

# FATHER AND SON BUILDERS

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SPRING

# Remodeling Tips

2009

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Top 500 Remodelers



Courtesy of Father and Son Builders and Remodelers



## Home Sweet Hideaway

Americans are rediscovering the homestead. After years of believing the only place to eat was in a restaurant and the only place for entertainment was at a movie theater, we're choosing to stay home more and we're loving it! Now we're looking for ways to make our homes the place where we feel most vibrantly alive and peacefully contented.

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Photo: Timberlake Cabinetry (www.Timberlake.com)

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# Home Sweet Hideaway

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One place to look is The New American Home 2009, built for the International Builders Show in Las Vegas this year. This multi-million-dollar home showcases an abundance of new concepts that can be adapted to home design and remodeling at all price levels.

We can pick up some incredible ideas just by focusing on one section of the large house: the master suite. This suite is a beautiful, restful oasis located on the main level, but at the opposite side of the house from the public area.

To help keep the bedroom cool in the hot, desert climate, it was given a northern exposure. Taking advantage of the climate and geography when planning rooms in a home can greatly add to energy efficiency. The master suite also benefits from the insulated concrete forms used for the main structural element of the entire home, providing superior thermal performance throughout.

The bedroom is seamlessly integrated with the exterior Zen garden through an 8-foot-wide passage created by motorized telescoping all-glass patio doors. The restful spirit of an outdoor garden can permeate an entire home through expansive openings like this.

In the master closet, sleek Espresso stained wood cabinets with horizontally placed Zebra wood faces reinforce the feeling of serenity. This carefully planned walk-in closet provides organized storage for all the things that typically clutter up a bedroom. Organized storage is one of the most sought-after amenities in today's home.

A well-appointed morning kitchen adjacent to the bedroom provides all the necessary appliances, storage and workspace to conveniently start the day. A mini-kitchen can be tucked into the corner of almost any room to provide a welcome drink or snack.

The master bath is welcoming to all abilities and age groups. The no-threshold shower with integral bench, the floating vanities, and the wide-decked tub demonstrate the application of universal design principles.



Eco-friendly solutions are evident throughout the master suite. Just a few examples: Tankless water heaters provide instant hot water without wasting the energy necessary to keep water hot in a separate tank. Solar electric power is generated from solar panels installed on the roof. LED fixtures were chosen for the recessed lights in the ceiling. The soft carpet underfoot is made from SmartStrand, a new fiber that is made in part from renewable crops.

This house is an amazing garden of ideas. Take good notes and have fun tossing around some of these exciting new concepts. Picture how they could be transplanted into your own house to help make it the place you're glad to come home to. ■

## Smart Carpet

Even the carpet is green in the eco-savvy New American Home 2009. The SmartStrand carpet by Mohawk is made from Dupont Sorona fibers. Since these fibers are created in part from renewable crops like field corn, the carpet helps conserve our limited petroleum resources. But that's not its only selling point. It also has permanent stain-resistance engineered into the fibers, so there is no need to re-treat the carpet with stain protectors after steam cleaning. In wear tests it has also proven to be exceptionally durable. ■

## Good Vibes

Kohler takes relaxation to a new level in The New American Home with their VibrAcoustic bathtub. Transducers are located on the backside of the bath below the water for a music vibration experience and two above the water for audio. Four preset VibroAcoustic experiences synchronize music, vibration and light with water. A DTV Bath interface controls all features and affords bathers the option of listening to a favorite play list from an MP3 player or a radio station from a home computer. A DTV Bath interface controls all features and affords bathers the option of listening to a favorite play list from an MP3 player or a radio station from a home computer. ■

# A Fusion of Color Trends

By Barbara Schirmeister,  
ASID, CAUS, DC



Portions of the Interiors 2009-2010 color forecast, which exhibit the various directions. (Courtesy of The Color Association of the United States CAUS), [www.colorassociation.com](http://www.colorassociation.com).

“Color dichotomy” describes the color forecast for 2009-2010 for residential and commercial interiors from the Color Association of the United States (CAUS), a forecast of color trends used by manufacturers of environmental and interior products. The palette exhibits both contrast and contradiction, reflecting uncertain and chaotic circumstances as we approach a new decade of the 21st century.

## Urban Neutrals

Urban neutrals are the core:

- No-colors – a bit off kilter and moody, such as sepias, taupes, tobaccos, bronzes and off-browns;
- Whites – speak of purity, luxury, the ethereal and a new start; it acts as a stage set for beautiful color combos.
- Gray – Definitely the new leading family. We see “techie” grays alongside of elegant taupes, metallic silvers and graphites.

## Graphic Brights

These vibrant, energetic colors are represented with new neons, acid and fluorescent brights, electric primaries, and the bold contrast of black and white. The graphic brights punch up the urban neutrals and the black and white story.

## Eco-colors

Driving influences on color and design are sustainability and ecological concerns. These colors are familiar and comforting

and include pre-washed hues, organic dyes and tender colorations inspired by nature.

- Cheerful, sunlit golds and yellows;
- New botanical greens as fresh grasses and new leaves, celadons, clean tropicals and jades;
- Reds are important – from terracottas and pinks to crimson;
- Orange becomes coral, copper and cantaloupe;
- We will have blue in all its glory: sky blue, periwinkle, cobalt, cornflower, royal, nautical, lavender blue and a plethora of spa-influenced blues. Purpled blues and blued-greens shift into a new range of teals and aquas. The blue palette will play off of the urban neutrals and metallic segments of the palette.

## Luster and Shimmer

Sparkle and shine has resurfaced with a vengeance as glitz, dazzle and shimmer. Luster adds life to deep shades. This contemporary fantasy embraces glamour in all forms and applauds over-the-top drama in design. Metallics are a major influence in reflective color. Tarnished, burnished, polished or brushed, they add to the neutral palette. Choose from an array of silvers, coppers, bronzes or precious metals.

Finally, there will be an emphasis on imagination, fostering a mix of unusual color combinations. ■



Echo Recycled Glass by Crossville, designed by Barbara Schirmeister, addresses two important trends: luster and shimmer, which are adorning products everywhere; and the world's concern with sustainability and the environment.



Crossville's Modern Mythology Natural Stone Collection represents some of the new neutrals and the graphic blacks and whites in the 2009-2010 forecast. Barbara Schirmeister designed the collection.



Internationally renowned color expert Barbara Schirmeister, ASID, has been a longtime member of the 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 companies.



# You Were Smart to Wait!

Up to \$1,500 for you **RIGHT NOW!!!**

**CLAIM YOUR STIMULUS!**

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed a stimulus bill (The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) that made some significant changes to the energy efficiency tax credits.

### What Are the Specific Changes?

- The tax credits that were previously effective for 2009, have been extended to 2010 as well.
- The tax credit has been raised from 10% to 30%.
- The tax credits that were for a specific dollar amount (ex \$300 for a CAC), have been converted to 30% of the cost.
- The maximum credit has been raised from \$500 to \$1500 for the two years (2009–2010). However, some improvements such as geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, and solar panels are not subject to the \$1,500 maximum.
- The \$200 cap on windows has been removed.

### Is My Project Eligible?

- Must be placed in service from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010
- Must be for taxpayers principal residence
- Maximum amount is \$1,500 in 2009 & 2010 for most home improvements (geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, solar panels, fuel cells, and windmills are not subject to this cap, and are in effect through 2016)

- Must have a Manufacturer Certification Statement to qualify
- For record keeping, save your receipts and the Manufacturer Certification Statement
- Improvements made in 2009 will be claimed on your 2009 taxes (filed by April 15, 2010) — use IRS Tax Form 5695 (2009 version) — it will be available late 2009 or early 2010
- If you are building a new home, you can qualify for the tax credit for geothermal heat pumps, photovoltaics, solar water heaters, small wind systems and fuel cells, but not the tax credits for windows, doors, insulation, roofs, HVAC, or non-solar water heaters.

**Father and Son Builders** can help you with all your energy-efficient home improvements.

**100% Financing. Call NOW to find out more about claiming your \$1,500 on the following improvements:**

- **Windows and Doors**
- **Insulation**
- **Roofs**
- **HVAC**
- **Water Heaters**
- **Biomass Stoves**



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Note: This information does not constitute the provision of legal or tax advice. Before making a decision based on this information, consult with a professional tax or legal advisor.