



Night light

Skylights are not necessarily a replacement for electrical fixtures. In fact, the two can work cleverly in tandem. For example, while renovating a bungalow with squat, eight-foot ceilings, Michael Taylor, a partner at Toronto's Taylor Smyth Architects, didn't want to take the "drastic measure of raising the roof in order to get more height," he says. Instead, he introduced tapered skylights – which are wider at the base and narrower at the roofline – to draw the eye up and create a sense of verticality. The angled walls are particularly clever because they help reflect the light down into the home's kitchen. They also help reflect electrical light up, which is an important feature at night, when the recessed cove lights at the base of the shafts are turned on. They create an alluring glow that bounces around the shaft, activating the crucial vertical feature in the otherwise low-lying house.