

Windows Opening Up New Worlds For Homebuyers

If you notice houses being built recently appear to have windows in bigger sizes and quantity than in the 20th century, you are correct in your observation.

There is an emphasis on creating brighter rooms nowadays. Most people enjoy the light and warmth provided by windows that allow them to view the outside without obstructions.

This trend has created demand for more windows wherever possible. Among the popular styles currently are:

- Transoms, or windows above windows or doors. These generally are located at the entry of a home, and a majority of homebuyers favor them because they believe they set an inviting atmosphere to visitors of the home (<http://www.buildernewsmag.com/viewnews.pl?id=66>).
- Skylights, usually in small rooms such as bathrooms. The tubular style has won favor because it is energy efficient and reduces the need for supplemental light in the home during the day (http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/classifieds/news/homecenter/trends/stories/DN-nhskylights_16bus.ART.State.Edition1.331fd5f.html).

Energy efficiency is a big factor in the increased use of windows. Glass produced today is much more energy efficient than in the past (<http://ths.gardenweb.com/forums/load/windows/msg111716127412.html>). Many have qualified for the ENERGY STAR designation. That approval means the window is one that lowers energy bills and can save you money over even new double-paned, clear-glass windows, as well as protect from the winter cold and summer sun, while also reducing condensation and interior fading (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=windows_doors.pr_windows).

The importance of windows in a home is best illustrated by a recent survey saying that more homeowners would prefer to have new windows rather than perform most other home improvements (<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS180089+12-Feb-2008+PRN20080212>). The homeowners surveyed said that if presented with the free services of a contractor, window replacement would be more important than a variety of popular home improvements like a kitchen remodel, installing new carpeting, landscaping the yard or building a new deck.

Given that sentiment, as well as the potential substantial savings in energy costs, it is wise to consider windows as both attractive amenities and long-term financial investments in your home. They should be an essential consideration whenever considering the design and purchase of a new home.

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