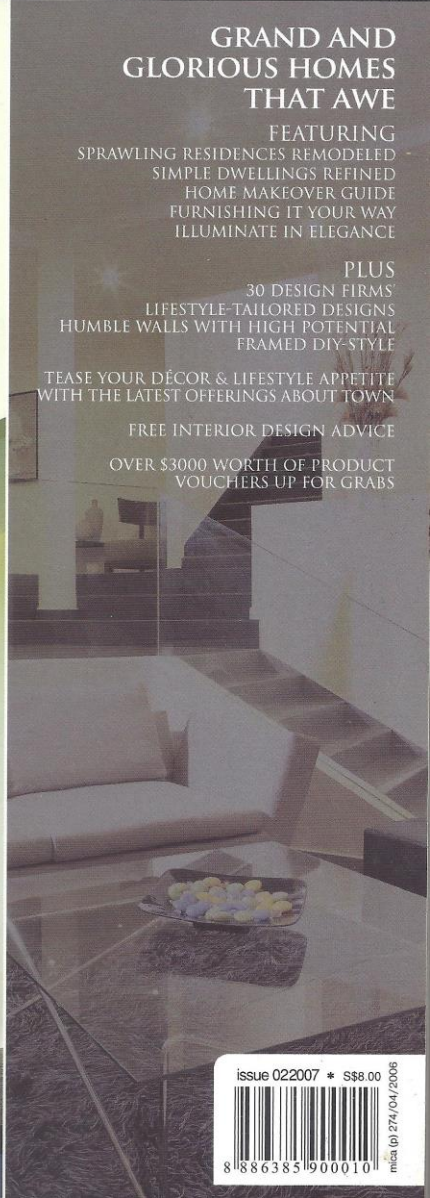


LOOKBOOK

CONDOMINIUM &
LANDED PROPERTY
ISSUE



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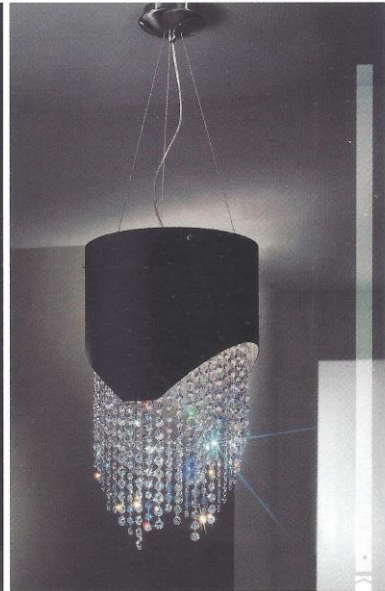
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Text by Megawati Wijaya

BEDAZZLED!

Images Courtesy of Luminere



Effortless Charms: These fabric, glass and crystal combination designs dress any room in unmistakable timeless elegance. Available in single-tier (Price: ~\$3,000) and double-tier of 4-on-8 or 5-on-10 (Price: ~\$5,000-\$6,000).

Classy Touch: This dainty embodiment of crystals will uplift the spirit in any room, with its glitters giving a touch of instant glamour. (Price: ~\$2,000).

Sparkle and twinkle, flicker and glisten, tantalising chandeliers continue to dazzle!

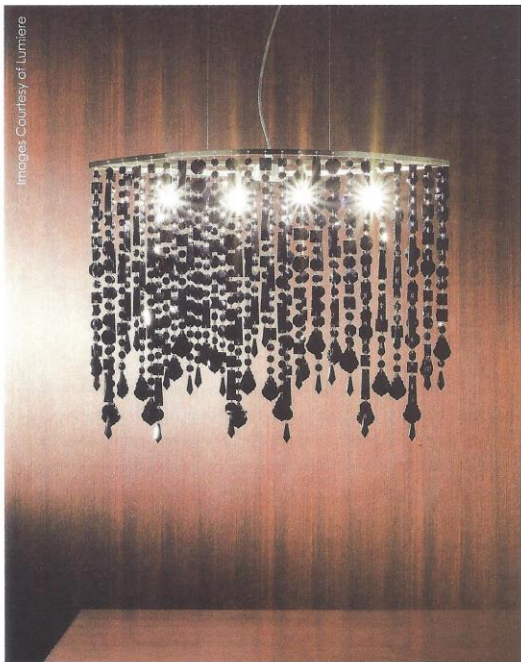
From being the "crowns" of light used to illuminate the Romanesque churches and cathedrals of medieval Europe, chandeliers' stylish beauty and timeless elegance remain a much desirable piece in contemporary decorative lighting.

Glitters for the Privileged

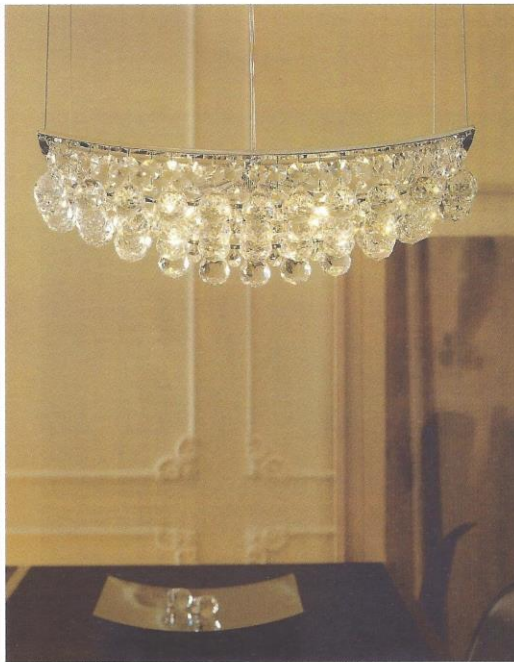
If only chandeliers can speak, they will surely rattle off the long rich history of their existence. The earliest chandeliers were to be found as early as the 15th century, lending flickering lights to the cavernous interiors of medieval churches and abbeys across Europe. They generally took the form of a wooden cross with a number of spikes on which candles could be secured.

Next came the curly-armed brass forms with elaborate fixtures of chandeliers, which graced only the palaces and mansions of the supremely wealthy and powerful. By the early 18th century though, ornate cast brass forms with long curved arms and many candles could be found in the homes of most of the merchant classes.

Pretty and curvaceous glass chandeliers were first made on the Venetian island of Murano around 1700. At around the same time, developments in glassmaking allowed the cheaper production of lead crystals. This brought about the cut-glass or lead-crystal chandeliers in England and across Europe. In her book, *Chandeliers*, the interior specialist writer, Elizabeth Hiliard mentions that the great age of the chandelier was reached in the 18th and 19th centuries when "lead concoctions sparkled and shimmered in ballrooms and drawing rooms across Europe and America, shedding warm candlelight accompanied by the sounds of music, murmuring voices and the rustle of silk gowns".



Precious Black Drops: A cascade of black jet crystals in this modern Italian design shows the contemporary versatility of chandeliers. Design also comes in Strauss crystals. (Price: ~\$3,000).



Caviar Chic: This Spanish design single-tier crystal chandelier with modern jewellery cut is simple, yet never bores. (Price: ~\$2,000).

Traditional forms of glass chandeliers remained popular into the early 20th century. In the 1970s and 1980s, they faced a resistance from the self-consciously modern style of interior decoration, before being resurrected again in the 1990s.

As of today, chandeliers remain a favourite in decorative lighting choice. While they may have grown in terms of available styles, colours, finishes, shapes and sizes, the social significance stays unchanged. It remains the perfect epitome of class, status and, above all, glamour!

Eclectic Allure

There are many varieties for these captivating luminaries. The most delicate of them all, and probably most popular today, is the delightfully-feminine crystal chandeliers. Their mass of sparkling drops shimmer in the light of many candles. Classic and romantic, a crystal chandelier is ideal for those who seek elegance and old-world charm. Elaborate crystal fixtures on the grand scale were considered very chic in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. Since then, it has become an accessory in opulent hotels and residences worldwide.

Murano glass chandeliers were originally created only in the glass-blowing mecca of Murano in Italy, but nowadays, the name Murano is used more to denote a style than a place of origin. These chandeliers have curvy, tubular forms made entirely of blown glass with floral motifs frequently incorporated into the designs. They usually have two tiers of light, the lower with a dozen curved arms, the upper with eight or ten. Each is formed from pieces of clear glass; the stem is encased in balusters and bulbously-shaped glass, with the veritable garden of brilliantly-colored glass flowers crowding the stem and arms.

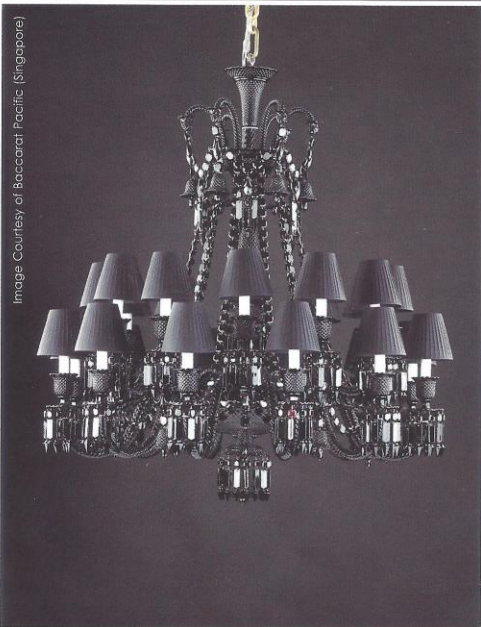
While crystal and glass chandeliers flirt with their pretty, sparkling glitters, metal chandeliers are simple and stately with several streamlined arms leading to lights that are often either left unadorned, placed under lampshades or inside glass cups. The arms are often s-shaped, otherwise curved, though modern designs favour more geometric lines. Popular finishes include brass, brushed nickel and wrought iron. These classic light fixtures are a staple of decorating and there are styles to cater to any home's décor.

Image Courtesy of Lumiere



Crystal Flowers: This beautiful floral crystal chandelier is elaborate in design and impressive in overall impact. The Italian design is adorned with glass and crystals. (Price: ~\$5,000)

Image Courtesy of Baccarat Pacific (Singapore)



Black Beauty: Designed by the reputable Philippe Starck, this black chandelier is gracefully breathtaking. (Price: unavailable)

Raison d'être for the Converted

If you are falling in love with these beautiful chandeliers already, and thinking of purchasing your first chandelier, the following tips may be useful.

When you have a great hall, or other magnificently-sized space, it will demand lighting on a very grand scale. This is where a massive wrought- and pierced-iron chandelier, medieval in inspiration, can come useful.

On a smaller scale, simple hanging iron candleholders are suitable for the neo-rustic look. Many manufacturers offer a wide choice of finishes on their metal chandeliers. Some iron chandeliers are deliberately rusty, their dusty orange patina lending them an instant aura of age and history.

Meanwhile, if classy glamour is what you seek, a crystal chandelier is the one for your house. The precious drops of its glass features will surely bring an instant breathtaking impact to opulent decorating.

Caring Hands

Once the chandelier is installed, the next obvious question is how to keep it in its glorious state.

Spraying the chandelier from the top down may seem to be the simplest method, but it is definitely not the best. These chemicals may seep into the holes where brass pins hold together drops and ornaments, causing corrosion of these vital metal parts. Furthermore, the strong spray-cleaning chemicals may strip the lacquer from the brass or bronze frame of the chandelier, causing it to oxidise, blacken and dull the entire look of the elegant piece.

Apparently, there is really no shortcut to cleaning a glass chandelier. The best way is to dismantle the pieces, clean them by hand and reassemble them. The task is not difficult; it is simply time-consuming.

It is recommended to dip glass parts into a solution of warm water and a household detergent designed for hand-washing domestic china and glass; or to wipe with clean tufts of cotton wool dipped in half-and-half mixture of industrial methylated spirits and distilled water. Then dry the pieces thoroughly with a soft lint-free cloth.

Right, now, your house is ready to dazzle! ✨

Next issue, we home in on titillating and intimate spaces; spaces that used to be merely functional, but are these days lovingly tended to – **kitchens + bathrooms**.

Look out for it on the newsstands. Or turn to page 206 and subscribe to **LOOKBOX** Quarterly today!