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Volume 23, Issue 9



In Place Cabinetry Finishes

Helping you fall in love with your kitchen all over again

page 11

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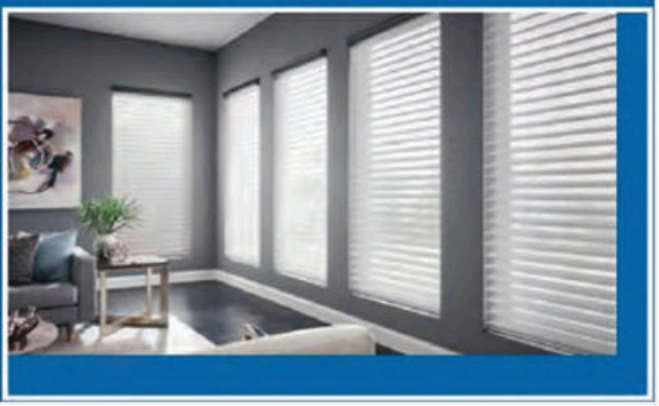
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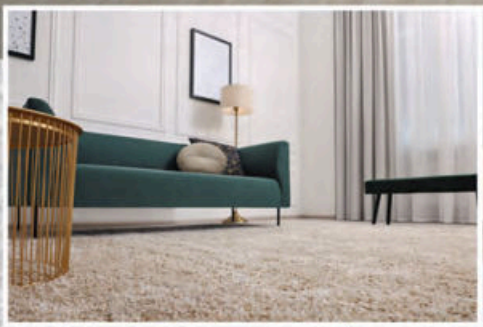
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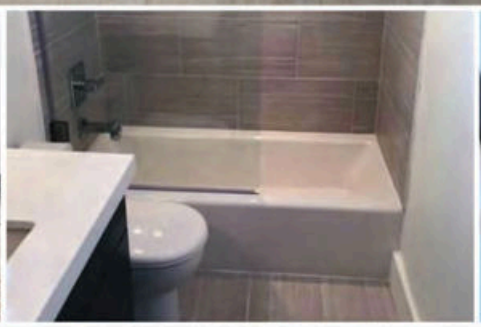
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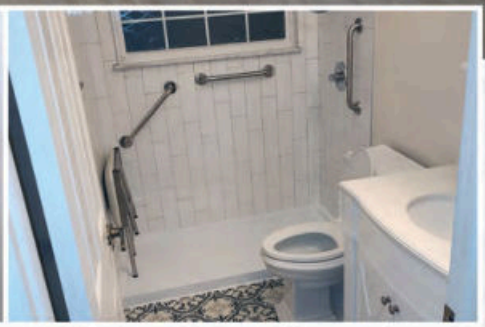
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National Sales Office:
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Email: info@housemagazine.com

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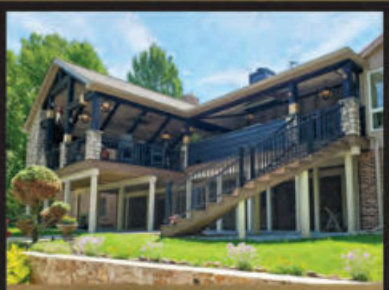
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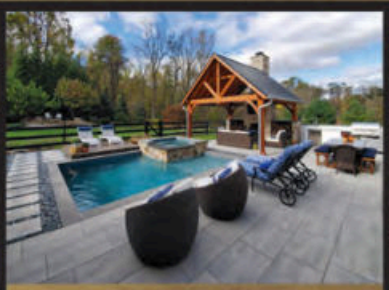
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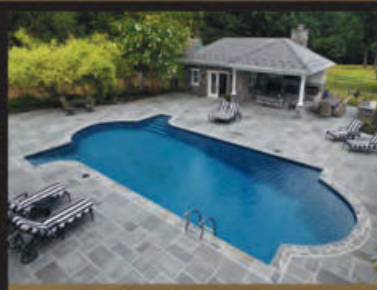
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Love Your Kitchen Again

by Madeleine Maccar

Led by Charles Dickey, the **In Place Cabinetry Finishes** team are experts in delivering jaw-dropping renovation results without breaking the bank—or driving you out of your living space for an extended period of time.

When you've been refining something for over 23 years, you become the expert in your field—especially when you've spent that time strengthening a reputation of innovation and dedication to delivering high-quality results.

Ever since contractor Charles Dickey took on his first kitchen job, he's been using his talent, standards and vision to modernize the space for homeowners without draining their bank accounts. It's the transformative powers of an expertly efficient refinishing job and diligently retained timelines that help Dickey and the In Place Cabinetry Finishes team deliver cost-effective, dazzling results time and again, all without driving a family out of their kitchen for a seemingly unending period.

An awful lot of work and drawing from research has gone into perfecting their conversion varnish application method to update and upgrade any kitchen, entertainment center or even bathroom that could benefit from "a splash of change," as described by Charles' wife, Kit.

"We are transforming kitchens at a fraction of the price by refinishing their doors and body with a spray technique," she explains. "My husband was one of the first people we know of to be doing this spraying process, definitely in this region and possibly in the country. He came up with this while working with designers and homeowners."

"Conversion varnish is the highest-quality product you can put on your existing cabinets. That sets us apart from your standard painters in the field," adds sales and design expert Denise Darrell. "High-end painters refer us regularly because of the materials and systems employed. Conversion varnish is a thoroughbred product, so it's the same from the first coat to the last, no priming or clear coat."

That game-changing process—which has become more widespread since Charles started utilizing it two decades ago—yields an array of aesthetic and practical advantages.

"It's sustainable; it's an added value," Kit notes. "We work with our other vendors to pull off an entire kitchen, including countertops, backsplashes, and lighting; cabinet pulls with all the decorative details in a week to two weeks. I think that's key since most people will be out of their kitchen when they get a renovation done for quite a while. And our finishes are brand-new factory finishes—by that, I mean they're incredibly durable."

"It's the hardest finish you can put on your cabinets," Darrell agrees. "It comes with a 15-year warranty; it's guaranteed not to change in color. Colors, in general, change over time from UV lights, whether it's coating on the floors or coatings on cabinets—they can turn yellow or lighten, and this is guaranteed not to do that for 15 years or more. You won't see any degradation in color."

She continues: "With regular wear and tear, we can't make guarantees: If your grandchild runs their scooter into the side of the island, because it's a hard finish, it will chip. But what we're proud of is that we do not look at that as a problem: Any time there's a service that's needed, even though it's not a warrantied item, standing behind everything we do allows us to meet with our clients again."

In Place Cabinetry Finishes does more than upgrade and reinforce tired, dated fixtures, with customization options that include redesigns. Mini makeovers can range from refreshed colors to reclaiming storage space with slow-close cabinets, to transforming something like an unused desk area into a much more modern and valuable beverage nook, to refinishing bathroom cabinets or beautifying laundry rooms. As long as the intended project space can sustain the reality of a dream renovation come to life, the team can work their magic.

Since In Place Cabinetry Finishes offers a suite of custom services, clients come back to them as new interior remodeling projects arise—and are eager to tell others how much they love the finished result and the team who made it happen. And with the company's recent move to its new Dublin location doubling its capacity, they can keep providing returning customers and newly referred clients alike with the long-lasting kitchens and bathrooms they're known for.

"Generally, our largest quantity of leads are coming from previous projects, like people that had us work on a home project before, and now they want us to work on the new house they just bought," Darrell says. "Their word-of-mouth referrals to friends and family are the best compliment we can get." **H&H**,

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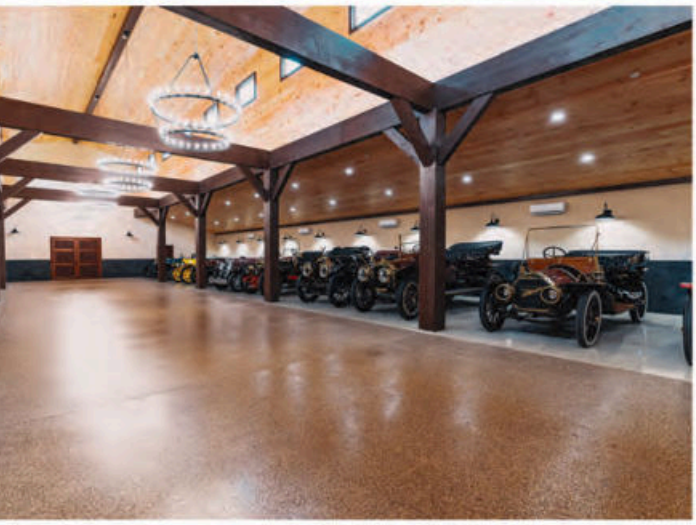
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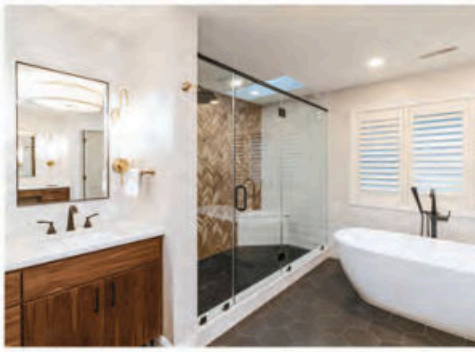


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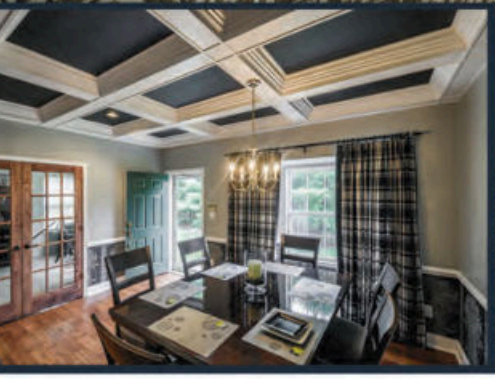
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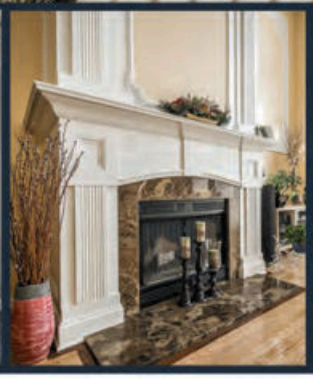
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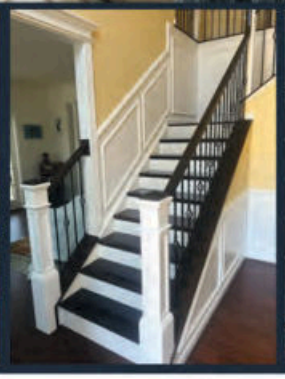
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REVOLUTIONIZING

Garages can often be the dirtiest parts of a living space, as well as the most neglected. Many people use their garages for storage, and sometimes reorganizing can seem like too much of an undertaking. This is exponentiated by dirt tracked in from vehicles or shoes, which inevitably causes the flooring to deteriorate. Ultimately, a garage's utility and appearance are just as necessary as any other type of home renovation—especially when walking through it cannot be avoided.

Transforming a garage can result in numerous finished products: from storage spaces with streamlined organization systems, to an additional room that functions as a living space, or even just creating enough room to park vehicles. Whether one envisions a new workout room, or a man-cave makeover to invite friends over to watch a game, local experts are there to provide services from top to bottom. As an added perk, a renovated garage can increase a property's value.

In speaking with garage makeover professionals, the two most common problems that people experience with their garages are flooring that is too difficult to clean, and clutter. They all agree that the before-and-

When renovating a house, **one of the most neglected areas is the garage**—yet, it is often a high traffic area—used as an entryway and an exit that is walked through multiple times a day. Thankfully, local companies are here to help turn a garage from an eyesore into another space that **feels like home.**



YOUR GARAGE

BY CARLY MURRAY

after transformation results in an awe-struck customer.

"They're pretty excited, which is surprising. It's a garage, right? They're delighted that the main house is clean because people aren't tracking all the dirt from the garage in the house," says Reid Murray, owner and president of Floorguard.

The main priority in seeking a renovated garage floor is its durability, as traditional gray is generally the customer's color preference. Furthermore, any patterns are typically subtle. For those who want a bold statement for the first impression of their home, there are options for blue, black, red and even glitter embellishments. Straying from the conventional is rare when it comes to garage design, but it's exciting to know the extent of customization that can be achieved to convert an ideal vision into a reality. Though appearance is important when considering a garage renovation, it is not the only element for which to account.

Especially in a home with children, garages contain many potential hazards. Flooring with a sealant will be more visually appealing, and it is safer and less likely to cause slipping. According to experts, the traditionally considered epoxy is losing traction for garage flooring. Additionally, since the pandemic, the price of epoxy has increased.

"Epoxy is very hard, but it does not have much flexibility. Therefore, with the concrete movement in garages from temperature change, the concrete will move slightly with the temperature change and this could cause epoxy to crack since the epoxy is not flexible—and another reason for using the polyaspartic versus the epoxy is it has a better heat threshold, which means it won't melt or peel from the hot tars. And last of all, epoxy is not UV-stable which means with direct sunlight, it will start to yellow or fade. … Polyaspartic is totally UV-stable, which means it will not fade from direct sunlight," says David Smucker, owner of Duramax Concrete Coatings.

"The texture from the flakes gives it a natural slip resistance. And we can also add to that with an additive in the top coat, which gives it more of a sandpaper feel. So

REVOLUTIONIZING YOUR GARAGE

we can very much control the final texture as far as slip resistance," he adds.

As an alternative product to epoxy, Joseph Paul, president of Apex Concrete Coating Solutions, recommends "the combination of the polyurea base and the polyaspartic top that really sets us apart from most of our other competitors. It's the best combination of garage flooring currently on the market."

Murray says the installations at Floorguard also contain a polyaspartic topcoat with textured flakes.

"People are delighted with the product. I like to say it's all about us, but the product and material, which—we make our own chemicals, and we make them in the United States and we've been doing it for 30 years—but the product is great. The finished product is really terrific," he says.

There's no excuse to delay getting started when using the right materials. According to Paul, "We're not hampered by cold temperatures or extremely high temperatures for installation. We do work all year round. Air temperature can be a big issue with the epoxies."

Once a company is selected and an inquiry is made, a garage can be modified with minimal stress on the customer's end. Professionals are available from start to finish, taking care of each necessary step. "We go in and measure the garage, see what they're looking for, create a design and then we proceed from there," says Aaron Lewis, owner of Closets For Less.

"We handle it from start to finish, we've got a network of outside sales reps who are designers that meet with the potential customer, consult them on their needs and their wants with the design, and then sketch it out and use their experience and our product portfolio to best use the space to accommodate the goals of the storage area," says Dave Schaefer, general manager of Innovative Closet Designs.

And with the perfect storage solution, tripping on clutter can be avoided, too. For further safety, it can also prevent clutter from collapsing or creating an avalanche. Organized storage options come a variety of ways, and different lifestyles call for a unique choice for each household. One would be amazed at how a compatible storage system can completely condense disorder into newly available space.

"Lately, everyone wants to have a nice floor and they want to get organization systems. Some customers want cabinets to have everything enclosed. Some customers don't mind having shelving, or they actually prefer having shelving so they can see everything," says Lenny Kelman, owner of Dream Garage Remodeling, Co.

Storage systems can be functional, trendy and even protected—meaning locks can be added to ensure security. Whether protecting valuable items from theft or keeping items like power tools and chemicals out of the reach of children, there is a storage solution for each customer's needs.

"We have the ability to give people what they want. … We can offer cabinets, slatwall, the door-front Monkey Bar shelving and overhead storage. So basically, everything that you may think of that you may want for a storage purpose … in most cases, it's a combination of things," Kelman continues.

Perhaps reorganizing can allow for a perfect workshop, with all of the tools in a designated place and easily accessible. Maybe a garage's makeover into a livable space will inspire further evolutions of utility like a private space to play loud music or video games comfortably without disturbing the rest of the house. Ultimately, with unfathomable new space, the options are endless. Schaefer notes that he has even made room for dog-washing areas.

"Thanks to our flexibility and being able to customize or to accommodate specific requests or goals in the design, we're able to accommodate more imagination or creativity to accomplish the client's requests," he says.

Clutter can be removed with a proper shelving or cabinet system without having to get rid of items completely. Making those tough decisions does not have to be part of

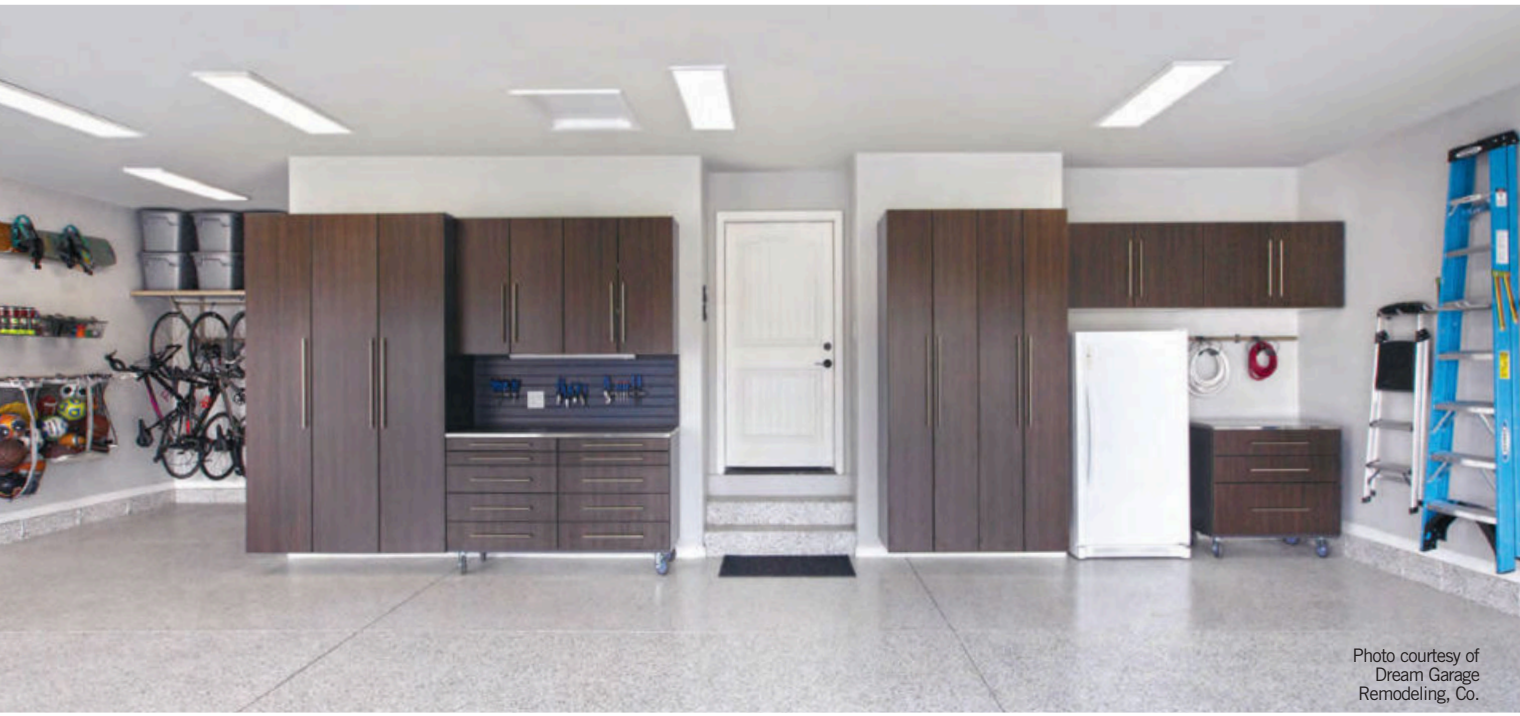


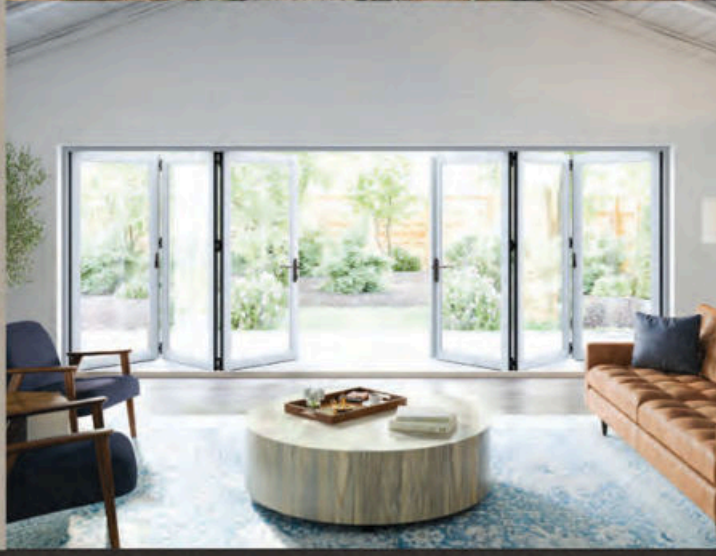
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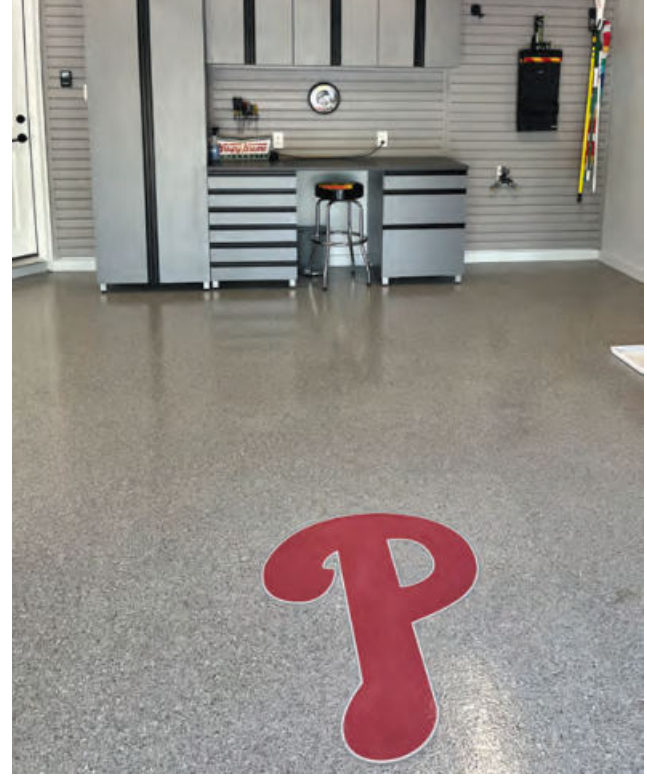
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the renovation process, with the added benefit of the ability to locate everything conveniently. For instance, many people have seasonal decorations that need to be out of the way for the rest of the year—and still available when needed.

"We offer cabinetry, we offer slatwall, we offer HyLoft—which is an item that hangs off the ceiling for them to be able to store their big Christmas trees and bulkier items off the floor and not use up cabinet space because they're only used once a year," says Lewis.

With a local service professional, a garage will be considered for optimal design and practicality from the ceiling to the floor. And the results of a carefully planned renovation will help this once-neglected space match the appeal and allure of the rest of the home while boosting property value. **H&H**

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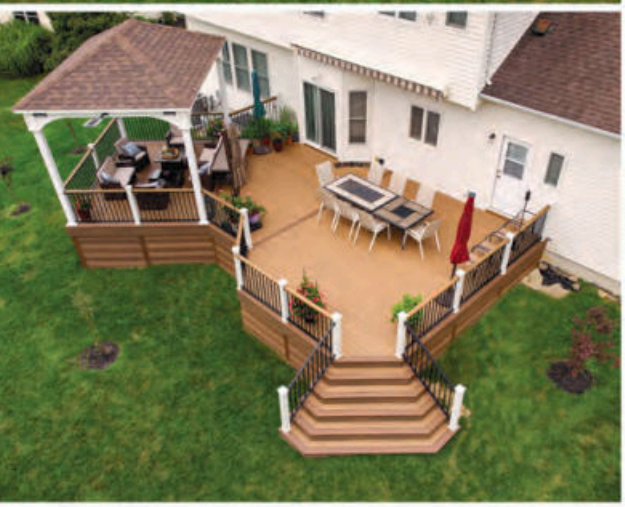
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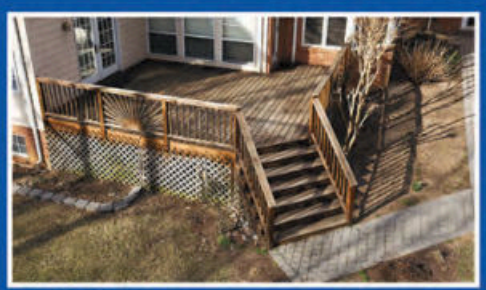


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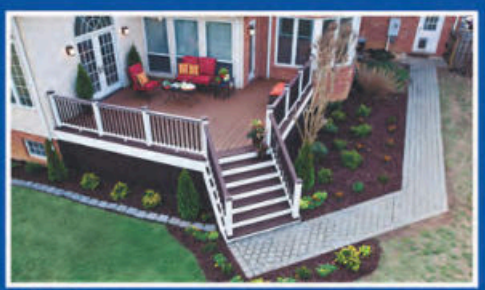
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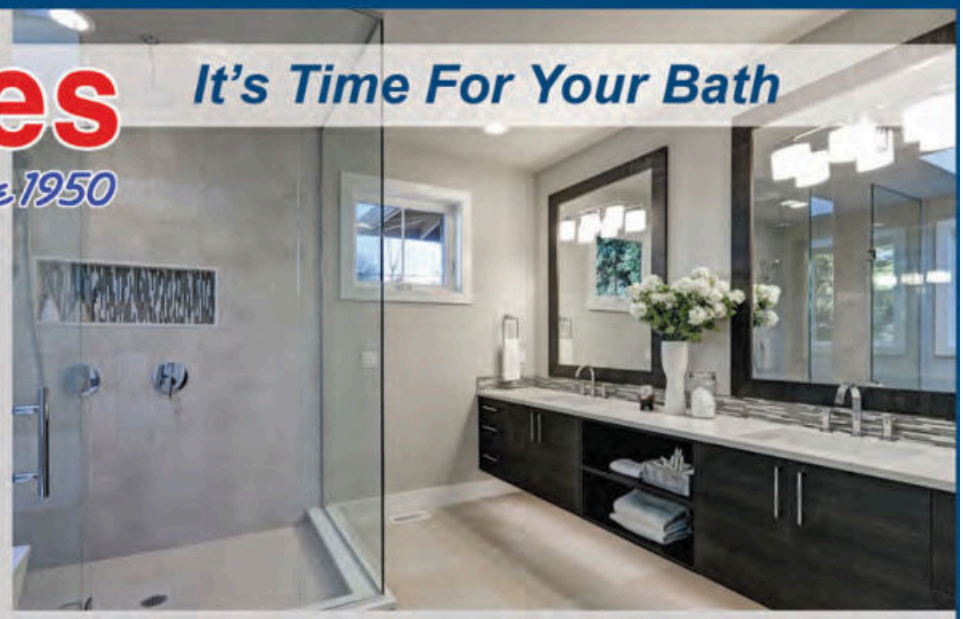


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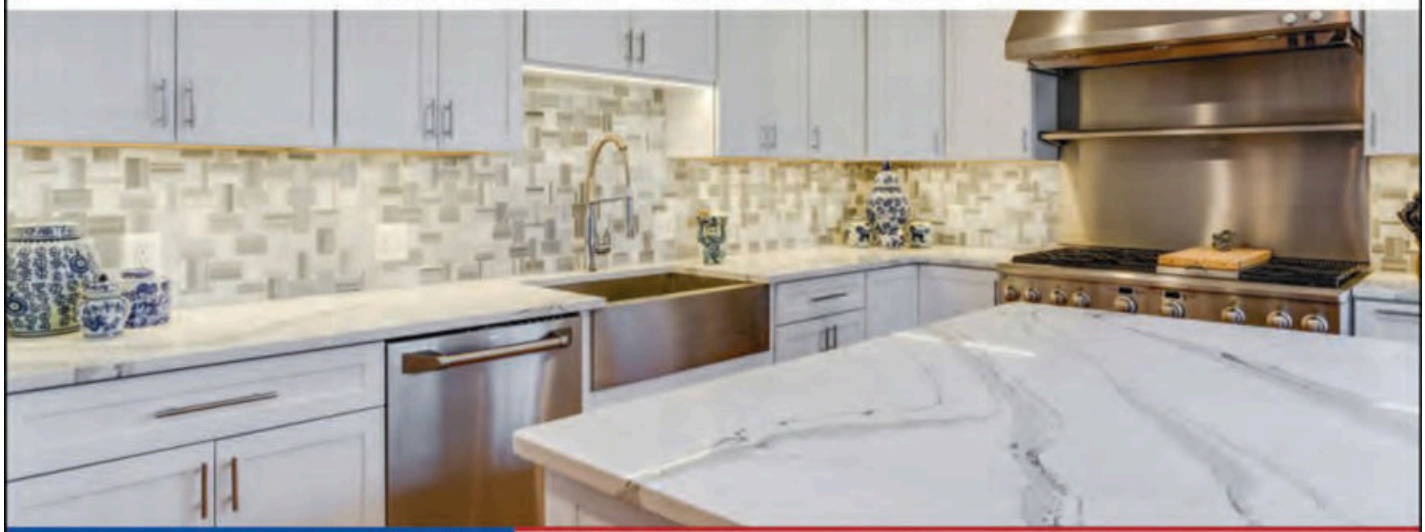
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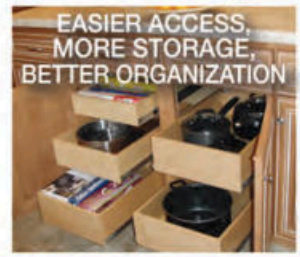
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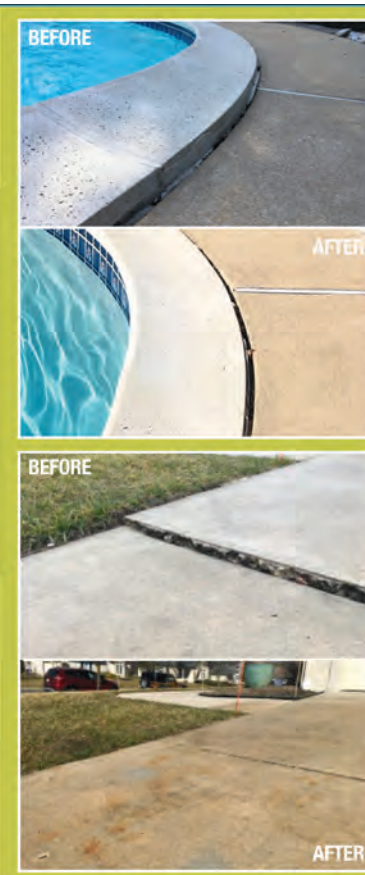
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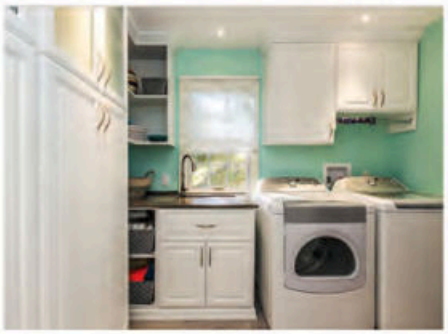
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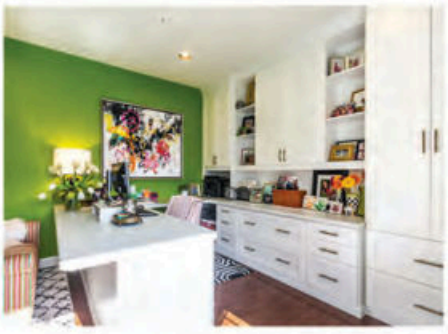
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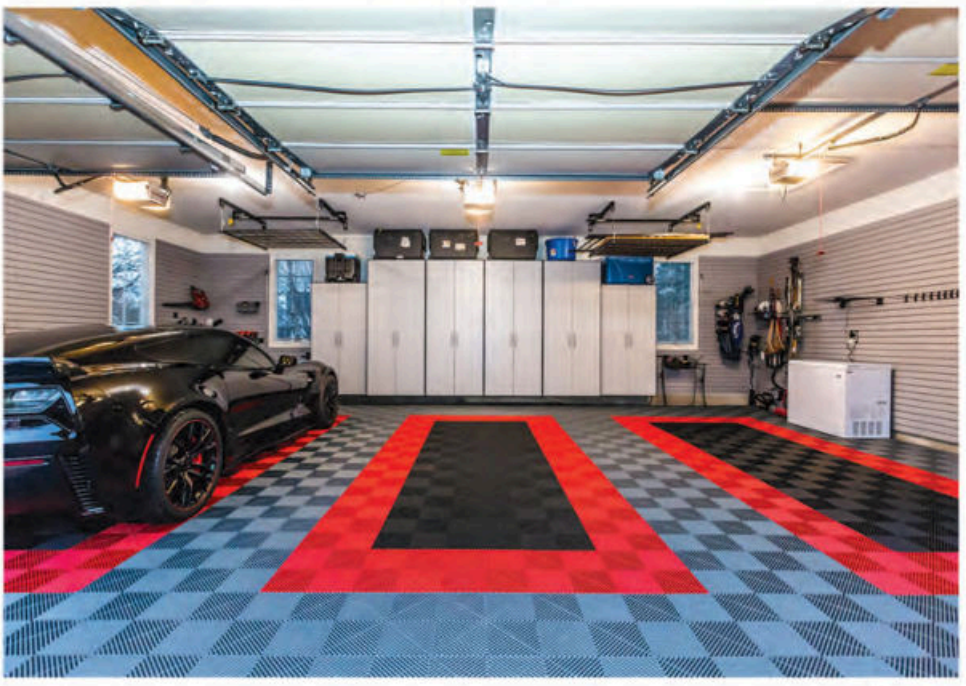
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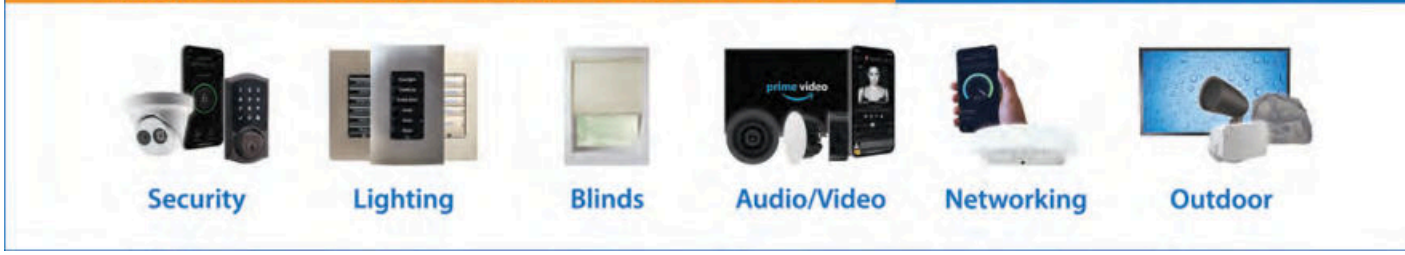


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EMBRACING The Outdoors

The latest trends in outdoor structures help to enhance your living experience.

by **Kristen Jorgensen**

As the world continues to embrace the significance of nature and its positive impact on human well-being, outdoor living spaces have gained immense popularity. Homeowners are increasingly turning to outdoor structures as a means to create inviting, functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces that blur the lines between indoor and outdoor living. The latest trends in outdoor structures not only amplify the beauty of your property, but also offer numerous benefits, enriching your overall living experience.



These days, outdoor structures are no longer limited to just one purpose. The current trend revolves around creating multi-functional retreats that cater to various activities. A single space might serve as a yoga studio in the morning, a workspace during the day and a cozy movie theater at night. These adaptable outdoor structures add versatility to your living space, accommodating diverse interests and hobbies.

In this article, we explore some of the most cutting-edge trends in outdoor structures and delve into how they can enhance your daily life.

The perks of pergolas, pavilions and more

The lines of demarcation between indoor and outdoor living continue to blur as more homeowners gravitate into backyard spaces to whip up dinner for friends, light a

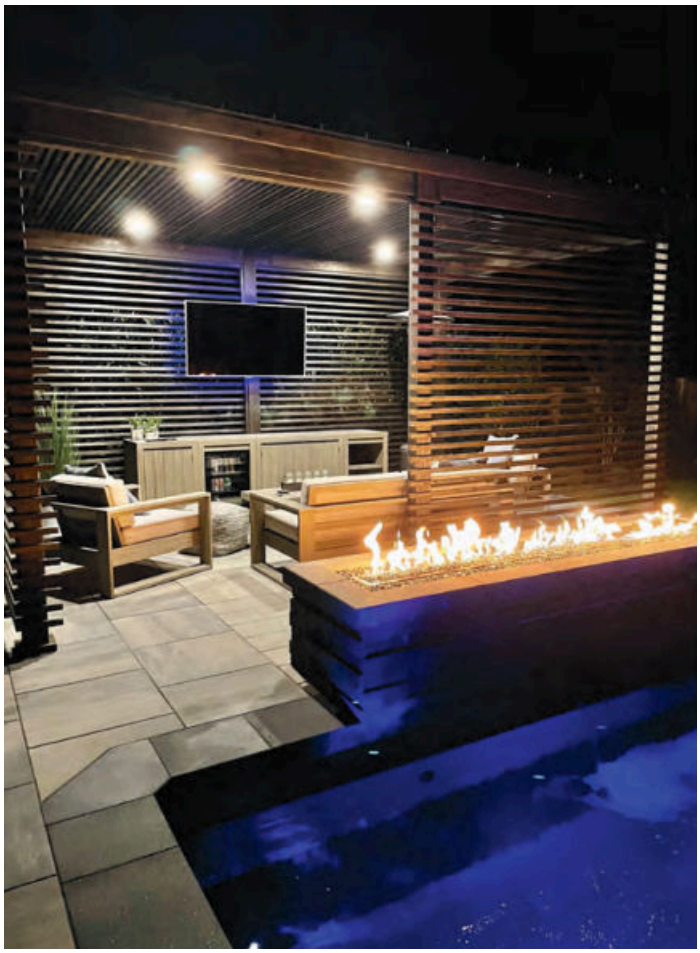
small bonfire or put in a few hours of work while sitting on a shaded patio.

"The benefits of adding an outdoor structure to your yard provide you with a comfortable outdoor living space. Bring the party outside, relax poolside or just enjoy the outdoors. Most structures also have a storage space component—store the party supplies, hide the pool filter and chemicals, or use as a bonus shed to hide lawn equipment," explains Kristi Reading from Buxton's Backyard Structures.

When considering what direction to plan for when it comes to upgrading your outdoor space, Reading offers a few suggestions. "Homeowners should consider the size and purpose of the outdoor structure. If you are just looking for an outdoor bar—what size bar area and what size storage area would be beneficial? It's important to get something that will work for your needs.

"Another thing to consider is how you want it to look. Are you trying to match your house or make it stand out? There are lots of options from painted wood, vinyl siding, faux stone siding, hardy plank, board and batten, or log cabin. There are so many options to customize the perfect structure for your home," Reading continues.

For homeowners with pools, poolside pavilions are the ultimate trend in enhancing outdoor living. These structures offer shade and protection from the elements, making poolside relaxation a comfortable and enjoyable experience. Pool pavilions can be designed to include lounging areas, mini-bars and changing rooms, providing a perfect blend of leisure and convenience. "Homeowners want shade from the sun in the summer and the ability to keep using their outdoor space with heaters or fire when the temperature drops. Pavilion-style structures and pool houses are very popular for this reason," says Karen Frederick from The Louvered Roof Company. "Something to think about when you're



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investing in an outdoor structure is natural light and airflow. Do you want to be completely inside with closed doors and air conditioning, or do you want to have that vacation feeling where you can still be outside and feel the air but have protection from the elements? There is a lot of room for personalization when designing a pavilion."

Pergolas have also quickly climbed the ladder of popularity with homeowners because they can be ideal for an outdoor space that's used frequently. Whether over a porch, yard or garden, pergolas help the outdoors feel more hospitable for long days outside. "The kitchen is typically the heart of the home, so extending that to the outdoors with a pergola allows the homeowner to have more usable entertaining space," Bill Wilson from Amazing Decks says. "A pergola or retractable awning can provide shade, allowing homeowners to enjoy a meal outdoors, and help to create a warm and inviting space from early spring through Thanksgiving."



One thing to note, pergolas aren't meant to keep the elements away completely, but to visually designate and decorate pools, seating areas or yard features. The overhead beams offer places to hang plants, lighting or even swings. Pergolas are also perfect for anyone who enjoys being outside but wants to avoid strong overhead sunlight. Some homeowners use outdoor curtains to add a bit more privacy, and because they are stylish and affordable, pergolas are a no-brainer for anyone looking to create a serene space.





The coop craze

After the pandemic was declared, people began to panic-buy the essentials from grocery stores, which included everything from toilet paper to eggs. With more time being spent at home, people invested in gardening and becoming more self-sufficient in general, thus also creating an uptick in the ownership of chickens. "We have sold a lot more chicken coops since 2020 than in recent years [and] it hasn't really slowed down. Folks love the comfort of knowing they're getting fresh, organic eggs right from their backyards," explains Reuben Zook from Mainline Outdoor Living.

Deciding to own chickens is only half the decision. The other part of that equation is



providing the appropriate outdoor housing structure to support a safe—and aesthetically pleasing—environment for both the chickens and human residents alike. "[We] offer an assortment of sizes and styles for anyone who wants to own chickens. Coops can start as small as 15-20 square feet to as large as a couple hundred feet. There really is a lot of personalization that comes along with owning chickens," explains Zook.

Sustainable structures

As environmental consciousness grows, sustainable outdoor structures are also gaining traction. Living walls and vertical gardens not only add a touch of greenery, but also provide insulation and promote biodiversity. Moreover, eco-friendly building materials and solar-powered lighting solutions are being integrated into outdoor designs, reducing the environmental impact while adding to the overall appeal of the space.

Final thoughts

As urbanization continues to rise, the importance of outdoor spaces cannot be understated. The latest trends in outdoor structures offer homeowners the opportunity to transform their yards into captivating and functional extensions of their house. Whether it's al fresco dining areas, cozy outdoor living rooms, sustainable structures, multifunctional retreats, poolside pavilions, or outdoor showers and spas, these trends enhance the living experience by fostering a deeper connection with nature and promoting overall well-being.



Reading concurs: "There are so many additions that you can add to your structure. From a fully finished interior, flooring, roofing, fans, lights, bars, windows, dormers, porches, screens, French doors, sliding barn doors, weathervanes and more. There is no limit to what you can have."

So embrace these trends, and let your outdoor oasis become a sanctuary that enriches your life in countless ways. H&H

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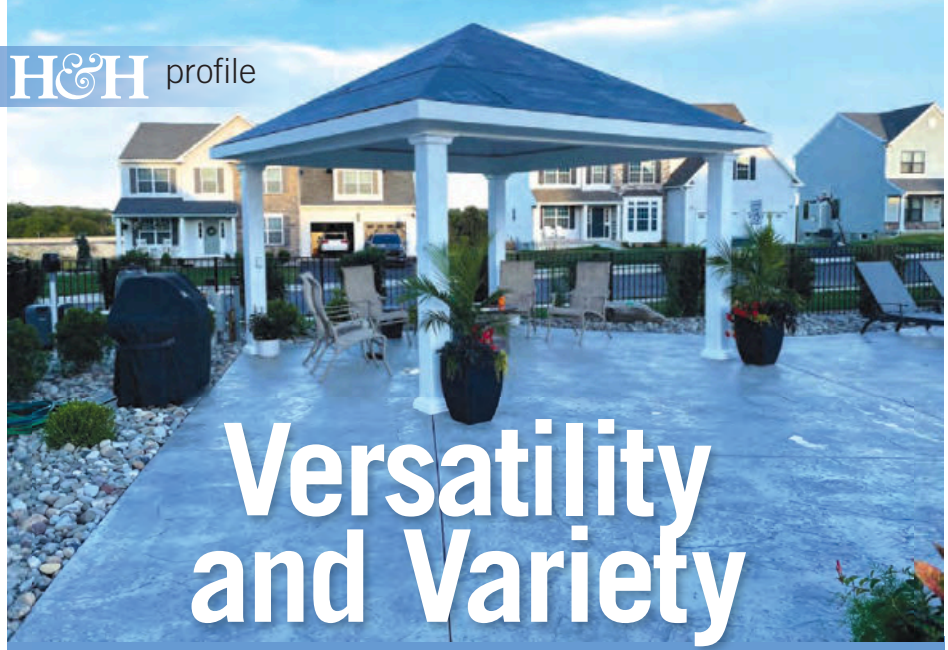
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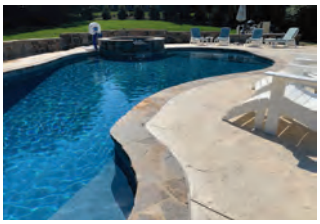


Versatility and Variety

At **Architectural Concrete Design**, clients can expect a skilled team that treats each project as a partnership and understands how to enhance a home's curb appeal.

by **Madeleine Maccar**

In his five years with Architectural Concrete Design (ACD), Adam Myers has learned that clients are often surprised by their options.



"A lot of people are still unaware of what they can do with concrete," says the company's director of residential sales. "They'll pull pictures from Pinterest or Google and say, 'I love how this looks but I don't know how to get there.' … That's where we can come in and make them aware of any material limitations and how decorative concrete can give them a similar look in their backyard."

That commitment to educating customers separates ACD from the competition. Whether the team is working on a customized pool deck, driveway, patio or walkway, one thing remains the same: Every job is rooted in respect.

"It should feel like a partnership from the beginning," says Myers. "We want the homeowner to understand we're listening to them. Their first form of contact comes from the office, they'll be contacted quickly by our design team. From that point, it's setting up an appointment, getting some face time, and having a design professional walk around your yard with you and really listen to what your vision is. Very few hardscape contractors open up a conversation like we do at the design phase."

Transparency supersedes netting a sale, he adds. "The designer doesn't leave until they understand exactly what the homeowner wants. Every decision we make throughout the process can easily be justified or explained because we're doing everything in the homeowner's best interest."

Getting to know each client and their expectations, lifestyle, property, budget and vision allows ACD to deliver completely customized results every time. And with concrete options that go beyond pavers to offer a seemingly infinite multitude of finishes and color combinations, the team knows exactly how to deliver an elegant, impressive final project guaranteed to last.

"With stamped concrete, we have versatility of color, texture and pattern selection—I'm confident you can find a fit for any home," Myers says. "We've done projects on new-construction homes that are incredibly modern-looking, all white and black; we've done 5,000-, even 10,000-square-foot driveways; we've done 300-square-foot patios with a designated space the client wants to look decorative, but the space is so limited that you have to be really intentional about what you pick. … It's incredibly adaptable, and you can't get that look with any other paving material, only concrete.

"That's one of the coolest parts of being in this space: There really are no limitations on the product," he continues. "The designers can be creative, the guys in the field can be creative, it's something new every day."

Designers' creativity and homeowners' visions must work hand in hand, though, for a smooth installation phase. Collaboration and communication are critical, ensuring clients know their voices are heard and that the ACD team can get the job done in a timely fashion while also meeting their high standards.

"We want that mutual respect where the homeowners know the feedback and perspective we're offering all work toward the same goal: making sure they're getting something they're going to love for 20, 30 years," Myers explains. "It should feel like we're working with you.

"Homeowners are encouraged to be onsite during the first building phase: They can see what we're doing, and we can inform them immediately of unforeseen changes our installers may need to make. After breaking ground, there's always a chance something unexpected happens—you want someone experienced in your corner to best handle that. We know how to navigate those circumstances, come up with effective solutions and illustrate that to the homeowner."

ACD's expertise and a variety of options mean the team always knows how to arrive at the design that perfectly complements a home and is in harmony with the project's surroundings. Working with the existing colors, patterns, textures and materials already present onsite is a win for the homeowner, since they won't need to redo their whole yard's aesthetic to still have the space "flow," even with a brand-new concrete project.

With ACD's 30th anniversary coming, it's a milestone the entire organization is proud of. But it's not just the company that can boast longtime success in delivering dazzling results, as much of its team has called ACD home for over two decades.

"What really sets us apart is the installers and their experience," Myers notes. "We have multiple guys who have been here for over 20 years—I don't know too many places that can say that. With concrete, our guys are physically crafting the product in the field so it's a new product every time—that's why it comes down to the guys forming and making that material. This is an industry where there's a direct correlation between the installers' experience and the product's quality." **H&H**



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