

Breathtaking Spaces



So much is being said today about integrating interior with exterior spaces. This is a major theme in current residential design. Homeowners want to maximize the view of their outdoor environment and vigorously pursue an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. The once typical six-foot-wide sliding glass patio door has given way to multi-panel sliding or folding door systems that open up the entire wall of a room to the outside.

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Photography by Trent Bell

Open-Faced Cheese Sandwich

Recipes from *Erich's Kitchen*

I wanted to share with everyone a real simple recipe for open-faced cheese sandwiches that my mom used to make when I was a kid. The reason I wanted to share it now is this sandwich is best when the tomatoes are right from the garden. Enjoy them this summer.

Ingredients

- One slice white bread
- One slice tomato
- One slice American cheese
- Oregano & garlic salt to taste

Directions

Once you have assembled the open-face sandwich, put it in the oven and broil until the cheese starts to bubble and turn brown. The edges of the bread will be toasted as well. If you want to dress this up a little bit, add a couple slices of cooked bacon.



REMODELING DESIGNS WELCOMES a New Little Addition



Mark and Christine Balsan are excited to welcome a new little addition to their family. Baby boy, Graham Kenneth Balsan, was born on Friday, March 6th at 2:36 p.m. weighing in at 8 pounds 1 ounce, and 20.5 inches long. Graham is beautiful and sweet in every way and has already stolen our hearts.

Christine has been with Remodeling Designs for four years and does sales, estimating and marketing for the company. Mark has been the Production Manager for two years.

Breathtaking Spaces

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Photography by Trent Bell



The New American Home (TNAH) 2015 is a spectacular example of seamlessly blending the line between indoors and out. For example, the kitchen, breakfast nook, dining area, and great room share one open space that also connects to the backyard pool area and central courtyard. Sliding pocket doors recede into the walls to create doorways up to 26 feet wide, while the tile flooring extends from the interior rooms out to the courtyard, right up to the edge of the infinity pool that appears to continue on towards the horizon. The design and materials tie the spaces together so cleverly that the boundaries are completely blurred. The end result is an incredibly breathtaking aesthetic.

TNAH 2015, which was open for tours during the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas, showcases the latest home building technology and ideas for remodelers and other building industry professionals to take away—in large pieces, or bit-by bit—and put into millions of homes at any price point across the country.

This year's TNAH floor plan is relatively compact at just under 5,900 square feet, and efficiently laid out to encompass a spacious living area, four bedrooms (including a separate guest casita), and plenty of entertaining spaces. It was designed to facilitate a relaxed, casual lifestyle.

The kitchen is the undisputed focal point of the main living space, as a location for entertaining, relaxing, or serious cooking. Done in a sleek modern style, the kitchen combines the home's desert contemporary architecture with European-inspired finishes. It is equipped with two islands, state-of-the-art appliances and vent hood from Bosch, a Kohler faucet and sink, and countertops made of DuPont Zodiaq quartz and Walker Zanger Calacata Carrara marble.

The home achieved net zero electrical usage, thanks to a superior insulation package, passive solar design, LED light fixtures, Energy Star appliances, and an 15 kW photovoltaic array. The home also attained a remarkable HERS Index score of -13—the HERS Index being a measurement of a home's energy efficiency. ■



New Product Introductions

Best of KBIS 2015

Every year, manufacturers vie to win the biggest award in kitchen and bath: the coveted Best of KBIS at the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show. Members of the Modenus BlogTour Las Vegas judged all the new product introductions for 2015. The winning entries were selected based on functionality, quality, durability, flexibility, aesthetics, style and innovation.

Best of Kitchen—Gold: Brizo for Articulating Faucet Brizo's new single-handle articulating kitchen faucet was inspired by the functionality and timeless design of an architect lamp. The spray wand can be easily docked and undocked for maximum function and efficiency while maintaining a streamlined form. The faucet will be available in two distinct collections, Arteso and Solna, and a variety of finishes.

KITCHEN TRENDS FOR 2015

Trends in the kitchen and bath industry do not change overnight, as they often do in the fashion world, but every year there is a subtle shift in emphasis. Innovative products emerge and new design ideas come to the forefront. The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) tracks these trends through their annual Kitchen & Bath Design Trends report. The 2015 report identifies an important development in North American kitchens—contemporary and transitional styles have finally overtaken traditional in terms of popularity!

HERE ARE THE TOP 10 OVERALL KITCHEN DESIGN TRENDS NKBA EXPECTS FOR 2015:

1. Clean with an overall contemporary feeling. A fusion of styles and multiple colors in one kitchen.
2. European-styled cabinets.
3. Multiples of appliances in one kitchen.
4. The rise of steam ovens.
5. Furniture-look pieces.
6. Outdoor kitchens.
7. Fewer standard kitchen tables, replaced by counters or tall gathering tables.
8. TVs and docking stations.
9. Wine refrigerators.
10. Focus on the user experience, from easy maintenance to accessible design. Considering the needs of all users in the space, including pets.

Transitional, Shaker and contemporary will continue to be the leading kitchen design styles in 2015. On the rise is retro and mid-century modern. There is a desire for a feeling of airiness, spaciousness, and a less formal style overall. White is the most common color scheme for kitchens, with shades of grey a close second.

Painted cabinets rule, especially white cabinets, while dark natural finishes are in second place. Expected to grow in 2015 are painted colors other than white, and maple or bird's eye maple. There is increasing demand for Euro-style high-gloss lacquers.

Cabinet storage solutions are hugely popular, with pullouts and rollouts expected to increase in 2015. Trash/recycling pullouts are the most sought-after. Non-refrigerated wine storage is decreasing as refrigerated wine cabinets gain in popularity.

Lifestyle trends favoring cooking hobbyists and wellness enthusiasts are reflected in the growth in 2015 of microwave drawers, convection ovens, induction cooktops, and steam ovens. Built-in appliances, including cabinet depth refrigerators/freezers, have widespread appeal.

Quartz countertops have overtaken granite, and are predicted to gain by a large margin in 2015. Solid surface and laminate are on the decline.

Stainless steel is by far the preferred type of kitchen sink. Pullout faucets will continue to dominate the market, with touch-activated faucets growing at the expense of standard faucets. Polished chrome is clearly the favorite finish and will continue to rise in 2015.

Wood and ceramic or porcelain tile flooring are the two most popular kitchen flooring materials with both expected to increase in 2015. Tile that resembles wood plank has caught on.



Photo: Courtesy of Thermador (www.thermador.com)

Best of Show: LG Hausys for TechTop Wireless Charging Surface LG Hausys embedded TechTop into their Hi-Macs and Viatera surfaces, which allows users to charge their mobile device by simply placing it on top of the embedded surface. Electricity is transmitted wirelessly by way of electromagnetic fields. The Hi-Macs surface holds a transmitter coil that generates a magnetic field through an alternating current. The field resonates with the receiver and induces voltage up to 5 watts of current.

Photo: Courtesy of LG Hausys (www.LGTechTop.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Brizo (www.brizo.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Walker Zanger (www.walkerzanger.com)

Best of Bath—Gold: Walker Zanger for Sterling Row tile collection The designs of Sterling Row tiles are inspired by the elegant feel of suits from the finest tailors in London, Manhattan and Paris. Mosaic patterns such as Wingtip, Oxford and Tuxedo evoke the style of iconic figures such as Cary Grant. Created from a combination of porcelain tile and marble in tones of gray, white and black, Sterling Row offers the look of exquisite wood and marble inlay.

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Project Manager: Chad Snow
Designer: Beth Spegal
Sales: Erich Eggers & Christine Balsan



Residential Kitchen \$75,000 to \$100,000
Project Manager: Chad Snow
Designer: Beth Spegal
Sales: Erich Eggers



Universal Design
Project Manager: Scott Pierron
Designer: Beth Spegal
Sales: Erich Eggers & Christine Balsan