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A product and service guide for
new homeowners and sellers.

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Lincoln ON THE MOVE

YOUR NEW HOMEOWNER GUIDE

Here To Guide New Homeowners & Sellers



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TURN UP THE HEAT

Add warmth to your bathroom with fires, tiles and toasty towel bars. It's the hot thing to do.

BY SALLY FARHAT

Seattle resident Amely Wurmbrand is redoing her bathroom, and one thing is clear: it's getting a radiant-heated floor.

"They are absolutely a necessity now," says Wurmbrand, who works as an interior designer. It's not just floors. Everything from heated towel warmers to toilet seats to fireplaces are showing up in bathrooms.

"There is so much time spent in the bathroom," says do-it-yourself home improvement expert Barbara Kavovit, whose new book, *"Invest in Your Nest"* (Rodale Books, 2006), has an entire chapter on enhancing the bathroom. "It's where you get ready for a date, where you bathe the kids, where you relax. Plus, the more bathrooms you have, and the better they are, the more value your home has."

The bathroom must be comfortable – after all, it's the place where lots of people think or read. Historically, playwright Edmond Rostand wrote much of *"Cyrano de Bergerac"* in the bathroom. President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered assistants to stand by and take dictation as he performed his toilet routine. And The Fonz motioned towards the men's room when he invited visitors to "step into my office" on Happy Days.

HGTV recently launched a new weekly series, *I Want That! Baths*, which focuses on everything from flat-panel TVs embedded in bathroom mirrors to diamond-encrusted basins that put the "bling" in the bathroom.

So it makes sense that some of the following hot trends are taking off.

- **Heated floors.** Heated floors can provide the main source of heat in a home, a concept in use since ancient times; the Romans



Hotter, faster: in addition to full-body coverage, steam showers and multi-head units are offering bathers more warm water on impact. The addition of a fireplace brings serenity, and eliminates those pesky, unavoidable post-shower chills.

used heated floors in bathhouses. They work through a hydronic floor-heating system that warms the floors with hot water running through tubes beneath it. You'll pay a lot to install such a system, which can include the tubes embedded in concrete, a boiler to heat the water and controls to manage the temperature. In the long run, this type of heated flooring is cheaper to run than electric floor heating, which is less expensive to install but costs more to operate. Save money by just putting a strip in front of the vanity, or outside the shower. Systems cost about \$500 for a standard bathroom, measuring nine and a half feet by six feet, without installation.

- **Towel warmers.** These are like racks that heat up. "It's kind of like having your own spa staff there to warm your towel for you," says

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TURN UP THE HEAT

Jeffrey Haines, an interior designer in New Jersey. "Not only will they dry up wet towels, but they're great if you're in a humid environment because they freshen up those towels very quickly." Heated towel warmers will sell for \$55 to \$130, depending on variety. For those who want serious warmth, warming drawers commonly used in kitchens are migrating to the bath, as well.

- **Fireplaces.** The second most popular place to put a fireplace now is in the bathroom. "We're really seeing a lot of these," says David O'Neil, president of Renaissance Tile and Bath, Atlanta. "It can be as elaborate as a French chateau fireplace or as simple as a Craftsman fireplace.

People think, 'It's the end of the day, I'm going to have a glass of wine, sit in the tub and look at the stars.' Having the warmth of the fireplace is part of that feeling."

- **Steam showers.** This is a trend that's especially inspired by spas, by the idea of spending as much time in the bathroom as possible. After getting steam installed in your shower, you push a button and out comes the heat. Sometimes, essential oils can be used so that the steam joins with aromatherapy.

- **Heated bathtubs.** Tired of holding your back off the wall of the tub because it's still cold and the water hasn't heated it up? Now you can buy bathtubs that come with in-line heaters to prevent the cold occurrence. Since bathtubs are no longer made of cast iron, heat doesn't stay in as long. The change in technology has caused manufacturers to install more heat.

- **Heated toilet seats.** This one caused the most contention among our experts. Wurmbrand, for example, says she's never had a request for one and thinks they're useless. "This is just one invention I don't understand," she says. "I don't find plastic toilet seats to be uncomfortable. I think this is just one more bell and whistle."



Steamy soakers: heaters are now being imbedded into the wall of tubs, from standard to elegant, to eschew tepid water from bursting your bath's cozy bubbles.

But O'Neil says his luxury bath store is selling them and that he swears by the one he has in his home. "It's just like the heated seats in some cars," he says. "Once you experience it, you have to have it."

- **Warmer showers, faster.** Delta's H2Okinetic Technology is a shower system that was

designed to control water delivery to completely envelop the bather. Its use of thermal dynamics and technology that creates larger droplets makes the entire shower warmer. Delta Faucet Company's Brizo brand also is working on a remote control shower, where a person can turn on the shower and adjust the temperature of the water from anywhere in their home so the water is the perfect temperature when they are ready to step in.

These are just some of the many hot trends, reminding us that the bathroom is the most private room in the home. "When you're in your most intimate space in your house, you want heat," says Tamra Fleming, president of Architect Your Life in Seattle. "Heat makes energy flow. It's the need for people to feel comfortable in their lives and in their homes."

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Design Trends



Each year brings new trends in the field of interior design. "On the Move" Magazine has explored some of the hot items in interior design this year.

Here, in no particular order, are some of today's top trends according to 10 Lincoln experts.

1 Hair on hide

Nathan Johnson at Armstrong Interiors & Furniture calls "hair on hide" a popular material for furnishings like sofas and chairs. The furniture is made fully or partially from leather with the cow's hair remaining. The hair is then painted in different designs. The zebra pattern is one of their most popular items, he said.

2 Contemporary artwork as a furniture piece

Bonnie Whitmore of Unique by Design said customers consider contemporary canvas artwork



Hair on Hide Armstrong Interiors Furniture

as another piece of furniture in their rooms. Most popular are pieces with a lot of color and abstract design. Substantial frames are just as important as the canvas, with widths of 5 to 6 inches common. Black is a popular frame color, it adds so much depth to a room," she said.

Continued on page 40

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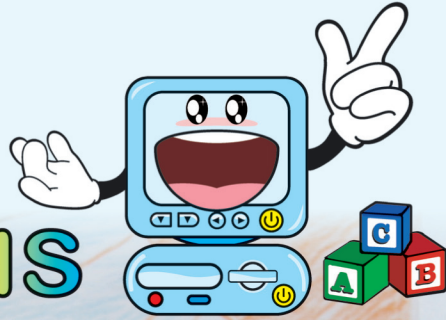
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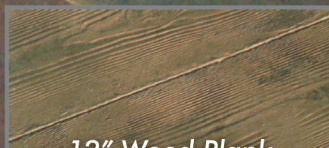
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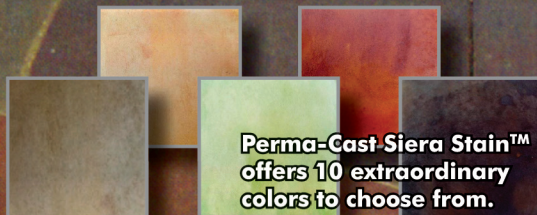


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Decorative Concrete

By CYNTHIA S. PETERSON

What do you get when you cross art with concrete? Decorative concrete... sounds oxymoronic, doesn't it?

Rarely can you pick up a slick home decorating magazine without seeing photos of beautiful rooms with gorgeous natural stone or antique brick floors. But rather than marble, granite or salvaged bricks, these floors may be... concrete.

Concrete is one of the most widely used construction materials in the world says the Portland Cement Association. Decorative concrete – defined as a substance that provides an aesthetic finish and structural capabilities in one – is made to be seen.

Most decorative concrete techniques involve changing the color and texture of a concrete surface to make it look like a more expensive material. Skilled finishers can mimic stone or tile surfaces that are hard to distinguish from the real thing. Homeowners and homebuilders have innumerable effects to choose from.

“Decorative concrete has become a strong area for us recently. It’s something that’s getting more attention nation wide – not just in California and Las Vegas,” said Brian Johnson from Carroll Distributing & Construction Supply Company’s Lincoln office. “Contractors in Lincoln are now doing all types of decorative concrete including stamping new concrete, all types of overlays for existing concrete, acid stains, counter-tops and even furniture.”



Richard Smith Custom Concrete

Because of its adaptability, concrete is suitable for all areas of the home, especially in the kitchen and bath, but also fireplaces, patios, pathways or water features. Homeowners can get ideas from the web, magazines and literature from concrete suppliers. Once you find the effect you want, hire an experienced and reputable contractor.

Continued on page 20

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Decorative Concrete

"Homeowners should not attempt this type of work on their own," cautioned Johnson. "Saving money by 'doing it yourself' could end up costing double." Most decorative work ranges from \$8 to \$12 per square foot for stamped concrete and upwards of \$40 to \$80 per square foot for specialty jobs like countertops.

Patterns, styles and colors vary from job-to-job and no two jobs are identical. Homeowners should plan to do the whole job at once rather than over time because something done now will not likely match something done next year.

"All decorative concrete requires maintenance," he added. "Some jobs must be sealed every year or two, and some need to be polished every two or three months."

Decorative concrete means more choices for homeowners. If your concrete driveway or patio is cracked or spalled, an overlayment may be a more cost and time effective alternative to ripping out a hard slab and pouring new concrete. Inside, you can beautify your home with decorative elements that were once reserved for the few.



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While You Are Decorating...

Let Financial Planning Help You See the Big Picture

Congratulations! You own a new home or started a new business. Do you picture yourself retiring comfortably or passing on a legacy to those you choose? These are a few of the financial goals that may be important to you, and each comes with a price tag attached.

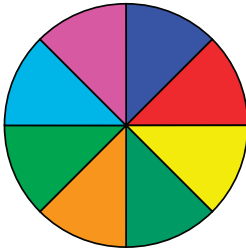
That's where financial planning comes in. Financial planning is a process that can help you reach your goals by evaluating your whole financial picture, then outlining strategies that are tailored to your individual needs and available resources.

Why is financial planning important?

A comprehensive financial plan serves as a framework for organizing the pieces of your financial picture. With a financial plan in place, you'll be better able to focus on your goals and understand what it will take to reach them.

One of the main benefits of having a financial plan is that it can help you balance competing financial priorities. A financial plan will clearly show you how your financial goals are related—for example, how saving for your children's college education might impact your ability to save for retirement. Then you can use the information to prioritize your goals, implement specific strategies, and choose suitable products or services. Best of all, you'll have the peace of mind that comes from knowing that your financial life is on track.

Financial Planning Concerns



- Financial Statements (Cash Flow & Net Worth)
- Income Tax Analysis
- Asset Allocation (Investment Positioning)
- Accumulation Goals (i.e., College, 2nd Home)
- Risk Management (Protecting yourself, property and family)
- Business Planning (Continuation or Exit)
- Financial Independence (Retirement)
- Estate Analysis (Wills, POA's, Trusts)

The most important member of the planning team is you. Your needs and objectives drive the process, and once you've carefully considered any recommendations, all decisions lie in your hands.

If you have not yet established a financial plan, or have not updated your plan recently, get started today. Don't put off planning for your future...you owe it to yourself!

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MAKE YOUR GARAGE WORK FOR YOU!

By: KELLY DOWNING

"What can I do about this mess?" "There's just no hope." "It's just a garage." It is embarrassing, but what can you do?" Do these quotes sound familiar? Americans have more possessions than ever before, and are quickly running out of places to store them. I would like to present a brief overview of the problem and suggest a few ideas for dealing with it.

Your garage is, quite likely, the largest room in your home, and certainly the largest storage area. You store some of your most valuable possessions there. Consider that the average sticker price of a new car is more than \$30,000. Most people also store sports and hobby equipment in their garage,



as well as tools, bicycles and toys. Think about your investment in golf clubs, skis, fishing equipment, gardening implements and tools. It becomes very frustrating when you cannot find what you need, when you need it.

In addition, for many new homes the garage is literally the "front door" to the house. Modern housing developments feature prominent garages with doors opening to the front of the lot. This makes the garage the primary entry path into your home, both for you and for many visitors. Many neighbors gather in their garages to socialize.

Continued on page 26





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Continued from page 25

MAKE YOUR GARAGE WORK FOR YOU!

All of these factors drive people to want a better-organized, more attractive garage. Let's get down to the basics. There are five primary goals for your garage organization system:

Protection. Proper storage systems will protect your possessions from damage. Which is really more expensive, a good storage system for the bicycles or paying several hundred dollars to repair scratches in the car when they fall? Using cabinets also protects your tools and equipment from the casual glance of passers-by, greatly reducing the opportunity for theft. Locked cabinets provide a greater level of protection.

Organization. You have heard the expression "A place for everything, and everything in its place". A neat, orderly plan helps ensure that items are placed where they belong, making them easier to find when they are needed.

Access. Having everything put away is only half the issue. Not being able to quickly get that wrench or ball when you need it is not so different from not knowing where it is in the first place.

Efficiency. There are some items that you use



With these factors in mind, here are four ideas to help get you started. First, the fastest, easiest way to improve the appearance of your garage is by the appropriate use of cabinets. Current garage cabinet systems are attractive and affordable. They help use wall space effectively, while keeping possessions contained and organized, ready for easy access and use.

Second, reserve some wall space for useful, efficient, attractive storage of larger tools and equipment. Not everything fits easily into a cabinet, but there are several other options available to hold tools, bicycles and garden tools.

Third, remember that many modern garages have relatively high ceilings. This part of your storage volume is often unused. There are various ceiling rack systems and lifts available to help take advantage of this unused area. Think especially about the ceiling above your garage doors. This is an ideal spot for seldom-used or seasonal items, like old baby toys, Christmas decorations or your annoying brother-in-law!

Fourth, whatever plan you develop, use quality products. Buying good-quality fixtures will pay off with their longer life. They will also help maintain the value of your home. You won't care about the pennies you saved if you end up with cabinets that buckle or tool racks that don't properly hold your equipment.

Spring is an ideal time to clean, sort and organize. Investigate some new options to help you take control of your storage. There are lots of useful products and some great new technologies available to make your garage a neater, more efficient space.



every day. Others may be seasonal. It doesn't make much sense to have the snowblower sitting in front of the gardening tools during the summer.

Appearance. Let's face it, everyone likes attractive things more than ugly ones. With people passing by (or through) your garage on a regular basis, it improves the image of your home to have things well-organized, neat and professional.

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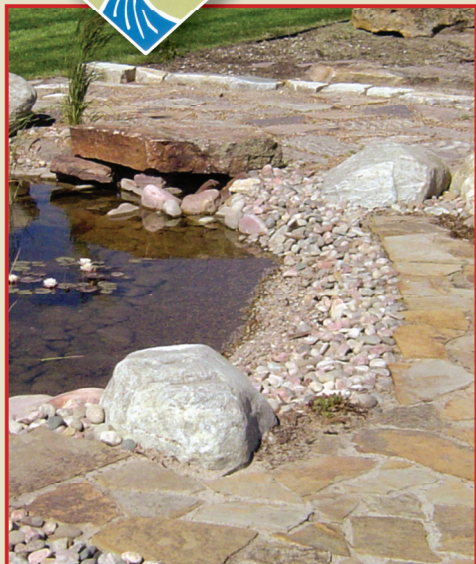
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Installing a Flagstone Walkway

An inviting flagstone pathway is the perfect way to welcome visitors to your yard or favorite flower garden. Flagstone paths are a practical way to control traffic patterns and provide a perfect accent to your landscape. There are many options and a wide selection of styles and colors to blend in seamlessly with your home and its surroundings.

You can build it! Installing a flagstone pathway on your property is an easy project for the "do it yourselfer". As with any project, the key is planning. Selecting the correct style of flagstone material is an important starting point. For example, does your project require irregular shapes or precut flagstone with uniform shapes and sizes? The following are other factors, which should be taken into consideration before beginning your project;

- What is the length and width of your pathway? Correct estimates can save time and labor.
- What is the proper base material for your pathway? Sand, pea gravel, and chipped limestone are all suitable materials.
- Will a drainage system be incorporated into the construction of the pathway?
- Will steps be built into the pathway to address changes in elevation?



If you are searching for ways to create a beautiful and useful flagstone pathway, your friends at GE Landscape Supply are here to assist you with all your landscaping needs. Whether it is estimating quantities of materials, determining which material best suits your project, or assisting with site selection, our goal is to help you create the landscape you desire.

Recommended Tools

- Shovel
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- Rake
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- Level



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1

Place the stones where you think they will work best. Arrange them so the spaces between them provide a comfortable stepping distance. Adjust the stones to create gradual curves if desired. Walk the path in both directions a couple of times and make any final adjustments.



2

Once the flagstones are in their permanent spots, cut into the sod around them with a sharp shovel to mark the shape. Remove two inches of soil plus the depth of the stone to make room for the base material and the stone.



3

Add about two inches of sand and smooth it out to make a stable but pliable base for the stone. Without sand, the pathway would be less stable and the stones would be prone to cracking.



4

Place the flagstone into the layer of sand or other base material and gradually twist the stone into place. Stones should not rock or teeter.



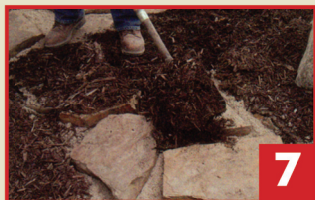
5

Check to make sure the stones are level to the ground. If they aren't, adjust the sand and stone accordingly.



6

Lay a 2x4 board across the surface of the flagstone and tap the board with a rubber mallet to seat the flagstone firmly in place. Double check the level of the stones.



7

Fill the area in between the stones with mulch, gravel or sand. Sweep the filler material into all of the gaps. Thoroughly water the pathway to wash the stones and help them and the material settle.



8

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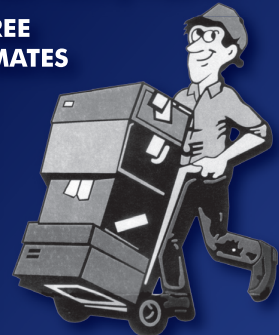
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Use Your Style to Fill that Empty Room

By KIT DAVEY

If you've just bought a larger home, added on to your house, or are redecorating an existing space, you're faced with the exciting yet daunting challenge of filling an empty room. With patience and a little planning, you can avoid costly design errors and comfortably furnish your room in a way that reflects your personal style.

Follow these suggested steps to creating a functional, comfortable and appealing room:

- Define the room's function. How are you going to use the space? List all the possible functions of the room. Typical activities in a living room might include entertaining, reading, listening to music or watching TV. You also might want to display collections. A family room might have all of these functions plus toy storage and a study or work area. A large master suite now might be a place to meditate, do paperwork or watch TV.

- Determine your furniture requirements. Once you know exactly how you'll use the room, list the pieces of furniture you'll need to perform those activities. Be flexible and creative. If you seldom entertain, there's no point in spending a ton of money on seating for 10 in your living room. Why not create a cozy conversation area consisting of a love seat and a pair of chairs, and plan on bringing in dining room chairs on those rare evenings you have a house full of guests? If you plan to watch TV in the room, consider an armoire or modular entertainment center, which also can store hobby materials or toys. In a bedroom with insufficient storage you might use a dresser instead of a nightstand. Jot down specific pieces of furniture next to each of the functions.

- Make a floor plan. Carefully measure the dimensions of the room, noting doors, outlets, window widths, etc., and create a scale drawing of the room. Make several copies of the room plan to experiment with. Next, make scale drawings of each piece of furniture on your list, estimating

their sizes or using furniture you already own as size guides.

Cut out the furniture shapes and begin arranging the furniture on your plan. Try every option, even the outlandish ones. Consider where lighting



will go and functionality: Is there a place to put a table lamp? Does everyone have a place to put his/her drink? Can you reach the bookcase from the desk? Let your friends and family try, too. You may come up with several arrangements that work well, or you might have to delete or add furniture. In any case, sketch out at least two possible plans.

- Mock it up. This is a crucial step! You can save yourself thousands of dollars and be saved from years of forcing yourself to live with the wrong furniture if you take the time to do this. Armed with your possible floor plans, return to your empty room and do your best to recreate the plans in three dimensions. Drag in furniture from the other rooms or position stacks of cardboard boxes to see how things will look. Make adjustments or try completely new possibilities until you get an arrangement that feels visually balanced and which you know will serve all the functions you want. Make a final floor plan based on this exercise. If you have hardwood floors and plan on purchasing area rugs, lay newspapers on the floor to determine the best size, given your final plan.

- Define your message. How do you want to feel in this room? Enlivened, relaxed, playful,

Continued on page 34

Fill That Empty Room (continued from page 33)

thoughtful, friendly? What words describe what you'd like the room to say? Airy, sophisticated, fun, natural, sunny, dramatic, intelligent, simple? Write down all the adjectives, feelings, and thoughts that you'd like to be present in the room. Spend time going through catalogs, home magazines and books collecting images of rooms that show some or all of the concept you want the room to communicate.

- Select a predominant style or theme. A visually peaceful room tends to have furnishings that are in the same style, such as country, contemporary, Victorian, etc., so you might select a style or theme which best reflects how you want to feel in the room. It's possible to create harmony with an eclectic mix of furniture, just as long as you stay true to your clearly defined message. I have a friend who has a wild array of furnishings in her home, but it all works because everything in it uniquely conveys her personal style: "whimsical, playful, clever and love of dinosaurs."

- Select a color scheme. It's easier and more restful to the eye to focus on one, two or three

colors, plus neutrals. Open your closet and take a look at the colors you love to wear. Do any of these colors fit in with the concept you have for the room? Create visual peace and cohesion by clearly defining which colors will predominate and plan to carefully place them around the room.

- Incorporate existing possessions. Go on a treasure hunt in your home. Is there anything you already own that would work in the new space? Do you have a family heirloom or special gift you want to incorporate? Put these items in the room now, and take pictures of them. When you're out shopping you can refer to the photos.

- Build the room around something you love. I suggest doing lots of research and window-shopping before committing to any major pieces of furniture. When you least expect it, you'll run into the perfect chair, sculpture piece or striped fabric that expresses exactly what you want the room to communicate. Build the room around this object. Once you're committed to something that makes your heart sing, it's easy to make other decisions and purchases.

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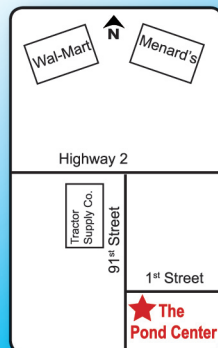
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Continued from page 13

Design Trends

3 Kirsch PanelTrac shades for the windows

Angi Guenther of Carpets Direct said Kirsch PanelTrac shades are a popular new option to cover large windows. The shade consists of panels that slide to the side and draws like a curtain. They cover windows ranging from 48 inches to 16 feet. "They offer a different look," she said.

4 Hide that flat panel television set

You don't have to hang that flat panel TV sets on the wall. Now they can be hidden in a mechanized cabinet. Marsha Kennel of Ethan Allen said lift system TV units are brand new. The television is mounted in the unit, which with a remote control raises it to watch, then lowers and closes it inside a piece of furniture that looks like a console.

5 Red dining rooms

Carole Russell of Lincoln Design Center finds many people are yearning for more color in their homes and are choosing red for the dining room walls. "It makes an impact... People with red dining rooms usually want to carry the red into adjoining rooms with accent pieces," she said.

6 Spa relaxation

Remodeling the bathroom these days usually means turning it into a spa bathroom, said Michelle Foland at CS Kitchen and Bath Studio. Soaking tubs with air jets, large showerheads strategically attached to different levels of the shower stall and heated floors are some of the most common bathroom changes. "People are looking for a retreat, a place to relax," she said.



Hide Your Flat Screen - Ethan Allen

7 Natural fibers

Lisa Coffey of Coffey & Company said natural fibers such as cocoa bark and banana bar are being used to make accent pieces for a room. Decorative boxes are made of pen shell or cocoa bark then finished with a lacquer polish to make them hard and shiny. "There is a calming ambiance when you surround yourself with natural things in your house," she said.



Blown Glass - Paul Daniels

8 Colored blown glass as accent pieces

Paul Daniels of Paul Daniels Interior said blown glass of various abstract designs is a popular way to accent tables and shelves. Colorful vases and other pieces designed in the United States and beyond are "an art statement," he said. "The artistry one can put into them is just limitless," he said.

9 Exotic wood floors

Brazilian cherry, tiger wood and santos mahogany are examples of some of the exotic woods people are considering for their floors, said Tim McClintock of Inner Scapes. More people are moving away from oak and other traditional woods and looking for wilder grains, he said.

10 Black and white

Lindsay Knollenberg at Lee Douglas said black and white together in a room is growing in popularity because it brings great contrast. Black and whites are popular in furniture and wood. Adding colorful accent pieces then make the room pop, she said.

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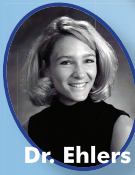
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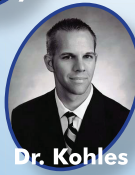
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