Luminaires

Information is adapted from "Discover Lighting!", Illuminating and Engineering Society [2011] and "Fundamentals of Lighting." By Susan M. Winchip, Fairchild publications [2008]
indirect light

90% of light is distributed to the ceiling. Creates ambient light with little shadow.
indirect light

90% of light is distributed to the ceiling. Creates ambient light with little shadow.
semi-indirect light

Most illumination is upward.
Creates ambient light with little shadow.
direct light

90% of illumination is directed downward.

Tom Dixon; Beat Lights.
semi-direct light

Most illumination is directed downward.
recessed light

Unobtrusive; most of the fixture is concealed within the ceiling or wall plane.

Depending on the lamp and mechanism, recessed lights can provide direct ambient light or a focused light. They can be found in both commercial and residential settings. Recessed down lights commonly use fluorescent, incandescent/halogen, and LED lamps. Common down lights include "Can lights" also known as "high hats" and troffers. Can lights are circular or square in shape and are available with apertures as small as 2" in diameter and width. Common widths are 4, 5, and 6". Troffers can also be installed so that the aperture is flush with the ceiling plane. Troffers usually hold fluorescent lamps and common sizes are 2'x4' in length.
recessed light

Unobtrusive; most of the fixture is concealed within the ceiling or wall plane.
portable

Self contained luminaires that are not direct wired in a space.

Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni: Arco Floor Lamp
portable

Self contained luminaires that are not directly wired in a space.
portable

Self contained luminaires that are not directly wired in a space.

Miss K Table Lamp: by Philippe Starck for Flos.
portable

Self contained luminaires that are not direct wired in a space.

Mayday Light: designed by Konstantin Brcic
portable

Self contained luminaires that are not direct wired in a space.
surface mounted

Attached to the surface, usually a ceiling or wall plane, these fixtures provide ambient light.

Often light can be seen reflected off the surface the fixture is attached to. Fixtures of this type usually include glass, plastic, or some other type of lens that will diffuse the light and reduce glare.

LightSPring by Ron Gilad for Flos.
surface mounted

Attached to the surface, usually a ceiling or wall plane, these fixtures provide ambient light.
wall washer

Wall washers “wash” a wall with light.

Typically there are higher levels of light at the top of the wall and a reduced amount of light will move down the wall. Wall washers can be installed in a number of ways, including recessed, track or surface mounted.
track

Attached to the surface, usually a ceiling or wall plane, these fixtures provide ambient light.

Track lighting systems are made of “track heads” and a track that is surface mounted or suspended. Track lighting is flexible as the track heads can be easily moved.
track

Lamps can be spot or flood. This type of lighting works well for retail spaces and galleries, where lighting needs to respond quickly to changing displays and artwork.

Common lamps used in track lighting systems include halogen and LED, both of which are generally cooler than incandescent lamps.
cove lighting

Usually using fluorescent or LED lamps, luminaires are installed in architectural coves.

Light can be directed upward to wash the ceiling, or downward to wash walls with light.

LedLuz Co.: Waterproof LED Cove Lighting
cove lighting

Usually using fluorescent or LED lamps, luminaires are installed in architectural coves.