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HAND-CRAFTED, SUSTAINABLE DESIGNS

“The strength of the UK lighting industry is in the high-quality, hand-crafted areas,” says Hunt. An impressive number of British companies focus on making lighting by hand, often to a client’s individual requirements, and recent launches demonstrate their sheer creativity and innovative thinking. Traditional skilled craftsmanship comes to the fore in the new clear-glass pendant from Curiousa & Curiousa, Max Rollitt’s traditional library light and Beaumont & Fletcher’s Delphis wall light, for example, amongst many others.

Alongside the handmade ethos, inevitably comes a reduction in environmental cost when compared to large-scale manufacturing, but British lighting designers also actively looking at making their products more sustainable, too. Porta Romana has started a recycling and part-exchange service, Astro Lighting is introducing folded-cardboard packaging (and its HQ is solar-powered), and Studio Haran designs all its products with their entire life-cycle in mind. Tom Raffield makes its unique lighting designs using the age-old technique of steam bending – a process with very little wastage. Raffield believes that consumers are becoming more conscious – and that brands are taking note. “It’s great to see sustainable materials and processes being used by a wide range of designers, both high end and high street,” he says. “It feels as though there’s a real movement towards ‘green’ lighting. Opting to purchase well-made, hand-crafted, high-quality lighting designs will ensure the pieces you buy will last for years to come.” ■

Buying LED bulbs

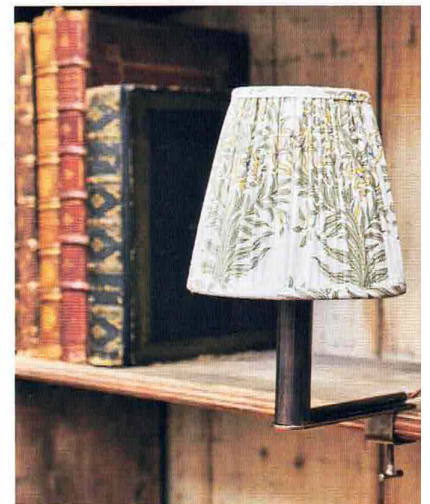
For decades, light bulbs have been labelled according to the amount of energy they consume, measured in watts. However, the switch to energy-efficient bulbs has created confusion. A 16W LED light bulb is about as bright as an old-fashioned 100W incandescent bulb (and, over its lifetime, could save more than £300). Modern bulbs are now

sold with packaging labels showing brightness, expressed in lumens, or ‘lm’. The higher the lumen rating, the brighter the bulb will be.

15W = 136lm
25W = 249lm
40W = 470lm
60W = 806lm
100W = 1521lm



ABOVE LEFT Each of these clear-glass pendants, featuring a fluted wooden cap and brass fittings, is blown without using a mould.
Cocoon light, £1,200, Curiousa & Curiousa
 ABOVE RIGHT Tom Raffield’s products blend traditional techniques with modern technologies, always with a focus on sustainability.
Drift pendant in oak or walnut, from £385, Tom Raffield



ABOVE This simple, clamp-arm library shelf light is made of brass and copper with a patinated antique finish.
Library light, £400 (excluding shade), Max Rollitt
 LEFT Beaumont & Fletcher’s range of highly decorative lights is created by hand, using traditional materials. This light is in a new finish that combines gilding with a more natural look.
Delphis wall light, £2,365, Beaumont & Fletcher