

Clemencia Dumas and her client decided on this elegant but delicate crystal chandelier for the great room of a Hawks Landing home in Plantation. The space cried out for a glamorous fixture that was not too overwhelming. Photos by John Stillman

THE LIGHTS OF DAY

The days when light fixtures were merely functional are long gone. Designers and manufacturers are creating lighting distinctive enough to serve both as a work of art and a room's focal point. (Oh, yes, and to shed some light). Some resemble jewelry, others echo South Florida's subtropical lifestyle, all are illuminating.

By Charlyne Varkonyl Schaub



Cindy West Ray takes care in designing light fixtures perfect for the space and the location. The dining room pendants with large straw shades are hung at different heights from ropes in a platform. Ray added mirrored walls and millwork to add drama in the foyer and a setting for the crystals hung on fishing wire. The ceiling fixture in the great room was designed to look like shimmery sails on a boat.



DESIGNER: **CINDY WEST RAY**
PHOTOGRAPHER: **JOHN STILLMAN**

Cindy West Ray loves to create a “wow factor” with her custom lighting designs. They are distinctive as well as functional.

A perfect example is the lighting in the condo she designed for a snowbird couple and their two children at Trump Tower in Sunny Isles. The husband, who had seen Ray’s work, hired her to design what is known as a “Decorator Ready” project, which means only the kitchen and bathrooms were finished. They only met once; the rest of the discussions and approvals were done digitally.

“He wanted the condo to be contemporary but comfortable, including an area for the children to play,” she says. “The lighting is incredible. Basically everything is related to the beach but is still sophisticated.”

The dining area, open to the kitchen and with ceiling-to-floor windows facing the ocean, cried out for eye-catching fixtures that had some warmth. The solution? She custom designed a fixture with seven different size pendants and oversized straw shades that hung from rope at varying heights.

The ceiling fixture in the great room evokes their beach location with shimmery fabric reminiscent of boat sails in the wind.

But the pièce de résistance is the foyer light fixture made of fishing wire with crystals hanging on hooks. “It took hours to hang this,” she says. “We had to install each piece of crystal on the hooks. One halogen light in the middle lights the crystals.”

