

Survey respondents design home from ground up

By Associated Designs

Thinking of changes you'd like to make in your home is easy. What's far more intriguing is figuring out what your home would look like if you could design it from the ground up.

At the beginning of this year, Associated Designs offered readers an opportunity to do just that, by participating in the 2000 Homes from the Heart Survey.

"Isn't it fun to dream?" queried a South Dakota woman who responded, voicing the sentiments of more than 500 newspaper readers who shared their opinions. This is what they had to say.

When it comes to size, it's a toss-up between midsize homes (1500 to 2000 sq. ft.) or something in the 2000-3000 sq. ft. range. More than 40 percent found each size range appealing, with a slight preference for the larger size. Last year the smaller size was ahead.

Exterior style preferences continue to shift a bit. Of the top three, ranch and country lost ground, while contemporary spiked up. Last year, 21 percent preferred contemporary. This year that percentage was 27 percent. Country lost ground, falling from 37 to 28 percent; and ranch dropped from 32 to 22 percent.

Associated Designs took these and many other reader preferences into account in creating the 2000 Home from the Heart, the Heartford. With some elements, there was no choice. It had to have a fireplace, pantry and an isolated master bedroom with a walk-in closet. What's more, the utility room simply had to be close to both the garage and kitchen.

Fireplaces and woodstoves continued to increase in popularity, gaining five percentage points this year. Master suite walk-in closets were the only item that ranked higher, but that's nothing new.

Pantries and isolated master suites have also been in high demand for years, while the traditional preference for locating laundry appliances close to bedrooms rather than the kitchen continues to drop. On the flip side, the desire for a home office climbs higher every year.

A North Carolina woman commented, "Light is critical....bring it on!" This, along with countless other reader comments, were also incorporated into the design process.

HOMES *from the* HEART

RESULTS

2000

<h3 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TYPE OF HOME</h3> <p>Size of Home: (in square feet)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9% less than 1500 42% 1500-2000 44% 2000-3000 16% 3000 and up <p>Number of Floors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64% 1 story 40% 2 stories 41% Basement 18% Wheelchair Accessible <p>Budget: \$186,000</p> <p>Exterior Style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27% Contemporary 28% Country 22% Ranch 4% Mediterranean 11% Colonial 8% Victorian 2% Tudor 7% Craftsman 13% Other <p>Exterior Material:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22% Wood 65% Brick/Stone 13% Stucco 27% Vinyl/Aluminum 8% Other 	<h3 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">KITCHEN</h3> <p>General Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63% Adjacent to Garage 68% Open to Family Room 59% Breakfast Nook 4% Other <p>Special Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61% Island 53% Eating Bar 42% Appliance Center 44% Garden Window 44% Desk 82% Pantry 40% Double Oven 28% Vegetable Sink 27% Trash Compactor 13% Other <h3 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">LIVING AREAS</h3> <p>In addition to the kitchen I would like the following rooms in my home:</p> <p>Number of Bedrooms: 3.2 Number of Baths: 2.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56% Formal Entry 33% Formal Living 43% Formal Dining 67% Great Room (Open Living/Dining/Kitchen) 45% Family Room 16% Media Room 19% Recreation Room 24% Guest Suite 42% Office 40% Den/Library 41% Sunroom 10% Other 	<h3 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">MASTER SUITE</h3> <p>Best Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73% Isolated from Other Bedrooms 19% Adjacent to Other Bedrooms 69% Main Floor 13% Upper Floor <p>Suite Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38% Outside Access 38% Sitting Room 92% Walk-in Closet 19% Other <h3 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">EXTRAS</h3> <p>Exterior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67% Front Porch 69% Deck/Patio 47% Screened Porch 21% Courtyard 12% Other <p>Interior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84% Fireplace/Woodstove 48% Vaulted Ceilings 44% Skylights 44% Computer Center 22% Wet/Service Bar 15% Swimming Pool 14% Other
<h3 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">GARAGE</h3> <p>Number of Cars 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14% RV Parking 55% Shop 75% Storage 	<h3 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">HOUSEHOLDS</h3> <p>Average number of people in household: 2.6</p> <p>Average age of respondent: 51</p> <p>Plan to build a home: 62% Do not plan to build a home: 21%</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">UTILITY</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% Adjacent to Kitchen/Garage 20% Adjacent to Bedrooms 14% In Garage or Basement

© 2000 Associated Designs, Inc.