



Calming Influence

As the pace of daily life speeds up, our need for a serene, restful environment at home increases. Experts say that having the opportunity to relax and slow down during the day is important for our mental and physical health. Much is also said these days regarding the calming influence of the outdoor environment and the benefits of integrating the outdoors with the indoors.

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REMODELING DO'S & DON'TS

1. **Don't** neglect your home. **Do** maintain and enhance the value of your home with regular maintenance and remodeling projects to modernize and improve your home's functionality.
2. **Don't** try complex remodels on your own. **Do** call a professional remodeler to get the job done right the first time and save yourself time and money.
3. **Don't** necessarily hire the cheapest remodeler. **Do** a thorough check on

the remodeler's experience, references, and qualifications such as Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) or Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS).

4. **Don't** lose patience during the remodel. **Do** prepare yourself for challenges and realistically understand the time and money your remodel may require.

5. **Don't** try to remove or deal with lead paint on your own. **Do** call a professional who is Lead Certified to minimize exposure to lead paint. ■

WHY HIRE ALL PHASE REMODELING, INC.

If you are considering a remodeling project, the most important decision you can make is selecting a professional remodeler to do the job. Your home is too important to entrust to anyone but a professional such as **All Phase Remodeling** who can:

- Ensure your dreams are accurately translated into reality by offering design services.
- Provide the best possible materials within your budget and assist you in making selections.
- Understand that your comfort

during the project and its successful completion depends on effective communication and follow-through.

- Maintain a safe and neat jobsite to prevent damage to your home or injury to household members and pets.
- Ensure that your job meets or exceeds applicable building codes and regulations.
- Guarantee the quality of their work with a warranty.
- Respond promptly to service calls and inquiries. ■

Smooth As Glass

The last three years have seen a dramatic increase in the use of glass for kitchen back splashes and bathroom accent walls. Glass is appreciated for its clean look and ability to reflect light and impart vibrant color. It is also very practical and easy to maintain, since it is non-porous and does not absorb moisture or stains.

In addition to glass tiles and slabs, another possibility to consider for your kitchen or bath is back-painted glass. Back-painted glass is clear glass that has been painted on the back side, but is viewed from the front side.

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Photo Courtesy Dreamwalls Color Glass - Installation by Anchor Venetian Glass

Calming Influence

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A striking example of the blurring of boundaries between a home's interior and exterior spaces is found in The New American Home (TNAH) 2013. This demonstration home, showcased at the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas in January, serves as an inspiration for other projects that seek this kind of connectivity, even those on a much smaller scale.

Indoor/outdoor living is a trend that has been sweeping the country and is currently in high demand in both warm and cool regions. For remodelers and builders, the take-away from this home in terms of indoor/outdoor living is the integration of design, along with the blending of interior and exterior materials. As part of the design process, consideration must be given to solar orientation, overhangs, and how best to use glass to invite the outdoors in.

Fashioned in what is termed "desert contemporary" style, this year's TNAH is a departure from the more typical Mediterranean-style found in the Las Vegas area. The use of natural elements throughout—plentiful water, light, air, fire, stone, wood, and greenery—creates uncertainty at times as to whether you are standing outside or inside the home. The glass pocket doors in virtually every room allow you to see straight through the home from inside to outside in many places. Simple straight lines, along with a soft neutral color palette, help create a peaceful setting.

One of the most exciting spaces in this 6,721-square-foot home is the great room and kitchen area. (photo on page 1) These

two rooms are beautifully blended together, unified by a horizontal ribbon of dark wood cabinetry and sunny windows. Although this light-filled space soars two-stories high, the warmth of the cabinetry and other materials provides a cozy atmosphere for dining, watching the game on TV, or sitting poolside.

The master suite, with its open-air sleeping porch, also exhibits the careful blending of indoor and outdoor spaces. Gabions—manmade wire structures filled with regional rock—were used along the interior and exterior walls of the master suite. Resysta—a sustainable product that has the appearance of wooden planks, but is produced from recycled rice husks, salt and mineral oil—was used inside and outside as well. Resysta is so versatile, it was chosen for the floors of the indoor and outdoor master showers, as well as for interior and exterior walls in other parts of the home.

This home was designed as an electrical net zero home, achieved primarily through the combined use of roof-top solar panels, an air-tight thermal shell, energy efficient windows with electronically-controlled shades, and LED lighting.



Photo by Timberlake Cabinetry



Photo courtesy of Blue Heron Inc.



Photo courtesy of Blue Heron Inc.

This is a wonderful period in the history of home design and remodeling in the USA. Finally, we are seeing some real progress made toward the thoughtful, human-centric design of home environments—with products that benefit all people, regardless of their ages or abilities.

For example, in the past, round knobs were the only choice homeowners had for door handles in their homes. Lever handles, on the other hand, function better for a wider group of people. If you have arthritis or other hand mobility issues, you can simply depress the lever handle with your forearm

Going UP



Photo: Courtesy of Residential Elevators LLC (www.residentialelevators.com)

If your home is multi-storied, there is a good chance you have considered installing an elevator. For a variety of reasons, homeowners across the country are deciding that it is worth the extra expense to alleviate any difficulties in getting from one floor of their home to another. Some reports indicate that the residential elevator market grew by 15% last year.

Baby Boomers are thinking ahead and installing elevators, as insurance that they can continue living in their homes and beloved neighborhoods well into the future. Multi-generational households are putting in elevators for the sake of grandparents who have mobility issues. Families are making it easier to carry heavy or multiple loads to the second or third floors of their homes.

If you are remodeling or building a new addition to your existing home and you want to install an elevator, it should be a part of your design plans from the beginning. Your professional remodeler and elevator supplier will help you determine the state and local licensing and permitting requirements. They will also consult with you about the optimal location for the elevator.

Perhaps you are not planning a major remodeling project—all you want at this point is an elevator retrofit. If there is no suitable space inside your existing

home, the best option might be to build an elevator tower on the exterior of your home.

If you are remodeling your home right now, but you wish to wait until the future to install your elevator, it is still more economical to engineer space for the elevator during the current remodel. By stacking two or more closets directly on top of each other, you will be able to utilize the closets until you convert them into a hoistway later on. The conversion cost will be even less if you allow for a recessed elevator pit in the slab, pre-wire for the equipment, include blocking requirements in the wall, and off-set the doors.

There are three basic types of elevators: hydraulic, traction, and pneumatic. A limitation of pneumatic elevators is that they are usually too small to accommodate wheelchairs. A traction elevator is an excellent choice for a retrofit project, since the drive system is mounted inside the elevator shaft and therefore requires no separate machine room or pit.

In addition to the type of elevator, some of the options that influence the cost of an elevator are the number of stops it can make, the cab size, the type of doors and the interior finishes. If the elevator is being installed due to health issues, speak with a tax professional about tax savings eligibility. ■

Thoughtful Design

or elbow, and the door opens. This is also true if you have a sleeping child in your arms, or a laundry basket, or are carrying groceries into the house.

Manufacturers have begun to rethink the design of their products with the purpose of enabling everyone to use them comfortably and easily. Marvin Windows and Doors showcased several thoughtful products at the International Builders' Show 2013 as a part of an educational Universal Design product tour for remodelers. The following two products were included in the tour:

1



The Low Profile High Performance Sill is available on Marvin's Sliding French and Sliding Patio doors. The attractive flush threshold provides a smooth transition between the exterior and interior, and is ADA compliant.

2



The Ultimate Glider has the handle placed low on the unit in an easy-to-reach position. Challenging top locks have been eliminated. The window features an auto lock that is triggered when the sash is closed.

Photos: Courtesy of Marvin Windows and Doors (www.marvin.com)

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Photo: Courtesy Dreamwalls Color Glass (www.dreamwallsglass.com)

Smooth As Glass

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One of the advantages of this application is the limitless color possibilities. Your back splash or bathroom walls can be custom matched to the fabric or décor item of your choosing.

The glass can be of varying thicknesses and is temperable, so it may be used for countertops, partitions, cabinet facing or inserts, as well as wall cladding. Unlike glass tile, it provides a large smooth surface with minimal grout lines. It is perfect for high moisture environments, like shower walls. One very creative use would be as a large dry-erase board—for leaving messages for your kids or as a drawing surface for their artwork.

Producing beautiful back-painted glass may seem like an easy, do-it-yourself project, but there is more to it than meets the eye. Some of the difficulties you could encounter are: 1) lack of uniform control as the paint is applied, resulting in messy foreign particles adhering to the surface; 2) inaccurate color results from one piece to the next; 3) uneven heat curing, resulting in brittle paint that chips when the glass is cut, or scratches as the glass is installed.

For high quality back-painted glass that will provide years of flawless performance, it is best to contact a professional. Dreamwalls Color Glass, for example, utilizes a proprietary, state-of-the-art paint technology to manufacture and fabricate their products.

Here are some tips on what to look for:

- Starphire® Ultra Clear Glass, by PPG Industries. This is an extremely high-quality, low-iron glass with a less blue-green tint than regular glass. It renders a true white instead of aqua, while the reds stay vibrant.
- A computerized color-mixing system that provides accurate results, checked by a state-of-the-art spectrometer. The consistency of the color is reproducible from the first piece to the last, and for years to come.
- Carefully monitored ovens for heat curing that produces a paint layer neither too brittle, nor too flexible.
- A two-coat process that involves the addition of a durable backing paint layer, which is heat-bonded to the initial layer. ■



Photo: Courtesy Dreamwalls Color Glass - Installation by Anchor Ventana - Round Rock, TX