

Home from the Heart

SURVEY RESULTS

TYPE OF HOME

Average size of home:
2361 sq.ft.
Range of responses:
850-6500 sq.ft.

63% One story
35% Two story
2% More than two story

62% Basement
26% Wheelchair accessible

Average budget: \$240,710
Range of responses:
\$25,000-\$1,200,000

Exterior style:
41% Ranch
19% Country
13% Traditional
8% Contemporary
19% Craftsman, farmhouse,
Victorian, Cape Cod, etc.

UTILITY ROOM

66% Adjacent to kitchen/
garage
19% Adjacent to bedrooms

GARAGE

Number of cars: 2.4
59% Storage/shop

2007

LIVING AREAS

69% Informal great room
with open living,
kitchen & dining areas

7% Formally defined
spaces with separa-
tion of functions

24% Combination of formal
spaces and great room

Number of bedrooms: 3.2

Number of baths: 2.5

Number of "en-suites": 1.4
(bedrooms with private
baths)

KITCHEN

24% Gourmet style kitchen,
rich in amenities

55% Full function kitchen
with ample features

20% Efficient kitchen with
focus on space saving
and multiple functions

69% Open to family room

37% Adjacent to garage

OWNERS' SUITE

Best location:
90% Main floor
10% Upper floor
87% Isolated from other
bedrooms
13% Adjacent to other
bedrooms

EXTRAS

Interior:
71% Fireplace/woodstove
51% Vaulted ceilings
32% Skylights
44% Computer center
18% Wet/Service bar
11% Swimming pool

Exterior:
65% Front porch
67% Deck/patio
41% Screened porch
10% Courtyard
23% Fireplace
20% Spa/hot tub
16% Water feature

HOUSEHOLD

Number of people: 2.9
Age of respondent: 52

80% Plan to build a home
20% Plan to buy a home
Timeframe: 3.2 years

© 2007 Associated Designs Inc.

Survey dreams up the perfect home

Daydreaming can sometimes lead to the creation of a new and better reality, and that's especially true when it comes to imagining your dream home.

In midwinter, when the staff of Associated Designs invited readers to participate in the Home from the Heart survey, that's what they had in mind. Readers from all over the United States accepted our invitation to tell us how they would configure ideal homes for their families.

The ranch-style home was by far the most popular this year, with more than 40% choosing this style. For many years ranch and country-style homes ranked fairly evenly.

Nearly 70% wanted an informal great room open to the kitchen. Formally defined spaces, such as fully enclosed living rooms and dining rooms, have clearly fallen out of favor. Only 7% requested this traditional arrangement of space. But about a quarter did ask for a combination of formal spaces and great room.

Fully 90% chose the ground floor as the best

location for the owners' suite, and almost that many wanted it well away from other bedrooms. Close to two-thirds wanted a fireplace or woodstove, front porch, rear deck or patio, and a utility room adjacent to both the kitchen and garage.

More than 60% preferred a one-story home, and about the same percentage opted for a basement. While only 26% asked for wheelchair accessibility, almost half of those who attached letters expressed interest in this feature. Perhaps this is a reflection of the participants' average age, which was 52.

"In the past year, we have become more aware of the needs of both the elderly and handicapped, as my parents have lost most of their mobility," noted one Oklahoma reader. "All areas of the home need to be wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters."

While a number of readers reported that they really enjoyed the process of daydreaming about their ideal home, 80% noted that they actually planned to build one in the next 3-4 years.