

Sechrist Construction and Remodeling, Inc.

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GO BOLDLY



A home's exterior can say a lot about the person who lives inside. From the color of the door to the garden out front, the choices you make matter. But as design trends shift, the exterior often needs to be addressed; major focus has been given to kitchens and bathrooms while the outside remains the same. Time to change it up!

Curb appeal is real. By incorporating new design trends, you can make your home stand out, giving your neighborhood something to talk about this year. For instances, every year, paint manufacturers and color companies release their



"Color of the Year," a color collection selected to inspire trends and reflect the times. One company might pick a purple, the other might pick green, very contrast colors. In recent years, the selected colors have trended bolder and more expressive, featuring bright, vibrant earth-like undertones like red, yellow, or midnight blue on the front door. Don't expect exterior front doors to pop up red on every street corner, but this year could signal a more upward trend toward pops of color as accent pieces on the front exterior change colors.

Homeowners have become eco-friendlier and more economical, many want to ensure every facet of their home is up to current standards. This includes the addition of energy-efficient windows. They are always an excellent investment for a home, regardless of the age of the home. New windows can even increase the home's value but what I really want to address is the trend that has been upcoming around the energy-efficient windows. A newer trend with the addition of new windows is framing the window in exterior trim. There seems to be two ends of the spectrum, color-wise, with milky white trim colors trending as well as dark, nearly black trim. Both of these options are helping to make trim a focal point on the façade because trim creates a stark contrast on the right house. Many homeowners are choosing



to use trim to create board and batten looks on the exterior of their homes, and while bold, it is a classic look that will also withstand the test of time. This trend also shows up on bolder, blockier trim such as wider window trim or raised panels, giving different textures all on one exterior.

Going alittle further we find a variety of trim products that generate visual interest. Exterior materials of historic planking, stone, cedar shakes, slate roofing and stucco, along with accents of copper add a rich texture to the home. The use of these modern and traditional materials together results in a home that is exciting and unexpected at the same time.

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.”

James Dent

Water Damage Restoration Services

Do you have water trouble? Whether it's caused by storm floods, broken pipes, sewage backups, malfunctioning appliances, or an overflowing toilet, let our water damage technicians extract the water and dry out your property fast. No matter the cause of your water damage, we are here to clean up and restore your home or business back to its original condition. We do it!



CALL: 570-419-2021



View of the Loo

People are ready to make a splash in their bathrooms again with design-rejuvenating remodels. They want bathrooms that are easy to maintain and pack in as much function as possible. They want to incorporate interesting lighting, elegant tile, and/or fun wallpaper. Mainly, we are seeing a move away from the boring, beige developer special. Several top trending ideas for when it's time for a redo are as follows:

Midcentury Modern: This trend has stuck around for a reason. Maybe you have some original bombproof tile still around, or a few uniquely colored fixtures. Maybe you just want your bathroom design to stay in keeping with the era of the house. Whatever the specific reasons, the angular, colorful and stylish aspects of midcentury modern endures.

Scandinavian Minimalism: Still one of the hottest classics around—this style hallmarks include clean, plain lines, neutral shades and practical construction. It endears itself to blonde woods, white or pale paint, and simple furnishings and fixtures.

Rustic Farmhouse: Popularized by Magnolia's Joanna Gaines, rustic farmhouse styles are still popping up in bathrooms from coast to coast. This trend features natural woods, vintage details like clawfoot tubs, classic black-and-white mini hex tile, décor and a notably welcoming warmth.

Modern Coastal: Hot on the heels of "seashells by the seashore" bathroom themes of the '80s came modern coastal. The trend is characterized by blue-and-white color palettes, nautical elements, natural light, seagrass, natural woods and brass hardware.



Email the Expert

Q.—We would like to set a post with concrete for our new mail box. How do you go about setting a new post?

Doug and Kate

A.—Generally, the concrete post hole should be 1/3 to 1/2 the height of the post. If your post is 6 feet high, then you should position the post in a 2' - 3' hole. Dig a hole 3' deep and wide enough for the post to slip into the hole easily. You will need two 50 lb bags of fast setting concrete to set a mailbox post in a hole that is 1/3 -1/2 the height of the post. Place the concrete tub form in the hole and set the post into the form and make sure the post is standing up straight. Next, pour the concrete mix into the tube. Keeping the post straight in the hole, pour water into the dry mix and allow it to soak in. Use enough water to saturate the dry mix. Fill the remainder of the hole with the soil you dug earlier from the hole. The concrete will set in 20—40 minutes. Wait four hours before placing heavy objects on the post.

If you have a question you would like to ask? **EMAIL THE EXPERT** by sending your question to steve@sechristconstruction.com. Please be sure to include your name and phone number in case additional information is required to answer your question.

Historical Architecture

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You can learn a lot about history by looking around an older house. Charming features like phone niches reveal a lot about the people and technology of bygone days. If you have ever inspected an



older staircase, you may have noticed details like brass corner protectors. The purpose of them was to keep the corners from accumulating dust. Vacuum cleaners had not been invented yet and sweeping dust out of the stair corners was a major headache. The guards were created in the 1890s to help simplify sweeping and to add charm to wooden

staircases.



A baluster, also called a spindle, is part of a staircase's support system. They hold up the handrail. If there's one upside-down baluster on your historic staircase, blame superstition. Some builders purposely installed one

baluster to acknowledge that "only God's creations are perfect". Others cited an English superstition that claims an upside-down baluster prevents the devil from climbing the stairs and taking anyone on their deathbed. Does your staircase have one baluster that is upside-down?

American Trivia That You Didn't Know

Kansas produces enough wheat in one year to feed everyone in the world for two weeks.

Russia sold Alaska to the USA for 2 cents per acre. Total cost—\$7.2 million.

The word "Pennsylvania" is misspelled on the Liberty Bell.

Arizona and Hawaii don't observe daylight savings time.

Morgan Island, off the coast of S. Carolina is home to a colony of monkeys.

George Washington didn't have wooden teeth. His teeth were actually made from a combination of donkey, horse, and human teeth.



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From The Desk

As I write, I note that it is August already. Through the simmering summertime we have kept the ball rolling with new construction, remodeling and water mitigation action. The petitions for solid construction keep our business moving and our schedule is full into next spring already!

Thank you to our generous customers who keep us charged with continuing projects. We appreciate your willingness to allow us to do our best where it matters most. *Steve*

Elotes, (Mexican Street Corn)

This Mexican classic is easily the most flavorful, grilled way to eat fresh corn. Its covered in

mayo,
sour

Ingredients

Canola oil, for grill grates
1/4 c mayo
1/4 c sour cream
1 small clove garlic, pressed
1 T fresh lime juice
1/2 t chili powder
Salt and Pepper
8 ears fresh corn, husked
1/3 c finely crumbled cotija cheese
Chili-lime seasoning, chopped fresh cilantro

1. Heat grill to medium. Once hot, clean and oil grill grates. Stir together mayo, sour cream, garlic, lime juice and chili powder in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Grill corn, turning frequently, until lightly charred, 5-7 minutes. Brush with mayo mixture and sprinkle with cheese, dividing evenly. Garnish with chili-lime seasoning and cilantro.



Green Tip: Its recycling day at Staples EVERYDAY! Besides technology, ink & toner and batteries, Staples recycles school supplies—backpacks, lunch boxes, binders, crayons, glue sticks, markers, pencils & pencil pouches, luggage, bags, phone cases, sodaStream CO2 cylinders, iPads & eReader cases, even smart watch bands!