

Derek Marshall

Sculptural Lighting

Light bulb suggestions:

There exists some confusion about light bulbs since the demise of the 100 watt and 60 watt incandescent bulbs, the standby of the lighting industry for the last 100 years. While these were not efficient by today's standards, it is generally agreed that they gave off a pleasing and reliable light for little money. Unless you have squirreled away a supply of these bulbs, you will have to find a replacement.

Here are some suggestions that apply to both standard (E27 base) and candelabra (E11 base). The compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb has made great progress in the past couple of decades to become a reliable product. These are available in many wattages and colors, from very white to a warm incandescent quality. They are priced well and you can try out different varieties to find one you like. The most useful of these is in the 16-18 watt range, equivalent to about a 60 watt incandescent. Select a warm tone for most applications, about 2700K as it is listed. Generally these bulbs cannot be dimmed, and the ones that say they can are, in my opinion, unreliable. Also they contain a small amount of mercury which means do not to break them, and when they fail, take them to a recycling facility, usually the place you bought them in the first place.



The other best choice is the LED bulb, a spin-off of the computer industry. Great advances are being made with these bulbs, but I would advise proceeding with caution before investing a great deal of money in them as there are some very inferior ones on the market. I would recommend either Phillips or Cree LED bulbs as being among the best in my opinion. Here is photograph of the latest LED from Philips with a standard E27 base to fit most lighting fixtures. This one is rated at 800 lumens which is equivalent to a 60 watt incandescent in most respects. More powerful bulbs are now available. LED bulbs can be fully dimmable (with the correct dimmer), although some of the cheaper ones cannot be dimmed. While LED is more expensive than the CFL, its longevity and lack of toxic materials make them very competitive. If you need help with finding a bulb that fits your needs, please call us at any time.

