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The remodel

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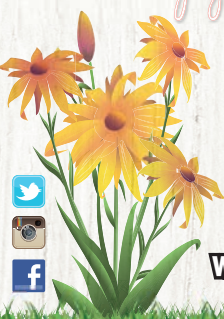
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POPULAR WINDOW STYLES AND WHERE TO USE THEM

Do you want to update the windows in your home? If so, here are some popular types and where they might look best.

- Double-hung windows feature two large sashes that slide up and down along vertical tracks. They perfectly complement rambler, farmhouse, bungalow and other modern-traditional style homes. They have many customization options and look good in almost any room.
- Slider windows are available in a variety of styles, materials and finishes. They open horizontally rather than vertically, which makes them ideal for spaces with horizontal features. For example, they look good over a counter or in a hallway. Since slider windows are easy to open and close, they're also practical in hard-to-reach spaces.
- Casement windows open inward or outward with a mechanical crank. They're well suited to contemporary homes and great in rooms where you want to let in a cool breeze.
- Bay and bow windows extend outward from the home and are traditionally composed of a picture window flanked by one or more pairs of double-hung or casement windows. Place

them anywhere that overlooks a view or in a living room, family room or bedroom that needs a focal point.

Lastly, technology is playing an increasingly important role in bathroom design. If you're planning a remodel, you can ask your contractor to incorporate features like USB chargers in vanity drawers, app-controlled speakers and smart shower heads that conserve water.



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If you plan to remodel your kitchen this year, you should know that lacquered cabinets, exaggerated modernism and large cabinet handles are passé. When it comes to kitchen designs, here's what's trending in 2021.

OVERSIZED PANTRIES

Whether free-standing or walk-in, large pantries with showcase-like shelving and plenty of hideaway storage are a hit in kitchens of all styles. If you have the space for it, this trend is for you.

KITCHEN TRENDS OF 2021

STORAGE WALLS

If there's limited room in your kitchen, floor-to-ceiling storage rather than multiple cabinets will maximize the space to accommodate all your cooking essentials. Pro-tip: add electrical outlets inside the cabinets so you can plug in small appliances.

HIDDEN RANGE HOODS

Range hoods that are integrated into cabinets or walls are increasingly popular. You can also hide them behind tile or natural stone. However, make sure your range hood is positioned for optimal efficiency and easy to access for repair or replacement.

WARM NEUTRAL TONES

Browns, beiges and grays are taking center stage in 2021. Hardware should also be

warm. Choose matted gold, copper, champagne and charcoal pieces for your drawers and cabinets as well as your faucets and other fixtures.

NATURAL MATERIALS

Wood, stone and other materials that evoke the natural world are the backbone of minimalist, contemporary, rustic and garden-themed kitchens. Opt for understated matte finishes and warm rather than cool tones.

If there's one trend not to ignore in 2021, it's the rising tendency to favor locally crafted items and regionally sourced materials. When renovating your kitchen, be sure to buy decorative items, cabinets, hardware, tile and stone from retailers and craftspeople in your community.

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4 HACKS FOR YOUR AT-HOME OFFICE

Working from home can be challenging. Here are some helpful tips to make your office a productive, comfortable and functional place to work.

1. INVEST IN A GOOD CHAIR

Considering the number of hours you'll likely spend sitting at your desk per week, it's worth taking the time to select a chair that's a good fit. Pay attention to back, thigh and arm support. On the other hand, you may want to consider investing in a standing desk.

2. USE ERGONOMICS TO STAY COMFORTABLE

Whether you sit or stand while you work, keep your back and neck straight and ensure your computer screen is at eye level. Choose a mouse and keyboard that are a good size and effortless to operate. Also, use ergonomic pads to protect your wrists. Avoid slouching or

keeping your arms at odd angles.

3. SET UP A SECOND MONITOR

An additional screen can make coding, designing, writing, researching and other tasks easier. This small upgrade can seriously enhance your productivity and allow you to better juggle multiple tasks.

4. PERSONALIZE THE SPACE

Use art, paint, wallpaper and office accessories to decorate your space in a way that's cohesive and energizing. Consider adding touches like a fragrance you love, a quote that inspires you or a novelty vase to hold fresh flowers.

Lastly, invest in quality electrical lighting. Bright overhead illumination and a good desk lamp will help reduce eyestrain and increase productivity.



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Marble bathrooms are timelessly elegant, and in 2021, interior designers are increasingly using this type of stone. Here are some other trends to consider for your next bathroom remodel.

- Gold fixtures, faucets and mirrors are taking the spotlight. A matte or brushed

A BRIEF LOOK AT BATHROOM TRENDS

finish is the way to go.

- Natural elements like loose stones, wood cabinets and plants are lending bathrooms an organic feel.
- Open showers are on trend, especially those with luxurious features like an integrated bench, a misting system, ambient lighting, an anti-fog mirror and a linear drain.
- Island vanities that feature two sinks sit-

ting back to back rather than side by side are a chic upgrade for a large bathroom.

Lastly, technology is playing an increasingly important role in bathroom design. If you're planning a remodel, you can ask your contractor to incorporate features like USB chargers in vanity drawers, app-controlled speakers and smart shower heads that conserve water.

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HOME THEATER ESSENTIALS

Enjoy a big-screen experience at home with your very own home theater. This renovation project is easier to pull off than you might think. Here are the five things you'll need.

1. TV OR PROJECTOR

Before you choose your viewing system, compare the pros and cons of a big screen TV with those of an overhead projector. Opt for the biggest screen you can afford with the highest resolution.

2. SOUND SYSTEM

The best home theater systems don't skimp when it comes to sound. Consider adding built-in speakers to the walls or ceiling. Also, make sure your system includes a subwoofer, as rich bass notes will make the cinematic experience more exciting.

3. SEATING

Opt for luxurious single seating in plush leather or soft fabric. Black recliners are a

classic choice, but upholstered chaise lounges may offer greater comfort.

4. SNACK STATION

Save space for the movie snacks you love most. Your snack station can include a popcorn maker, a mini-fridge, a bar, jars of candy, a soda-making station or a water cooler.

5. LIGHTING

Blackout curtains are a must, and overhead lighting on a dimmer will allow you to quickly get the show started. Consider adding LED light strips to create a theater-like atmosphere. They can be placed behind movie posters, underneath seats or along pathways to the restroom, snack station and exit.

Once you've picked out the essentials, you can choose one or more add-ons. Consider including an electric fireplace, a video game console or simply some soft blankets to curl up under.



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SPACE-SAVING IDEAS FOR SMALL BEDROOMS



Whether it's a child's room, guest room or main bedroom, small rooms can be difficult to design. Here are some ideas to maximize the available space.

- Store things under the bed. Buy a bed with built-in storage or simply use bins and boxes to store things underneath. If your bed is too close to the ground, use bed risers to elevate it. Alternatively, consider investing in a loft bed to free up space on the floor for a desk, sofa or play area.
- Opt for double-duty furniture. Look for floor lamps with shelves, ottomans with storage space and cabinets fronted by a full-length mirror. Also, consider that a desk can serve as a nightstand, and a dresser can be used as a changing table.
- Hang shelves above doors. This often-ignored area is an ideal place for a shelf. Buy pretty baskets or bins to hold your things, and neatly display them in this out-of-the-way spot.
- Use the space behind doors. Use the backs of closet and bedroom doors to hang hooks, towel bars, over-the-door organizers or peg boards. This will make it easy to store your items.

In general, designing vertically will allow you to make the most of a small bedroom. Installing shelves and cabinets close to the ceiling is particularly useful and will help you keep the space tidy.

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An advertisement for Kammermann's Pest Control. The background is a brick wall. There are images of a ladybug and a cockroach. A potted plant is visible on the right side.

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An advertisement for a Hustler DASH riding lawn mower. The mower is yellow and black. There is a red banner across the bottom of the ad.

TRAVERTINE FLOORING: IS IT RIGHT FOR YOUR HOME?

Travertine is a type of limestone that naturally forms in deposits near mineral springs. It comes in earthy neutral colors like beige, tan, off-white and gray and has a fibrous, marble-like appearance.

As a flooring material, it's sold in tiles by the square foot. While very durable, it does require ongoing maintenance and care. This is because travertine is a porous material, which makes it prone to staining and etching. It should be coated with a protective sealant upon installation and then again every three to five years. Travertine floors should also be regularly swept and mopped to prevent scratches and discoloration.

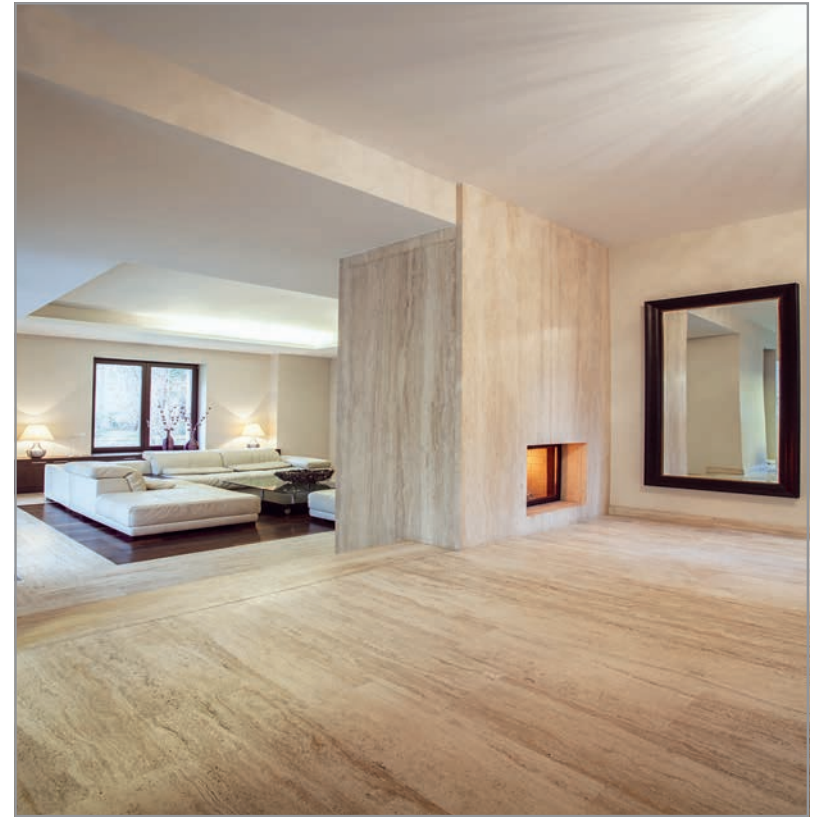
In terms of cost, travertine is a mid-range stone that tends to be more af-

fordable than marble but more expensive than granite. It's not the cheapest type of flooring for your home, but it isn't the most lavish either.

Travertine has a timeless quality that complements both traditional and contemporary design styles. It typically comes in one of four finishes — polished, honed, tumbled or brushed — and the type you choose will impact whether your floors look glossy and refined or rustic and weathered.

So, is travertine flooring right for your home?

If you have an ample budget and want a floor that gives your home a sense of reserved dignity and prestige, travertine may be the right pick.



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