



A glass act»Wine snob stemware

» MARNI JAMESON, 2F

ROOM

Last-minute ideas for the charitable, the cluttered and the party perfectionist » GIFT SLEUTH, 3-5F

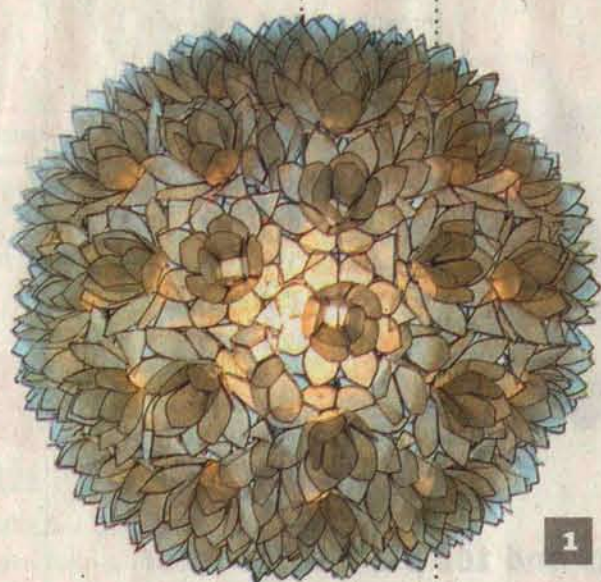
1 German industrial designers conceived the Lotus Capiz Shell pendant, which is also available in black. \$695-\$995 at HW Home. *HW Home*

2 Schonbek's jet black crystal chandeliers characterize the trend toward glamorous lighting. Prices start at about \$3,000. For information and a list of Colorado distributors, visit schonbek.com or call 518-563-7500. *Schonbek*

3 The Rose, also from Schonbek, comes in 32 color variations. The suggested retail price is \$1,749. *Schonbek*

4 The studio of Dale Chihuly, arguably America's best-known glass artist, custom-crafts chandeliers like this one. Available through Pismo Fine Art Glass. *Pismo*

5 Ulla Darni's "Horses" chandeliers range from \$3,650 to \$23,550 at Pismo Fine Art Glass. See more by this artist at ulladarni.com. *Pismo*



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GLITTERATI

Crystal craze. The latest trend in lighting embraces the glamorous life with dramatic colors and handcrafted bling.

By Claire Walter
Special to *The Denver Post*

This year, trendsetting homeowners decked their halls with sparkly chandeliers and brought home an air of year-round festiveness.

Crystal was a major lighting trend — with designers coveting colored crystals, mixed-color crystals and dramatic black crystals most of all. These dressed-up fixtures enhance the formality of traditional décor and soften the edginess of the polished wood, metal and flat-glass materials popular in contemporary spaces.

Everyone, it seems, has jumped on the glitter and glam bandwagon.

At HW Home (with stores in Denver, Boulder, Broomfield and Greenwood Village), marketing director David Sumrak sees the trend in hand-tinted lead crystals customizable in "dozens of colors." Buyers can select the number of arms and crystals. One client, for instance, ordered a blood-red chandelier for the library and an ice-blue fixture for the bathroom of a restored home in Denver's Old South Pearl Historic District. HW Home also carries spectacular Capiz Shell chandeliers from Germany, with shells flattened and worked to form glowing lotus blossoms in white or black.

Leanna Boers of Denver's Hoff Miller Ltd. favors the Originals 22 collection of

CHANDELIERS » 3F



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CHANDELIERS: Luxe lighting ranges from \$3,000 to \$150,000

«FROM 1F

"over-the-top crystal that's contemporary but not too weird." Originals 22, based in California, has been around for years. People respond to the made-in-America provenance of their fixtures.

Tehmi Marsh of Ebanista Denver is showing "some beautiful natural rock crystal and iron chandeliers," and Eddy Dumas, owner of Worth Interiors in Palm Beach and Avon, has gone so far as to design a sparkling custom chandelier for a Rocky Mountain trophy home.

"Chandeliers (with) striking embellishments are hot, hot, hot," says Boulder interior designer Tamara Paiva. "You can see them in one color or four colors."

Exclusive glass galleries like Pismo (with locations in Denver, Vail, Beaver Creek and Aspen) show artwork in lighted glass, with Dale Chihuly chandeliers starting at about \$165,000. Pismo also carries less pricy art lighting.

The Danish-born artist Ulla Darni creates colorful fine-art glass fixtures. Hand-painted floral and abstract styles in her Multiple Originals group start at about \$3,000 at Pismo.

"People might think that \$3,000 is high," says store owner Sandy Sardella. "But it's not much more than a mass-produced, high-end chandelier from a lighting store."

Julie Martin, owner of Lumenaria, a lighting showroom in Longmont, finds customers are seeking "colored glass and colored crystal" fixtures at various prices. Even Seagull Lighting, whose collection is moderately priced and conservative, is looking at "a little crystal."

"People are desirous of clean, simple lines," says Eric Borden with Seagull Lighting, "but with a little sizzle."