

homefront

Residential Real Estate
Trends and Tips



PHOTO BY METRO

THIS LOW-PROFILE Shower Base with Teak Shower Seat and Teutonic Enclosure from MTI Whirlpools is a popular choice among families looking for a multi-generational design to their bathroom that caters to the needs of everyone in the household.

Multi-generational popular design trend in homes

Multi-generational design is one of today's fastest growing trends in the housing industry. As more and more people understand the benefits that smart planning affords to those of all age groups and abilities, a demand is being generated for products that combine style, safety, beauty and comfort with practicality and versatility. In fact, it's what good, smart design should be.

Multi-generational design has applications throughout the house, but it is particularly important in the bathroom. A well-thought-out bathroom can easily accommodate the needs of young children, older adults and those with disabilities. And while there are many practical considerations that play an important role in the design process, including safety, space, comfort and ease of use, being "sensible" doesn't mean the bathroom has to look utilitarian. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Regardless of the size and style of tub selected, there are a number of modest enhancements that can be made to add significantly to the bath environment, making it more multi-generationally sensitive. For instance, safety and security can be increased for all members with the addition of grab bars inside and/or outside the tub.

Available in a variety of sizes, materials and finishes, these grab bars are designed to be both decorative and functional. While providing cosmetic accent, properly positioned grab bars are a low-cost, preventative addition that people of all ages will find helpful. Other popular additions for consideration include:

- Hand-held shower. This handy device can be used to rinse the body while bathing, and it also makes hair-washing easier.
- Neck Pillows. Soft, durable vinyl pillows are available in a variety of shapes to provide neck support, comfort and relaxation.

Lush lawn

The summer season is a popular time for homeowners to put their houses on the real estate market. How do you set yours apart from the rest and help ensure it will sell faster? Estimates from the Professional Landcare Network and real estate agents reveal that landscaping can add up to 15 percent to property value. Creating a lush lawn and vibrant garden are some of the areas on which to focus. They can help your home appear to be a premium property. Investments in accent lighting, paving stones and ornamental water features are other touches that can project your home in a positive light. Because maintaining your landscape can be time-consuming work, it could pay to hire a landscaper or lawn service to keep on top of mowing and other maintenance until your property is sold.

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Once upon a time...

Storybook ranch has backyard oasis



PHOTOS BY RHETT BUTLER/THE DAILY REFLECTOR

ENGLEWOOD SUBDIVISION: This home is located at 1736 Beaumont Drive in the Englewood Subdivision.

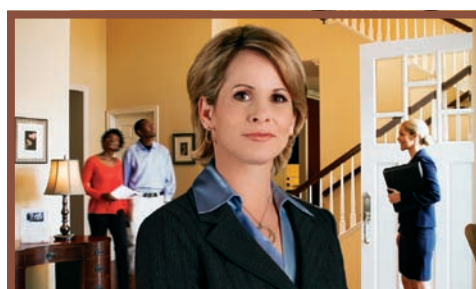
Follow Beaumont Drive's tree-lined lane into the driveway of this charming storybook ranch. New construction simply cannot compare to this home's distinctive design, which includes a floor-to-ceiling brick kitchen fireplace, vintage hardwood floors, cottage-style paneling, sparkling tile bathrooms, built-in bookcase, crown molding and wide baseboards. With formal living and dining rooms and a casual den within the kitchen, entertaining is a cinch.

Although there's plenty to love about the rest of the house, it's quite possible the space you'll love the most isn't even inside. Nearly every angle of the luscious back lawn could be a postcard, just perfect for the cool Autumn air.

With a brick-enclosed tile patio, vibrant gardens, wired workshop, mature trees, and paved path to a secluded arbor with swing, you'd never imagine a backyard paradise like this was possible within the city limits.

Even better, less-than-ideal weather still can't keep you from enjoying the surroundings. The splendid sunroom walled with crystal-clear windows offers the perfect climate-controlled view. This idyllic combination home and retreat is priced at \$187,900 and features four bedrooms, three bathrooms, and over 2,000 square feet. First-time home buyers — apply your \$8,000 tax credit next year to your loan and shave years off your mortgage and create instant equity! (Time runs out for the credit on November 30th!)

For a tour of this home, contact Tiffany Bridgers at Century 21 The Realty Group: (252)-355-7800 ext. 822.



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