



Mid-Shores Home Builders Association Inc.
Celebrating 15 Years! 1998-2013

Design Trends

As we celebrate New Homes Month, we will look to the latest design trends. It's natural that our focus will turn to updating our current home or our dream of building a new home with the latest trends in design and products.

According to a national survey of home builders on their expectations for homes in 2015, smaller homes with lower prices and more green features will be the predominant force in the marketplace. The most common green features in 2015's new homes will be low-E windows; engineered wood beams, joists or trusses; water-efficient features such as dual-flush toilets or low-flow faucets; and an Energy Star rating for the whole house.

Efficient use of space also ranks highly in consumers' desires. The top-ranked living spaces include a separate laundry room; additional storage space; walk-in closets or built-ins; a home office space, workspace or family computing center; and everyday eating space in or close to the kitchen.

Notable Future Design Trends

Classic yet Contemporary - blending old styles with new. Timeless and elegant spaces are created by blending modern and traditional elements such as crown molding with fewer or less fancy pieces. Elevations are clean and simple and interiors are fresh and light, not ornate and heavy like the formerly-popular elements such as ornamental columns, complex crown molding and cabinetry with additional applied decorative pieces.

Multigenerational Living - Given the state of the economy during the past few years, many families are all living under one roof. To save money, young adults are living at home after they graduate school, and retired parents are sharing homes with their grown children and their families. Single-family home designs accommodate multigenerational households, such as homes with two master suites, often with at least one located on the ground floor to be more accessible.

Cost Effective Designs - Rectangular home designs are more cost effective, so new homes no longer have the "exploding house" look with multiple, odd roof lines or the unnecessary interior volumes they create. But home designs can still be visually stimulating with creative and innovative modifications that reduce construction and system costs to the home owner. For example, mixing materials such as metal, wood and stone in the façade give a home a modern look.

The Family Triangle - Open floor plans is a trend that isn't new, but has expanded. Ground-floor focused, open floor plan living spaces used to be specific to certain regions and generations, but now it is desired by all buyer profiles across the country. Many designs eliminate the living room and add a flex space or den adjacent to the kitchen or family room to allow for privacy when needed, and still accommodate flexibility for many different uses.

Kitchen Entertaining with a View - The kitchen remains one of the most important rooms in the house. Designers are incorporating creative storage solutions to both suit the home owners' unique needs and to allow more windows above the countertops rather than cabinets to retain a feeling of open, light space.



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