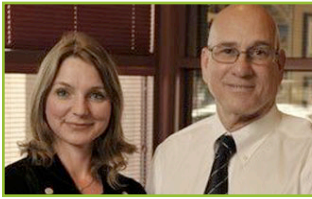


# TREND report



## Residential Design Trends—2015

Tatyana Bresler AIA and Evan Eglin AIA • published in the August 2015 issue

**A**s the housing market emerges from the recession, we are seeing design innovations that reflect changes in the economy, emphasis on sustainability, technological advances and basic ‘old fashioned’ comfort for the new homebuyer. Open floor plans continue to be popular as they are designed to make smaller spaces feel larger and offer flexibility for varied uses. The kitchen is the “hub” of the home and is visibly open to other adjacent rooms, which encourages social interaction for the family. Kitchen islands are utilized for seating options along with informal dining areas. Pantries are becoming larger to facilitate bulk purchases from stores like Costco. Quartzite is replacing granite as the most popular choice for countertops as it is a more durable material. Cabinets feature two species of wood finishes for contrast. We are seeing the use of wood flooring not only in the kitchen, but throughout the home; however porcelain plank tiles are being used instead of wood as they provide the warmth of wood with the durability of tiles.



Technology is become standard for new homes. Keyless entry, security systems with cameras and charging stations for various intelligent devices are expected. With the advent of wireless technology many older homes can be retrofitted to keep up the tech revolution. Audio and video systems no longer require the space they used to except for providing wall space for bigger and bigger viewing screens.

homes. More efficient windows and HVAC systems are also required. Builders are offering solar, photovoltaic and water harvesting options and LED lighting is replacing CFL and incandescent sources. Off gassing from paint, carpeting and adhesives are being controlled by using low VOC materials. These features are not only a win for the environment, the health of the occupants but also reduce utility costs for the homeowner.



Multiple Master Suites are being provided in many new home plans to reflect changing demographics. Multi-generational homes are becoming more common as children and homeowner’s parents or a parent come back to live in the homes. The primary master bedroom and bath features larger closets and bathrooms, old-fashioned freestanding tubs and more elaborate showers that provide a spa like experience for the homeowner.

We are seeing the desire for a stronger indoor/outdoor relationship in new home designs. Larger windows offering visual connectivity between the home and the exterior combined with larger porches for outdoor living are becoming standard features. Fire pits and outdoor showers are often requested the home buyers.

Many people that own land are purchasing “off the shelf” plans from builders instead of designing the dream home as this saves time and costs of the home are controlled as these semi-custom homes have been built previously by the builders.



Overall we see a more efficient, responsible and cost effective approach to new home design. Homebuyer's are also looking for a home that is a warm and safe place to live the responds to their familial needs now and in the future.

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