



 ASID Georgia GOLD AWARD

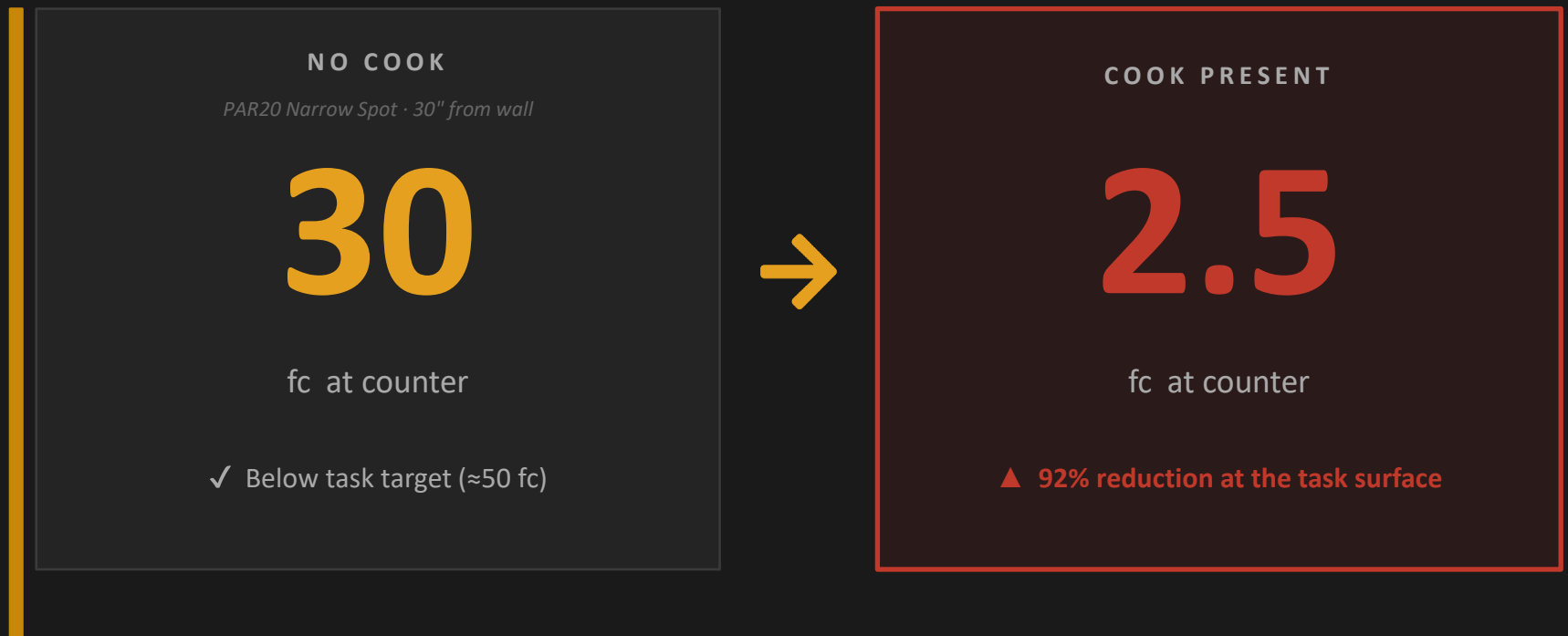
# I visited an award-winning kitchen to understand how lighting performs in real spaces

*Here's what measured performance reveals.  
Lighting performance is rarely verified after design.*

Based on: *The Art & Science Behind Beautiful Kitchens* — Doug Walter, AIA, CMKBD | IES Webinar (May 28, 2026)  
Photo at : Atlanta Design Group Studio kitchen.

# Task lighting fails when the occupant blocks the light path.

*Downlight placement creates self-shadowing at the task surface.*



Same fixture. Same ceiling. Same distance.  
When light is placed behind the user, the user becomes the obstruction.

*Source: Doug Walter AIA, CMKBD — IES Webinar, May 28, 2026 | PAR20 Narrow Spot (Satco · Halogen, 530 lumens) | 30" from wall*

# Task lighting fails when beam angle and placement misalign.

At 24": multiple solutions meet task range ( $\geq 50$  fc)

At 30": only one remains viable—everything else fails

Distance from wall	BR30 Flood Sylvania · Wide	PAR20 Narrow Flood Lighting Science	PAR20 Narrow Spot Satco · Halogen	PAR30 Flood Samsung · LED
24"	6.7	63	65	140
<b>24" w/cook</b>	.67	<b>63.9</b>	47	80
30"	6.2	43	30	105
<b>30" w/cook</b>	.66	<b>31.5</b>	2.5	2.6
36"	5.6	17.5	25	41
<b>36" w/cook</b>	.58	<b>.65</b>	1.7	.8
<b>48" w/cook</b>	.48	<b>.4</b>	1.2	.5

All illuminance in footcandles (fc) | IES minimum task illuminance: 50 fc | Cook-present rows highlighted in amber

**These outcomes are determined in design—not discovered in the field.  
Beam geometry + placement—not lumen output—set task performance.**

# Design Principles for Kitchen Lighting (Intent Layer)

*These principles guide design intent—but must be validated through geometry, placement, and photometric modeling.*

## 01 Target sufficient maintained task illuminance

IES ≈ 50 fc maintained at task surfaces

## 02 Manage glare through geometry, positioning, and layering

Cove & undercabinet are your glare control layers.

## 03 Maintain color quality and consistency

CRI 90+ minimum. Consistent color temp in one zone.

## 04 Integrate daylight as a controllable design variable

Daylighting is a spec discipline — not an afterthought.

## 05 Provide user-adjustable lighting control

Dimming & scene programming resolved at design, not commissioning.

*IES Guidance (RP-11) :“ A recessed light should not be located directly over or behind the head of the user, as shadows will occur“  
(This condition produces the shadowing and task failure observed at increased offsets.)*

*These principles do not compensate for incorrect fixture placement.  
Geometry, placement, and photometric design—not principles alone—determine outcomes.*

# THE RIGHT LIGHT. IN THE RIGHT LOCATION— FOR THE TASK

Lighting performance depends on where light is delivered—not just what is specified.

Lighting outcomes are determined in design—not in the field. Performance must be resolved before construction begins.

When geometry and placement are resolved:

**30-100 fc**

IES task illuminance (kitchen)

**TM-30 / CRI 90**

color rendering performance

**18–24"**

18–24" from the task plane (aligned to the work surface)

Visit [illumifyhome.com](https://illumifyhome.com) | Illumify Design Lab & Experience Center  
Resolve lighting performance before the ceiling closes.

Jared Jin, P.E., LC | Credit: Doug Walter AIA, CMKBD — IES Webinar, May 28, 2026 | #KitchenLighting #IES #ASID #LightingDesign