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Richmond, Virginia 23233

www.LaneBuilt.com

SUMMER BUILDING & Remodeling Tips

2004

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Celebrating our 20th Year!

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Cheerful, optimistic yellow walls combine with Crossville's new Quartzite Series porcelain stone® on the floor and fireplace wall.

COLOR'S MAGIC

by Barbara Schirmeister, ASID

Fairytale-inspired colors and magical hues dominate the color palette for 2004-2005. According to the Color Association of the United States (CAUS)—an organization which forecasts color trends for manufacturers of environmental and interior products—a major movement toward translucence and transparency with romantic, dreamlike qualities has evolved.

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Photo: Courtesy of Crossville, Inc. - www.crossvilleinc.com

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One major decision our clients often consider is whether to move or improve. USA Remodeling Trends, in a homeowner survey, listed the two main reasons given for considering a change: "wanted more amenities" and "needed more space." Moving to a new home can certainly be exciting. It can also be expensive and exhausting: selling your current home, finding a new house, packing,

dealing with the movers, buying and selling expenses, unpacking, the cost of new landscaping and decorating. Then, after all that, finding out the garage doesn't quite fit your vehicles and the kitchen layout doesn't quite work the way you thought it would. You're now back to square one!

Like any major decision, the choice to move or improve

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2004-2005 Environmental/Interiors Forecast Palette courtesy of the Color Association of the U.S. New York City.

The new palette has a high degree of warmth—emphasizing red and yellow-influenced color families, which are balanced by the cool air and water-inspired blues, greens and aquas. This forecast includes both cheerful brights to uplift us, as well as soft, mellow tones to relax us. It's all about “personal choice.” Look for

- nature-inspired colors, such as shades of bamboo and coffee, silvery greens, bronzed, burnished hues and sophisticated taupes;
- the emergence of blues—pale, ethereal, atmospheric blues, periwinkles and regal cobalts;
- gracious greens ranging from sage and olive to grassy spring greens and soft hues of celadon or sea glass;

- the hopefulness and optimism of yellow—as seen in the spicy colors of honey, saffron and curry and the warmth of soft buttercream, classic camel and opulent golds;
- red, the color of magic, ranges from corals to rust, from cherry red to crimson and burgundy;
- and more than ever before, we are “in the pink.” In fact, consumers just can't get enough pink—it's their protest against “khaki fatigue.” Flattering petal pinks, cyclamens, magenta and raspberry are the latest pink picks.

Special effects have become a hallmark of 21st-century design. Color is interpreted through iridescence, translucence, pearlescence and reflection. The result is depth, sheen and texture. Metals and metallic

effects are seen in new hues of copper, bronze, silver and gold for products across the board. Finishes range from aged patinas to the shimmer of stainless steel.

Today's colors, textures and special effects can create a retreat from technology and ordinary life, helping us forget the fret with a flight into fantasy. □



Internationally renowned color expert Barbara Schirmeister, ASID, has been a longtime member of the Color Association of the United States (CAUS) Interiors Committee, helping to formulate the annual Environmental/Interiors Forecast palette. She has served for many years as color consultant to a number of major manufacturers of home furnishings, building products and finishes.

FLOORING TRENDS: Hardwood Floors

The natural beauty and warmth of hardwood flooring continues to make it one of the most popular choices for home floor surfacing today. The following descriptions may help in your decision-making.

Solid hardwood is defined as one piece of wood from top to bottom. This is excellent in most areas of a home on the ground level or above. **Engineered** hardwood is constructed from three or more layers of wood pressed together with the grains running in different directions, increasing dimensional stability. This can be used in basements and kitchens where the temperature and humidity fluctuates.

Strip flooring is linear wood flooring with board widths that are 3" or less. It is classified as **plank** flooring when the board widths are 3" or more. **Parquet** flooring is

These 4" ash planks from the Liberty Plains collection by Bruce reflect the current trend for wider-width wood flooring.



a series of short wood flooring pieces that create an attractive geometric design.

Wood flooring can be finished on the **job-site**, giving you endless possibilities for customizing your floor's stain and finish. **Factory** finished flooring has the advantage of less dust and noise involved in installation, but the color and finish options are more limited.

A **urethane** finish is generally used today because of the ease of maintenance. A hardwood floor should be vacuumed or swept regularly to remove dust and dirt before it damages the surface. When needed, use a wood floor-cleaning product.

Today's prevailing trends are for wider-width random-length planks, distressed surface treatments, highly defined grain patterns, and unusual—even exotic—species. Contrasting woods, widths, patterns and accents can be matched and blended to make your own individual statement. □



With Symphony speakers in the ceiling and Navigator keypad along the wall, it is easy to control the music source, volume, lights, etc. in this kitchen.



The Navigator K2 keypad in this hallway controls the Symphony in-ceiling speaker, as well as other functions.

Subtly Setting a Mood

Multi-room entertainment is a very powerful element in a home environment, bringing sound and video to all parts of the home instantly, when you want it and where you want it. It is the secret ingredient that can add an extra touch of refinement to an elegant dinner or excitement to an at-home dance party. It helps set the mood, and for today's homeowner it has become as valuable to entertaining as a well-set table or the perfect hors d'oeuvres.

Multi-room entertainment is a state-of-the-art system distributing audio and video throughout the home, even outdoors, without the need for separate equipment in each room. The wires for multi-room audio are hidden in the walls. Speakers are mounted within the ceiling or the walls, barely noticeable. Control keypads or touchpads similar in size to a light switch are installed on the wall in each room or hallway in the home. The rest of the electronic equipment (CD players, DVD players, tuners, amplifiers, etc.) is in one convenient location, connected by wires to the various control pads.

Using centrally located equipment, a DVD can be enjoyed in the bedroom while a cable program is on the flat screen TV in the family room and a CD is playing in the kitchen. Some larger rooms, such as a great room, can include separate audio zones within the same room that can be individually controlled.

This kind of audio system is so subtle and

The Symphony Extreme in-ceiling speakers are thin, water and temperature resistant, and are perfect for saunas, whirlpools, boats, or anywhere outdoors.



The Navigator K2 in-wall keypad employs both hard keys and a high-contrast, high-resolution LCD touch-panel display. The hard keys provide tactile feedback (power, volume up/down, channel up/down and customizable source and genre buttons), while the LCD touch-panel screen changes based upon the source you select, bringing up on the screen only the relevant buttons.

unobtrusive, a casual observer may not even realize its presence. And even though the system is made up of extremely sophisticated components, it is amazingly simple to operate the user-friendly keypad or touchpad.

Scott Sylvester, Director of Technical Services for Sonance, lists some of the currently available additional items that homeowners are requesting along with their multi-room entertainment systems:

- Wireless remote controls that use touch screens to control audio, video, lighting, security, HVAC etc.
- Access to the internet using the multi-room audio system
- XM or SIRIUS satellite radio
- CD and DVD changers offering hundreds of music selections throughout the house

Looking into the near future, Scott predicts the following trends:

- Plasma TVs will become more popular as prices decrease
- Surround sound systems with 5-7 speakers entirely hidden in walls and/or ceilings will become normal installations
- Using the home's computer network wiring to control home appliances, lighting, security, etc., as well as to connect to the internet for streaming music and direct DVD movies into the home. □





Steve and Sue Lewis converted a portion of their old basement into the perfect spot to indulge one of their passions: classic films!

To Move or Improve? That Is the Question

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involves many variables, however, most of these variables fit into two categories: location and finances.

One of the major reasons people decide to improve their current home rather than move is location. They like their neighborhood, have put down roots, and do not want to leave. A family's ties to the community, as well as the proximity to friends, schools, churches, local services, and places of employment are all factors to be considered. By improving instead of moving, a family can avoid disrupting these important connections.

Finances are another influential part of the move vs. improve decision. In addition to making your home more livable and enjoyable, remodeling can increase your home's value. The largest returns generally come from well designed improvements that give an existing home desirable features more commonly found in new homes, i.e. home offices, luxurious master suites, sunrooms, family rooms, media rooms, updated baths, and state-of-the-art kitchens. However, remember, your house is an investment you live in. So don't focus so much on recouping costs that you don't do what makes you happy.

At **Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc.** we specialize in helping our clients change their current home into the



home of their dreams. Our in-house design team has the talent, creativity and experience to create the look you want with the function you need. Whatever your needs, call us at **784-0012** and let the professional in-house design team and skilled craftsmen at **Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc.** create your perfect solution.

We also encourage your visit to our website, **www.LaneBuilt.com**, to see additional examples of completed projects and learn more about the Design/Build process. □