

# 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

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## 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.