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2024 Home-Building Trends

December 2023

We are running to the finish line of 2023! Interior designers are predicting big changes in the new year. It's time to explore the exciting interior home building design trends that they say will dominate in 2024.

The ongoing rise of telecommuting and online education means more and more buyers need to strike a work-life balance despite working where they live — and in the post-pandemic world, rigid home layouts just don't cut it.

Rooms dedicated to a single purpose, like formal dining rooms or media rooms, are becoming less popular. Homeowners are looking to create flexible, multifunctional spaces to accommodate their need to work remotely as well as live in the same



space—hence, an office during the day, a workout area in the evening and a cozy reading nook at night.

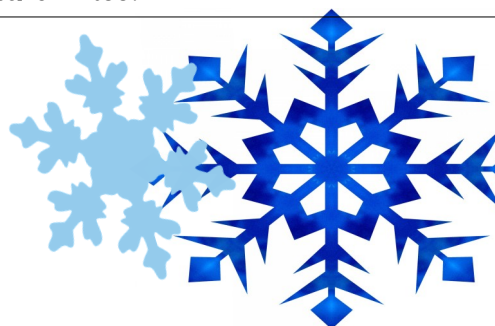
Sustainability has emerged as an important element in interior design in recent years. In 2024, this trend will continue to gain momentum as more homeowners prioritize environmentally friendly choices. Sustainable design elements will be at the forefront, from furniture made with recycled materials to energy-saving appliances. Solar panels and green building materials can significantly boost a home's appeal as well.



There has already been a shift to hard-surface flooring options such as hardwood and laminate in the past few years to avoid allergen, chemically based carpeting. Homeowners prefer hardwood and high end vinyl wood flooring because it is easy to install, durable and easier to maintain.

Homeowners are leaning in to natural materials and a general feeling of warmth in their home. The industrial, factory look is fading into the background. There is still, however, a desire for the modern rustic farmhouse style—natural wood cabinets, natural stone countertops and backsplashes with a few modern elements thrown in. The trend in color is still primarily white and natural tones for warm and soft style that elicits rest and relaxation.

The current home buyer wants a home that is casual and moderately rustic but able to accommodate the at home business, online education for the kiddos and family time at the end of the day. The home doesn't need to be expansive but it does need to lend itself to an open concept and open to the —light, bright and green environmentally safe, if you can fit that feature in too.





"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year . . .



Email the Expert

Our kitchen needed a bit of a facelift. We had our cabinets painted professionally and added new hardware to the cabinets. The flooring was renewed to a wood look style tile so it could endure heavy foot traffic. We believe the next step to this facelift is DIY installing tile kitchen backsplash. How do we go about this home project?

Tim and Janice

Thank you for your question! I am glad to help you DIY this project. You begin the project by preparing your workspace. Lay down protection onto the cabinet countertops and flooring so they aren't damaged in the process of laying tiled backsplash. Move appliances slightly away from the wall and shut off the power before you remove any faceplates from the electrical outlets. Ensure that the surface is smooth, clean and free of any excess debris.

Now that you've properly prepared your work area, it's time to arrange your kitchen tile backsplash. Choose a starting point where you will build your tile off from and make note of any tiles that need to be trimmed down to fit properly. Make sure to cut your backsplash tile to seamlessly fit around electrical outlets, light fixtures, and kitchen appliances.

Follow the instructions on your powdered thin-set mortar package. It will guide you through the process of adding the tin-set powder to a bucket of water and thoroughly mixing it. Once it is mixed up properly you will have four hours to use it before it dries out. Apply the mortar to the wall using a trowel to create a thin layer and work 2-feet at a time to keep the mortar from drying out.

Begin at the bottom and work your way up the wall. Firmly press the tiles in place with spacers to ensure there is adequate spacing between each tile. Once the tile backsplash has been installed, it's time to apply the grout to set the tiles in place. Lightly wipe down the backsplash with a damp sponge to remove any dust before grouting. Remove the tile spacers from between each tile and begin applying the grout with a rubber float at a 45-degree angle. Once the tile spaces have been filled, gently remove any excess grout with the rubber float and allow it to set. Once the grout has dried, you can use a cloth to remove any leftover dust and debris from the grout that is remaining on the tiles. In a few more days when the backsplash is thoroughly dried, apply grout sealant for a perfect finish.

EMAIL THE EXPERT by sending your question to Steve. Please be sure to include your name and phone number in case additional information is required to answer your question. steve@sechricconstruction.com.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your business this year. We are very grateful for the confidence you have placed in us to work on your construction projects in 2023. Here's to a new year ahead!



My young grandson called the other day to wish me a Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, "62". He was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

“Christmas works like glue, it keeps us all sticking together.”

Rosie Thomas, Iris & Ruby



The Four Season Sensation

Often the tiny enclosed porch off the back of the house is used for random needs through the years. It continually stays dirty and cluttered—a mudroom of sorts. But what a sensation it can be when you choose to transform it into a four season sunroom. Sensational! It could be narrow and dank but with a little TLC it can be bright and cheerful—a spot to relax and unwind—even when the snow falls outside. Bring the outside in with top to bottom casement windows—providing plenty of light and occasionally fresh air. Simply paint the room and floor to your liking—either bold or muted contrasting colors. Add desired lighting, decoration for the walls, a rug or runner and a spot to cozy up on those cool evenings and delight in the new space you have created. Sensational!



THERE IS A WHITE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM!



Here's a little holiday trivia for you: Did you know that the term "white elephant" is believed to have been in usage since 1828? Legend says that the King of Siam gave rare albino elephants to courtiers who had done him wrong. His goal was basically to bankrupt them by gifting this extravagant animal, as the cost of their upkeep was extremely expensive.

White elephant gift exchanges are done today for almost any occasion. The items gifted in the exchange are either a win win or a useless item. You're just as likely to unwrap something wonderful, as you are to bring home a not-so-appealing item. If you have a white elephant gift exchange this Christmas season, wrap something for the win win. Here are a few ideas for you:

- Wall Art—large-scale photograph; inspirational quote
- Mirrors—odd shaped; out of date
- Chic Shelf Décor—pottery, succulents, lantern, wooden bowls, jute bead garland, teak wood, sculptures
- Memory Foam Pillows—purple
- Jars, Jugs, Bottles and Vases—various heights, color, size and design
- Accent Pillows—golden rod, pea green or neutral in color with tassels and fringe
- Clocks, Baskets—the bigger, the better
- Tapestry and macramé wall hangings

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:9

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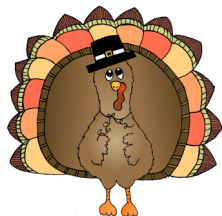
Check out our Website:
www.sechristconstruction.com

FROM MY DESK:

On behalf of our crew, I would like to take a moment to carve out time to say THANKS! I want to express my gratitude for building opportunities and support of our business this year. We truly appreciate YOU, our loyal customers.

Be sure to gobble up all that precious time you will have with family and dear friends in the coming weeks. We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and happiness throughout the coming year, 2024. The best is yet to come!

*Steve Sechrist
and Crew*



Countdown to Christmas 24 Frugal Family Activities



- Sip hot cocoa & read *The Polar Express*
- Make popcorn & cranberry garland & hang it outside to feed the birds
- Take a winter nature walk
- Bake & decorate sugar cookies for the neighbors
- Build a snowman
- Learn about Saint Nicholas
- Decorate your family Christmas tree
- Make Christmas cards for family and friends
- Go Christmas caroling around your neighborhood
- Watch your favorite Christmas movie
- Have a snowball fight
- Picnic under the Christmas tree
- Work on a puzzle together while listening to *A Christmas Carol*
- Go ice skating
- Decorate a gingerbread house
- Play a board game while listening to Christmas music
- Pop some popcorn and drive around looking at Christmas lights
- Go sledding
- Wrap Christmas presents
- Make a donation to your local food bank
- Write a letter to Santa
- Make cinnamon rolls for Christmas morning
- Bake cookies for Santa
- Read the Christmas story



*Merry
Christmas*