

ASK THE



We asked some of the Bethesda area's leading builders and architects for their expert advice on important issues facing consumers who are considering building a new home or renovating an existing one.



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EXPERTS

BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS



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Johnson of A.R.T. Design Build:

Due to increasing awareness of environmental issues, homeowners are frequently requesting that we incorporate green or sustainable building materials into our projects. A.R.T. Design Build has several project managers who are educated in green building. Any up-charge in costs are generally offset by long-term energy savings.

Giarraputo of Studio Z:

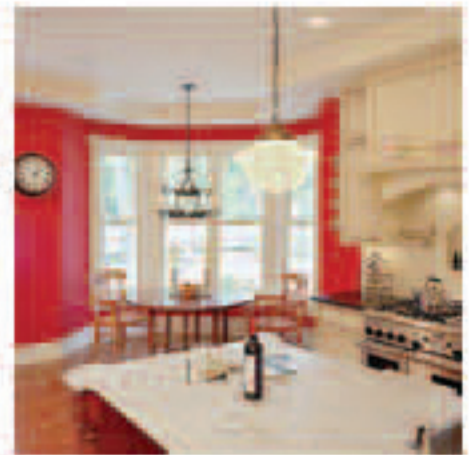
Five or 10 years ago the majority of our clients wanted larger homes with at least four or five bedrooms and bathrooms. Now most of our clients are expressing a desire for a smaller home with fewer, smaller spaces designed and executed with a higher level of details and finishes.

A mudroom with a powder room and locker storage for the kids is the single biggest program piece that clients have on their wish lists these days.

Franke of Franke Architects

Brodsky Kress of Sandy Spring Builders:

New features that were not common five or 10 years ago are media rooms, sound systems and low voltage wiring throughout the house, gourmet/commercial-style kitchen appliances, more natural materials such as stone and



Courtesy of Block Builders

hardwood, upgraded HVAC systems and overall energy-efficiency and green products.

Franke of Franke Architects:

A mudroom with a powder room and locker storage for the kids is the single biggest program piece that clients have on their wish lists these days. Because of the age of most of the houses in the area, most clients want to integrate a powder room on the main level of the house.

Ponte of Ponte Mellor Architects:

In the last five to 10 years I have seen a shift in home design with the desire for many homeowners to incorporate features that were not

considered before. The most requested design features are dedicated homework and computer/Internet stations outside of children's bedrooms. Mudrooms with built-ins/lockers for storage and an adjacent powder have also become "must-have" features.