore the environment around you. Where are the places within our community where we see ecosystem services at work? As always, I'm rooting for you. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County.

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## SIKORSKI'S ATTIC

### Carved hall chair though attractive, not pleasant to sit in



**John Sikorski**

**Q:** My husband and I have owned a small used furniture and appliance store for 24 years in the Ocala-Belleview area. Occasionally we come across an antique piece that we are curious about. I am attaching some pictures of an old solid oak chair we acquired recently. I am completely clueless about its origin or value. I would love your input, thank you. — B.H., internet

**A:** You have a hall chair. It was made in America,

possibly Chicago, during the late 19th to early 20th century. Trained skilled European woodcarvers immigrated to America in large numbers during that time and went to work for furniture manufacturers producing various carved panels for tables, sideboards, chairs, mantle pieces and more. By 1900 it is said that Chicago alone had over 5,000 carvers employed.

The carved tavern scene backrest is an example of a type produced by German carvers. The tavern scene was a popular motif in Germany and was used in a wide variety of items from beer steins to furniture and paintings.

The seat shows an example of quarter-sawn oak

revealing the medullary growth rays of the wood and often called tiger stripe. Hall chairs like the one you have though attractive are not pleasant to sit in and are slow to sell except at low prices. Potential dollar value is below \$500.

**Q:** I have a vase that was given to my wife about 40 years ago. It was given to her by a family that toured the world. I want to sell it, but I have no idea what it is worth. Can you advise its worth? On the bottom it has stamped T & V and under that is the word Limoges. I tried to get a picture of the bottom, but it is just not clear enough. — R.H., Ocala

**A:** You have a nice quality hand-painted porcelain

pitcher. The manufacturer is Treeseamanes & Vogt in Limoges, France. The pitcher was likely painted in America by a lady who had purchased it at a local department store undecorated. China and porcelain painting was a popular past time among society ladies during the Victorian era and on into the early 20th century. Some ladies hand signed the work often near the painted area. From what I can see the condition looks good. If there are no cracks, the potential dollar value would be in the \$50 to \$150 range, depending on size.

**Q:** I have two Thai temple rubbings that I would like to know if they have any value. Pictures are enclosed.

I would also like to part with them if you can give me some direction on how to do that too. Thank you for your expert knowledge! — D.J., internet

**A:** There is no specific collector interest in Thai temple rubbings. There are large quantities for sale on eBay for less than \$50. You might consider donating them to a charity of your choice.

*John Sikorski with over 35 years of experience is an Ocala based antiques advisor, consultant, and broker. Send your questions to [Sikorski's Attic, c/o The Ocala Star-Banner, 2121 SW 19th Ave. Road, Ocala, FL 34471-7752](mailto:Sikorski's Attic, c/o The Ocala Star-Banner, 2121 SW 19th Ave. Road, Ocala, FL 34471-7752), or email [absantique@aol.com](mailto:absantique@aol.com).*