LIGHTING TERMS

1. Absorbed light: Light that is drawn in by a surface. Rough textures and dark colors absorb most of the available light rays. If a light is absorbed, it cannot be reflected.

2. Footcandles: The amount of light a standing candle gives at a distance of one foot. Used as a standard measurement for determining how much light is needed in a given area. Example—approximately 70 footcandles of light is necessary for a reading area. A lamp in the correct position with a 200 watt bulb can give this amount of light.

3. Halogen light: Another form of incandescent lighting. A gas from the halogen family and tungsten molecules are combined to activate a filament. The special quartz bulb lights up instantly when the electric current is turned on. Halogen lights give off a better quality of light than regular incandescent lights. They last up to three times as long as regular bulbs, but they are not as energy efficient.

4. Underwriters' Laboratories (UL): A seal on a lighting fixtures assuring that the fixtures were made according to safety guidelines.

5. Accent lighting: Lighting used to highlight art objects and paintings or to emphasize wall areas—creates dramatic effects and focuses attention on interesting areas or objects.

6. Architectural lighting: Lighting built into the architecture of the room as indicated on the blueprint.

7. Artificial Lighting: Lighting produced by man—includes incandescent and fluorescent lighting.


9. Cool lighting: Lighting such as fluorescent which gives off a bluish cast and reduces the intensity of warm colors in the room.

10. Diffusion: Spreading out of light to avoid glare.

11. Direct lighting: Lighting that goes directly from the source to the object to be illuminated.

12. Filament: A slender, threadlike object that is heated until it glows to produce light within an incandescent light bulb.

13. Fluorescent: A tube filled with mercury vapor that when heated produces light.
14. General lighting: Lighting that illuminates an entire room, creates the overall lighting mood, and meets usual lighting needs.

15. Glare: Occurs when a high level of brightness on an object is insufficiently shielded.

16. Incandescent lighting: Lighting from a sealed bulb in which a tungsten filament is heated until it glows.

17. Indirect lighting: Lighting that travels from an invisible point source to a reflective surface before becoming visible.

18. Intensity: The degree or amount of light.


20. Non architectural Lighting: Ceiling and wall fixtures and portable lamps that may be added after a structure is built.

21. Perimeter lighting: Lighting that follows the outline of the room.

22. Portable lighting: Lighting that is easily moved.


24. Structural lighting: Lighting that is built in or becomes part of the architecture.

25. Task lighting: Additional illumination for specific activities.