 Happy Holidays from all of us at Howard Lamcke. We wish for all of you a safe and prosperous New Year. And we take a moment to remember all who were so sorely affected by the terrible fires in Butte County and elsewhere in the state. The shear volume of rebuilding required over the next few years will have a profound impact on the construction industry. Labor shortages will continue for all trades. The price of lumber in particular will continue to climb. The good news for us is that business will continue to be brisk. The bad news for our customers is that it will remain hard to find a bargain and delays will be inevitable. As a prime example the wait for a city inspection in Santa Clara is currently 10 working days. This is very irritating when you are trying to complete a 4-5 week bathroom remodel; or a 700 square foot ADU which we hoped to have pictures for you. Oh well, for sure next newsletter. Meanwhile, know that as always, we are committed to providing you with the best products and services available at the most competitive prices possible. We will always consider our projects with you to be the ultimate team effort and look forward to hearing from you in 2019. Until then!

**Lighting**

We have installed a lot of lights; I mean a lot! We are frequently asked about lighting design, and we have strong opinions. There are three basic functions of lighting- Ambient, task and accent. Ambient is general room lighting. This is must frequently achieved by a center light or fan/light combo; but is also done with can lights symmetrically placed in the room. Most bedrooms are fully lit with 4 LED cans. Task lighting is just that, performing a job. In a kitchen, can lights and undercabinet lighting are focused over countertops with less regard for symmetrical spacing. In a bedroom or living room they would be concentrated over a desk or couch for reading. One fun light that we are using is a inexpensive motion sensor activated wall mount light that is solar powered. They illuminate exterior side yards and pathways in sequence as you walk and require no hard wiring. Accent lighting is used to highlight or to decorate. For instance, one recessed light on a separate switch leg might focus on a piece of wall art, or the fireplace. Lights mounted on top of cabinets, or back lit on a mirror or bookshelf can create a mood and are very decorative. The color of the light bulbs is also very important to consider. Color temperature is measured in kelvins. Warmer, yellower, light is at the low end of the scale, and is considered cozier for living areas. The modules we use for this are 2,8-3K. We use brighter, whiter light for task work. As a guide, candlelight is 1.8K and direct sunlight is 4.8K. Call us for design ideas!