

SPRING 2021

HOME TRENDS

DESIGN/BUILD REMODEL • CUSTOM HOMES • CUSTOM DECKS



THE HOUSING TRENDS SHAPING 2021

Feature article inside



New Patio, Deck Transform Backyard

With spring visible just over the horizon, it's a good time to think about how you want to use your home this summer.

Maryland is a great place to enjoy the outdoors for most of the year. Investing in your outdoor space is one of the best ways to improve the your home's value and enhance the usability of your yard. We spent more time at home in 2020, and while we don't know what this year will bring, creating additional space for your family is always a good idea.

The most important part of building your new outdoor project is finding a solution that works for you and your family. An experienced remodeler like T.W. Ellis can walk you through the process and make sure that you get a deck, patio or other outdoor space that you'll enjoy for years to come.

Outdoor projects continue to evolve. Many homeowners are no longer opting for a simple deck or patio. Instead, we're seeing more demand for hybrid projects that bring many features into the undertaking.

This Forest Hill project is a great example of that trend, with the clients looking to add a new deck and patio, while also creating more usable storage space. To combine functionality and aesthetics, we crafted a new 400-square-foot deck, a portion of which covers an underdeck storage shed, and a new stone patio.



The deck is built from Trex Enhance Naturals composite decking in the Rocky Harbor finish. The decking has a natural wood grain finish, while also offering lower maintenance and longer life than traditional wood. It is easy to clean and is resistant to fading, staining, mold and mildew. It is also eco-friendly, with 95% of the decking made from recycled plastic, reclaimed wood and sawdust.

The Black Westbury VertiCable Railing we installed on the deck, landing and steps, provides safety while offering minimal disruption to the view from the deck. Cable railings

410.420.0740



twellis.com

THE HOUSING TRENDS SHAPING 2021

As we begin 2021, there are several trends in remodeling from new colors to changing material choices that will affect how we all use our homes.

Our team works hard to keep up to date with the latest information from architects, interior designers, color forecasters and other experts.

From what we are seeing here locally to what national experts are saying, we expect these to be some of the most significant housing trends this year.



Working and learning at home

As COVID-19 spread last year, many of us found our homes turning into offices and classrooms. While the hope is that 2021 will see a gradual return to normalcy, 2020 did show us the importance of flexibility in our homes.

The key is to remodel with flexibility in mind—creating adaptable spaces that can be used for multiple purposes. For example, consider if you have a large open floor plan. By using features such as French Doors we can create the flexibility to provide multiple private spaces when necessary, but a shared area when desired.

It's part of a renewed emphasis on functionality. Yes, our homes have to look good, but they also have to work for the way we live. Previously wasted areas like the space under the stairs can become storage or reading nooks. Speaking of storage, additional storage has also become a focus as many people stocked up on food, toilet paper and other necessities in 2020.

Multipurpose kitchens

When it comes to functionality, the kitchen is one of the areas most in need of an upgrade. While spending more time at home last year, many homeowners discovered their rooms weren't up to snuff.

The increased demand for home cooking and family meal times is leading many families to rethink their kitchens. Kitchens can be redesigned for ergonomics and accessibility to make them more usable. Features such as pull-out spice



racks, touchless faucets and more seating for family meals are all growing in popularity.

We're seeing demand for more countertop space and larger islands, not only for cooking and preparing food, but also for performing double-duty as workspaces.

More time at home means more space

Even before the coronavirus came into our lives, there was a trend toward multiple generations of families staying together longer. Three generations under one roof is becoming more common, as aging parents move in with their children rather than move to a retirement or assisted living community. At the same time, the last decade has seen increasing numbers of children move back home, at least for a short while, while starting their careers. Toss in college students learning at home instead of on campus for good measure.

These long- and short-term trends all point to demand for additional space in the home to meet the needs of the entire family. In some cases this is an addition, but it can also be a rethinking and redesigning of the existing space to add a master suite on the main floor, for instance, or a basement apartment with a private entrance.

Calming colors

Among leading paint companies and color forecasters there's a definite trend this year toward earth tones and comfort for 2021.

That means subdued colors with names like Satin Paprika, Brown Sugar Beige, and Maple Leaf. Color collections that include a lot of yellows, greens, browns and off-whites are the rule for 2021. According to the designers, the colors are engineered to be soothing, gentle options that provide a feeling of calm, well-being and hopeful optimism.



SELECTING THE RIGHT KITCHEN SINK

There are few things in your home that get used as much as the kitchen sink. There are a variety of sink styles that offer different looks and feels. Choosing the right one is one of the most important decisions you'll make for your kitchen remodel.

Single or double basin

A single-basin sink makes it easy to soak big pans or prepare a large amount of food. The negative is that it makes it a tougher task to clean and prep food at the same time (unless you add a second island sink, for instance) and can make washing and rinsing more difficult.

Double-basin sinks offer less space for that large basin, but make it easier to perform multiple tasks. A 60/40 or offset sink has one basin larger than the other. 50-50 split sinks are evenly divided as the name implies. Three-basin sinks, with a third smaller space for the garbage disposal, are also growing in popularity.

Drop-in vs. undermount

A drop-in sink drops into the counter so there is a visible lip to the sink. An undermount sink is mounted below

the countertop, creating a flat edge. Undermount sinks are easier to clean without the lip to capture grime or residue. Undermount sinks work best with granite or solid surface countertops. Drop-in sinks are typically less expensive and easier to install or replace.

Farmhouse

One of the most popular kitchen options, a farmhouse or apron-front sink has a wide, exposed front edge that replaces part of the countertop. Farmhouse sinks are traditionally a single basin, but double basins are now more common. Because farmhouse sinks are usually larger and heavier, they may not work in every kitchen. The existing sink cabinet also needs to be able to accommodate the sink. We can help you figure out if this or any other option will work for your kitchen!

Integral sink

Integral sinks are made from the same material as the countertop for the most seamless look to the sink. Because they usually have to be custom made as the countertop is



fabricated, integral sinks really only work as part of a larger remodel and typically carry a higher price tag. If it's in the budget, they can be one of the most aesthetically pleasing choices.

Earth-friendly flooring materials



There are a lot of factors that go into picking the right flooring for your home. If you're looking to choose a more eco-friendly material without sacrificing beauty consider some of these options.

Bamboo

Bamboo is a fast-growing plant, able to be harvested every three to five years. It is durable, fairly easy to install and renewable. Most bamboo is imported from Asia, so it's worth considering the full carbon impact. Some bamboo products are also produced with formaldehyde, so be sure to check on that before installation as well.

Cork

Cork is harvested from the bark of the cork oak tree, without damaging the tree when done properly. The cork

layer grows back in about three years. Cork floors are naturally sound-absorbent, offer insulating qualities and are resistant to mold and insects.

Linoleum

Don't confuse linoleum with vinyl flooring. While vinyl is created from synthetic materials, linoleum is made from linseed oil, tree resins and other natural materials. Linoleum is available in a wide variety of colors, lasts 25 years or longer and will hold up to a lot of wear and tear, although it can be dented by heavy furniture.

Reclaimed hardwood

Wood is still one of the most popular options, and there are multiple ways to lower the environmental impact of that choice. Most notably, using reclaimed hardwood from barns, older homes or any number of sources is a great solution as no new wood is being harvested. If purchasing new hardwood flooring, be sure to look for products that are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The FSC forest management certification affirms that the forest is managed in a way that sustains economic viability, preserves biological diversity and benefits local people.

SPRING 2021
IN THIS ISSUE

Housing Trends Shaping '21

Backyard Transformation

Earth-friendly Flooring

Selecting a Kitchen Sink



T.W. Ellis
2243 Rock Spring Road
Forest Hill, MD 21050

twellis.com
410.420.0740
Our Family Working Together with Yours



PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHARLOTTE NC
PERMIT NO 3609



New Patio, Deck Transform Backyard

offer many other benefits, including minimal maintenance, and works with many different home styles. Cable railings are a great option for any homeowner who wants to preserve the view from their new deck.

To keep the clean look of the finished deck, we wrapped the 6x6 support posts in vinyl sleeves and installed white PVC trim around the perimeter of the deck, landing and steps.

The area under a deck can often end up being wasted space. For these homeowners, though, we were able to build a new 14- by 18-foot shed, making that space usable. The shed is kept secure and completely protected from the elements with concrete masonry unit block walls and a high-quality, stylish Therma-Tru steel double door.



The Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer (or EPDM) commercial-grade rubber roof will ensure that the shed and its contents stay dry. EPDM rubber roofs have a high resistance to wind, UV radiation, extreme temperatures and other weather challenges, making them extremely durable and a great solution for a long life.

The new patio further enhances the homeowners' enjoyment of their new outdoor retreat. Built at the base of the new deck, the expansive space measures 468 square feet and is made of EP Henry Bristol Stone Pavers in Dakota Blend. We also used EP Henry blocks to create the 1-foot-high retaining wall. Finally, the EP Henry Coventry gas-burning fire pit adds warmth and atmosphere to the space, making the backyard a year-round gathering space for this family.

T.W. Ellis has been building award-winning decks, patios and screened porches in Maryland for nearly 20 years and is certified by the North American Deck and Railing Association. We look forward to helping you create your dream backyard oasis!

