



When used as flints in prehistoric times, stone became responsible for the first man-made fires. As the substance that sparked the earliest human light source, it brought warmth and brightness into the lives of our cave-dwelling ancestors.

Although we've come a long way since, stone and light still have a symbiotic relationship that leads to beautiful design. While wood is warm and cosy, and metal sleek and modern, the rugged beauty of stone can transform a humble lamp into a striking and sophisticated work of art. "Natural stones have been used as structural and decorative elements in architecture since ancient times, from the Colosseum in Rome to the Great Wall of China," says Kelvin Bing, founder of Renaissance Planners & Designers. "Stone can bring out the poetic essence of a space."

The most commonly used stone for interior lighting is marble, but other stones—such as onyx, granite and obsidian—have also been used for bases or detailing in lamps and pendant lights. "Accent materials like stone always lend a sleeker, more luxurious edge to the spaces we design," says Dennis Cheok, creative director of design studio In-Expat x Upstairs. "I love the ways in which different stones catch light—this can add a tactile dimension to an otherwise very hard material." Bring the understated elegance of stone to your home with these brilliant pieces.

FOCAL POINT
New York-based designer Lindsey Adelman's lighting pieces are as much installation art as they are a source of brightness. The Edie marble chandelier, designed by Mary Wallis for Adelman's studio, is created with bevelled marble shards; it is available in satin nickel with black marble or brushed brass and exquisitely grained white marble.



BUILDING BLOCK
A block of orange-veined green onyx glows when light from a neon hoop attached to the top section shines through it. Designed by Sabine Marcelis for Bloc Studios, the Voie light series resulted from an investigation into light-path manipulation.



H SHOP ILLUMINATION



DELICATE BALANCE
Karl Zahn's Demeter 02, designed for Roll & Hill, was inspired by the scales of the Greek goddess of harvest and agriculture. With a half-sphere marble base, moveable transversal and two half-capsule shaped diffusers, this graceful table lamp comes with an integrated cord dimmer, and is available in finishings of bronze and brushed brass.

B RIGHT IDEA
Composed of a black or white turned-marble structure, with a steel ceiling support, the Eolo suspension lamp from Italian brand Porada is a striking illumination source that is classical yet surprisingly modern.



MAR BLE MAR VEL
Italian architect Carlo Colombo pays homage to Milan with FontanaArte's limited edition Milano table lamp. With contemporary helmet-like housing made entirely from carved carrara marble, the lamp has an LED board that glows to reveal the veins in the stone. Only 100 pieces are available; each comes with a certificate of authenticity.



VOLCANIC BEAUTY
A limited edition piece from Akar de Nissim, the Song Obsidian desk lamp has a handcrafted solid oak base and four panels carved out of rare semi-transparent obsidian harvested from Mount Ararat, a volcano that straddles the boundary between Turkey and Armenia.