

Continuing our practical series giving advice on different forms of lighting, REBECCA WEIR considers

fluorescents

Building regulations in force since April state that a new private dwelling must have at least one energy-efficient bulb installed for every four incandescent fittings. If an older house is being rewired and the light fittings are being replaced, then the same quota of efficient bulbs to incandescent fittings must also be installed. Lamps that are suitably energy efficient include fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

The benefits of incorporating fluorescent lamps in a scheme include lower electricity bills (due to reduced power consumption) and lamps that last on average 12 times longer than conventional lamps. In both respects, this makes them environmentally friendly. Fluorescent tubes are associated with cold, harsh light, but modern CFLs provide a warm light. The Philips 'Softone' range (website: www.lighting.philips.com) produces a gentle, peachy glow suitable for bedside lamps. The new generation of CFLs looks almost identical to traditional tungsten lamps. Megaman (tel: 0845-408 4625, website: www.megamanuk.com) claims to have the smallest energy-saving lamps on the market: lightbulbs in its 'Liliput' range measure from only 80mm in length.

Rebecca Weir is design director of Light IQ (tel: 020-8749 1900, website: www.lightiq.com)

▼ This stairwell, designed by Heyligers Adc, utilizes 'Square Moon' fittings, which make unusual, decorative focal points, as well as providing good general light levels. The fluorescent lamps are mounted in an aluminium frame and come with various filters that provide light effects in different colours, such as grey, red, fuchsia or black (ultraviolet). 'Square Moon' fittings measure 64cm square, and cost £411.25 each, from Modular Lighting Instruments (tel: 020-7681 9933).



▲ The '094' by Viabizzuno is an integrated lighting system that can be fitted with fluorescent, metal-halide or halogen lamps. It provides flexible solutions for different situations by defining the space, volume and surfaces through light. For details and prices, call Lumino on 01279-635411.



▲ In this sleek room, the recess above the windows is fitted with fluorescent lamps, which draw attention to the window forms, as well as boosting light levels. These 'Maestro' fittings cost from £325, from Deltalight (tel: 01428-651919, website: www.deltalight.co.uk).



▲ Delta's new 'Undercover ZB2605' combines low-voltage and fluorescent lamps in one fitting. The fluorescent lamp provides great general light, while the low-voltage one ensures good colour rendition. The fitting costs £358 including lamps, from Deltalight.

Tools of the trade

'Stones' by Marta Laudani and Marco Romanelli, from Cameron Peters (tel: 01235-835000), are fluorescent fittings that provide a diffused ambient light. Suitable for use indoors or out, they are available in two sizes - 18 x 27cm, and 30 x 42cm - and cost from £175 □

