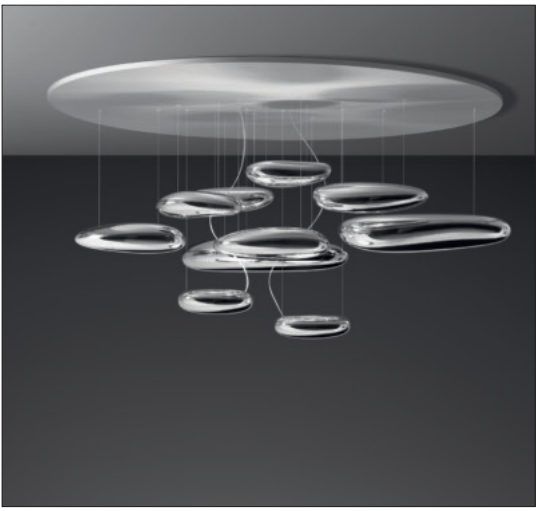


Liquid silver

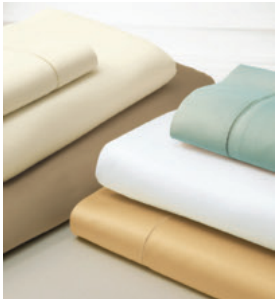
Mercury ceiling fixture, top, is like a swirling river of shine. For something more discreet, there's Studio Italia's *Minimania*. Both at Urban Lighting, downtown.

Where to find it, page 127

Advertisement

Did You Know?

Thread Count – Thread count is the number of threads per square inch of fabric. Higher numbers catch the imagination of many consumers who think that more threads mean better quality. To give misleading thread counts, many manufacturers count twists, using a double ply yarn, which can make a sheet feel thicker but less breathable.



When choosing a sheet, consumers should think first of comfort. Natural materials should be your first choice. Cotton and the new beechwood fiber or bamboo are your best options.

Sheets made of synthetic fibers, cotton/poly blends or treated cottons cannot wick away perspiration. Synthetic sheets can leave you feeling hot and uncomfortable. They often are treated with resin or contain other chemicals that may cause pilling or even allergic reactions. Cotton with a 300- to 400-thread count usually breathes best.

Other factors in determining comfort, quality and overall attractiveness of linen include the fiber, country of origin, quality, yarn size and finishing techniques

Towel Weight – Towels are sold by quality and weight. Weight is measured in grams/square meter. The larger the GSM, the more material there is in the towel. Before shopping, determine how your towel will be used. A lower GSM is ideal for the beach rather than your master bath because it is lighter and will dry quicker. Next, determine how the towel is made. Commonly, towel material is made by gluing the fibers together for the weaving process, dying the material to add color, and removing the glue with a chemical and adding a fabric softener.

Such towels cannot be called organic and need several washes for the cotton to regain absorbency. Organic cotton towels are made without glues or other chemicals. Modern fabrics like beechwood fiber and bamboo are eco-friendly options to cotton. These fibers offer hypoallergenic and antimicrobial qualities that may affect your choice. They feel quite different from what you may be used to. Visit a store with a knowledgeable sales staff to present you with all the information you need to find the product that's right for you then buy a towel and try it out for a few weeks to see how you like it.

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