





TOWNHOUSE

REBECCA LEIVARS, leivars.com. The interior designer, known for a sophisticated approach, suggests solutions for urban houses that will create a sleek, luxurious look with plenty of cosmopolitan style.



Stirrup 3 uplighter in Black, £370.80, Original BTC.

BEDROOM

A bedroom acts as a sanctuary from our extremely busy lifestyles, and a good lighting scheme should reflect that, creating a relaxing atmosphere that encourages a good night's sleep. So, for a sophisticated but comfortable townhouse scheme, I would suggest layered lighting. It's important to have lights that can be controlled independently from each other, so you don't end up reaching over a sleeping partner to turn off a reading lamp. For those who don't have the luxury of a dressing room, consider incorporating some lighting that's strong enough to see colours and textures by, while soft lighting in the evening is ideal for setting the scene and begins the relaxation process. Using LEDs not only helps with colour rendition, but they are also better for the environment as they're dimmable. For a smart townhouse, I would opt for soft, warm white bulbs and would avoid fittings that give off glare as they could interfere with the calming mood.

SITTING ROOM

A smart townhouse living room is always a fun space in which to create lighting scenes. I always like to ensure that there are good reading areas, so pure light is a must. I also aim to design rooms that reflect the property's existing architecture and natural light orientation. Try incorporating floor uplights to create interesting shadows and highlight artwork, and downlights to cast gentle scallops of light onto favourite pieces and to drop pools of illumination onto tables. Depending on ceiling height, a feature light fitting always strikes a great balance in a townhouse and adds a little coolness or grandeur to a space. Don't shy away from adding a large piece to a room for fear of it being overpowering; in fact, a large-scale pendant or floor lamp often makes a space feel much bigger. Playing with light and shadows is a good way to create a visual impression of additional space.

DINING ROOM

In my opinion, this is always the trickiest space to light. Some people like bright dining areas, while others prefer subtle ambient lighting, so I try to take a tailored approach. In every case, it's essential to avoid directing glare onto seating, which means thinking first about the position of your dining table and chairs before you install lighting. I also encourage my clients to think about artwork. Even if it's not yet decided on or in situ, try to design lighting so that soft scallops of illumination can pick up on special pieces at a later date. Your scheme will need pools of light on the dining table to eat by, but ensure a dimmer switch allows for a softer glow for after dinner coffee and relaxation. Likewise, lighting should be able to be controlled to its maximum strength for winter daytime events.

HOME OFFICE

Lighting a work station or a home office needs to be carefully considered, but that shouldn't prevent you from taking a daring approach in a townhouse setting. Consider how you'll be using your home office. If you need to focus for prolonged periods of time, then slightly softer, non-harsh lighting will reduce strain on the eyes. If you are carrying out tasks for which clarity is needed, a good LED task light will deliver on this. Try to have fun with the desk lighting, too; don't be afraid to use a simple table lamp coupled with alternative light sources for that added wow factor and to create interest. There are some incredible wall lights around at present and plenty of choice at affordable prices. Opting for a striking lighting scheme in a home office will add an element of surprise.

1 | Churriana tile in Glazed Grey, £8.16 per tile, Bert & May. **2** | Mansion Weave parquet, from £166.62sq m, Ecora. **3** | Perla Akoya wallcovering W900/03, £95 a roll, Black Edition. **4** | Glazed Alalpardo tile in Old Iron and Milk, £9 per tile, Bert & May. **5** | Inox, Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. **6** | Diamond fabric 28781.135, chenille, 130cm wide, £80m, Kravet. **7** | Conduit steel ceiling hook, £14, Dyke & Dean. **8** | Levanto in Monticello, Italian leather, £16.50sq ft (sold by hide), Whistler Leather. **9** | Ajoutée Tiered glass fringe in Off White, £67.50m, Samuel & Sons. **10** | IC F2 floor light in Brass, H185xW38cm, £649, Flos at Heal's. **11** | Wright in Lavender, cotton mix, 144cm wide, £45m, Larsen. **12** | Verdigris dolly light switch, £67.03, Forbes & Lomax. **13** | Atomic Grey honed slate, £42sq m, Mandarin Stone. **14** | Lyss smoked glass lamp, H19xW19xD13cm, £20, Habitat. **15** | Frama Eric Therner Diamond light bulb, £33, Dyke & Dean. **16** | Rectangular Cocteau wall light in burnished silver, £414; rectangle vellum silk shade, H29cm, £129; both Porta Romana. **17** | Egg Plant, matt emulsion, £39 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson. **18** | Blue Gum, Flat Emulsion, £37.50 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library. **19** | Quaker Drab, £39 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson. **20** | Barcelona brick tiles in Bogatell, Ribera, Gracia and Raval, £89.58sq m, Fired Earth. **WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 35**