

ROOM BY ROOM

Rethinking its functions changes the role of the home.



For some it's philosophical; for others, it's economical. But homeowners everywhere are taking a look at their living space. More thoughtful choices in the home are creating more individualized luxury for the owners and their families to enjoy.

Simplifying the home and going to a more “clean” look is a common theme, according to Sherri Duvall, a designer at Duvall Architects in Tulsa. “It can also mean a ‘transitional’ look and feel that is edited properly to have the exact balance of cozy, but not stuffy. People desire a nest or sanctuary innately when we come home from our crazy, hectic lives,” Duvall says.

Homeowners are moving away from formal dining and living spaces and changing into flexible usage rooms. “Essential pieces that tell their family’s story without looking too staged,” Duvall says of the key to helping clients achieve their balance. With the aid of technological advances, the home can now work for the owner. Fully automated features and wiring for media throughout the house allow the home to work for the owner by saving time and energy.

Today’s homes are green – not so much in color as in concept. There is a push for natural materials for a home’s exterior and durable siding and roofing that will add to the environment or at the very least work with it. “Less is becoming more again,” Duvall says. “This means less mixing of exterior materials and limiting the variety used together to as few as possible.” Instead of just paint, more people are going with stone and brick exteriors as well as clay. The process of making brick creates very little waste, and it has a nearly limitless life span. Another benefit is that brick can be recycled from demolished buildings and used in new ones. I like the timeless, age-old stone, brick, stucco and various woods. Just not at the same time,” Duvall shares. Even without painting, owners are shifting their homes to earthy tones and natural colors. By making thoughtful choices and taking advantage of technological advances, today’s homeowners are not just making a choice about their house, but about their lifestyle.

By Corrie McGee

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