



Getting advice from professional lighting consultant Casey Fitzpatrick Penry is a little like flying first class—once you get a taste of the good stuff, it's nearly impossible to live without. Case in point: the gut redo of Penry's own apartment in an otherwise standard 1970s vintage high-rise. Aside from the stunning views of the Chicago skyline, it was a pretty unremarkable space before Penry and designer Lukas Machnik got their hands on it.

Penry, who spent six years working for Lightology founder Greg Kay, understands the impact the right wattage can wield on interior design. "It's an art," he says, before launching into a long dissertation on Kelvins and CRIs. Money quote: "The right Kelvin and a high CRI will not only make your fabrics, art and furniture look better, but it can actually make people look better." He's hired.

And Machnik (who's been trumpeted as a design wunderkind in these very pages) not only

understands all of Penry's techy lighting jargon, he also knows how to fold his talents into a decorating plan. The two have been collaborating on projects for the past seven years. "Anyone can choose a great fixture, but that's just the start," Lukas says. "Casey brings so much depth to my work."

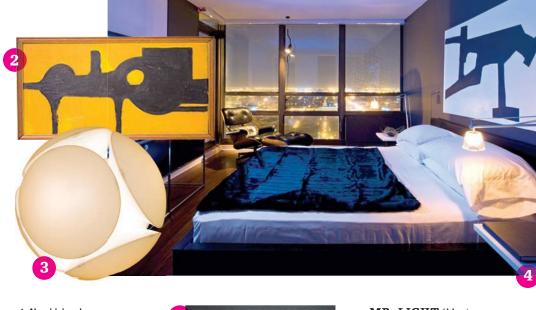
Here in his own home, Penry and Machnik chose to use Parisian floor lamps alongside light fixtures from some of their all-time favorite firms: Flos (for great, iconic design), Artemide (the best task lights), Boyd (beautiful traditional fixtures) and Moooi (cutting-edge good looks). Penry then "layered support lights" into the ceilings, creating different effects by varying the warmth and spread factors of the bulbs. That allowed him to highlight treasures like his Marcel Breuer Wassily chair while fading mundane things like his television into the background. "If the whole room were lit with standard cans," says Casey, "Lukas' work would be washed out. Lighting takes your eye on a journey here." Sign us up. One look around proves it's a trip worth taking.



LIGHTING STRIKES! Above: In the entry, a gleaming Machnikdesigned lacquer console, a vintage 1960s photograph and artist Harry Allen's "Bank in the Form of a Pig" are spotlit.

GLITTER BUGS The gleaming chrome, glass and white lacquer accents Machnik chose for Penry's apartment (chandelier, coffee table and "bubble" chairs) are purposely reflective-better for being highlighted by Penry's meticulous lighting plan. Those materials sparkle against a backdrop of rich matte browns, blacks and a golden hue Machnik calls "cognac." Penry says the strong masculine palette fits his aesthetic to a tee. "I told Lukas I wanted it to read 'classic handsome penthouse."





1. Alessi juicer by Philippe Starck, \$85, Luminaire; white ceramic dragon, Jayson Home & Garden. 2. European flea market find. 3. Foscarini's Bublee light, \$1,167, Florense. 4. Mink throw, Ralph Lauren. 5. Vintage Buddhist statue. 6. Marcel Wanders' Egg Vase, \$146, Luminaire. 1stdibbs.com.



MR. LIGHT "Most decorators don't get it," says Penry. "If things aren't illuminated properly, the whole room is thrown off." He says the wrong lighting can even have a negative impact on colors. "Your reds or purples might look pink." And Penry gets crazy when he sees standard can lights punched into a ceiling in a grid pattern. "They do nothing for a room. They just wash over everything and cause your eye to be confused. The difference a lighting guru makes would absolutely amaze you."



DETAIL-MANIA "I have an interior design degree from Harrington myself, but I don't even buy towels or drinking glasses without consulting Lukas," laughs Penry, stressing the importance of finding a connection with a designer and trusting their vision. "I think everything needs to be consistent for a space to be truly beautiful," explains Machnik. He admits he goes so far as to insist Penry play only Machnik-approved DVDs on his flat screen TV during parties, "... a black and white Fellini movie like La Dolce Vita adds another wonderful dimension."