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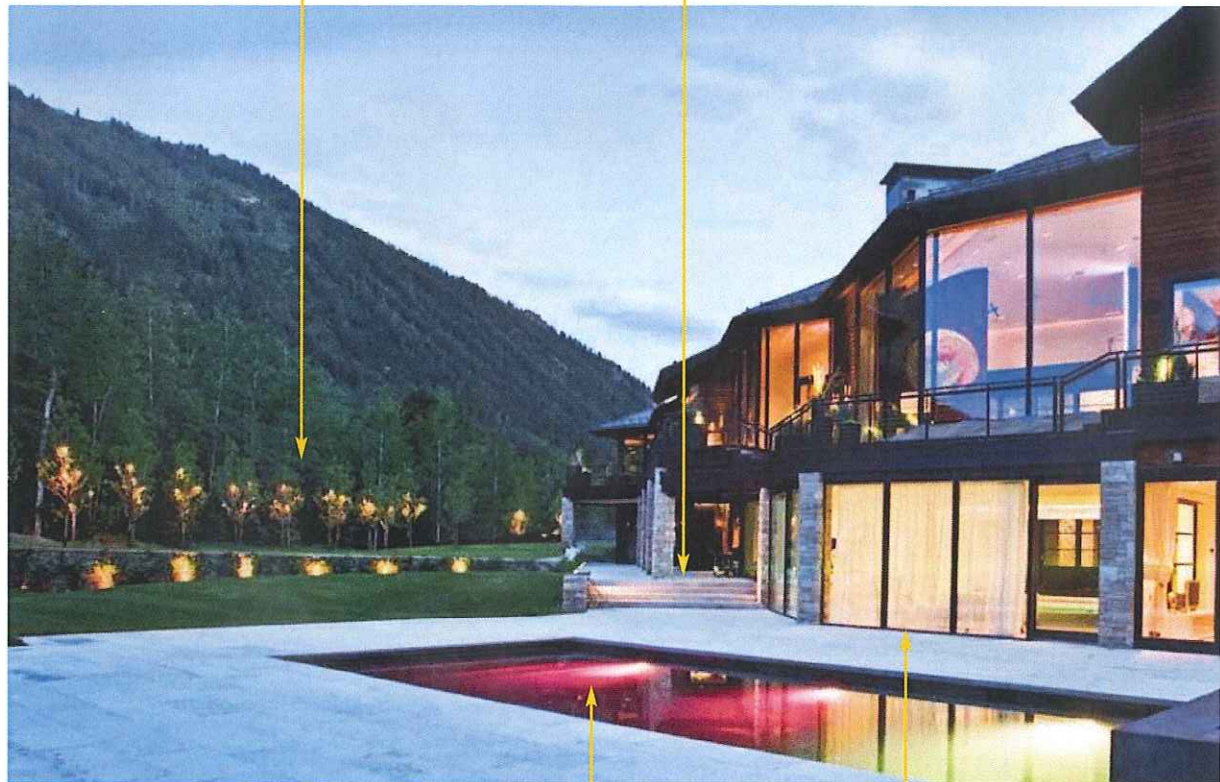
Bright Ideas

A house can have it all—brilliant architecture, beautiful interiors, a great site. But add wimpy lighting to the equation, and the whole composition falls flat. Far too often, finding the right lighting for a home becomes an afterthought (or no thought at all). So we tracked down a few of the state's finest lighting designers to show us how to get light right.

BY CAROLINE EBERLY

TREE LIGHTING: "The tree lighting provides sort of a twinkle," Singer says. It also creates a decorative trim around the property and adds to the festive feel of the lawn, which sets the stage for parties. (But don't be fooled: these lights aren't your average Christmas-tree variety: "It's actually a moonlighting effect that down-lights the trees," Singer explains.)

STAIR LIGHTING: Though the step lighting prevents folks from tripping down the stairs, it also visually connects the home with the outdoor living spaces, leading guests to the pool and landscaped areas beyond. Plus, it highlights the texture of the stone hardscape.



NICK TININENKO PHOTOGRAPHY

ROBERT SINGER, IALD, IES, president, Robert Singer & Associates, Aspen, (970) 963-5692, robertsingerlighting.com

LIGHTING CHALLENGE:

An effective whole-home lighting plan involves a happy marriage between interior and exterior lighting. When it comes to lighting your home's exterior, it's important to create a point of interest outside the home, Singer says, so when you're indoors looking out at night, you don't just see your home's interior mirrored back at you. Conversely, a full-blown interior lighting plan makes your home sparkle from the outside looking in.

POOL LIGHTING: Because of the dark plaster finish in the pool, Singer chose a light source with a lot of punch to play up the drama. The fountain going into the pool (to the right) features Dichroic-filtered LED lights, a technology that casts a beautiful glow.

INTERIOR LIGHTS SHINING OUTWARD: Good interior lighting helps strike a mood outdoors. "The incandescent quality of the house creates a glow coming from the windows," Singer says. ▷