

# BUILDERS

by KATHI MEYER



DARK WOOD, SIMPLE LINES AND HARDWOOD FLOORS ARE FEATURES OF CONTEMPORARY DESIGN. PHOTO BY STEVEN B. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF HAYDEN HOMES

It's hard not to notice the national trend toward sleek and simple interiors, magazine pages are filled with tips on how to achieve the look, and TV shows highlight homes across the country that portray 'contemporary' design. St. Louisans, too, have been taking notice. Not only are the area's lofts and high-rise homes touting a minimalist approach, but homeowners also want it. Local builders discuss some of today's most requested features.

#### DENNIS HAYDEN

##### PRESIDENT, HAYDEN HOMES

- Interior trends go through national cycles like anything else. In the past year and a half, we've done a number of contemporary homes. There has been a return to the modern look of the '50s in lighting, architecture and interiors, especially with baby boomers, because they've lived with this style before.
- There's a lot of talk about downscaling and having a more efficiently designed home, which relates to the age of our market here.
- Spa-like blue shades are popular because they're soothing and stimulating at the same time. Most fixtures are chrome, with some brushed nickel mixed in on door hardware.
- One of our homes had nearly black hardwood floors throughout the main level. The kitchen included enameled cabinetry with high gloss and honed granite countertops, which have a little less sheen to them.

#### SCOTT MOSBY

##### PRESIDENT, MOSBY BUILDING ARTS

- I notice a trend toward more careful design and function. Consumers want sophistication and pieces that perform well for their lifestyle, creating a contemporary style I would term 'simplicity.' It's simply effective, simple, functional and streamlined in design, maintenance and materials.
- This style lends itself to being more 'green' and energy efficient through materials and function. With flooring, homeowners are leaning toward healthier options like hardwood or a combination of ceramic tile and vinyl.
- In the kitchen, it's all about the latest and greatest appliances. People are willing to pay more to have a sleeker and quieter dishwasher that does more than just clean dishes.
- This kind of interior is used for additions; it seldom happens all at once because it's such a big investment and requires lots of planning.



A MASTER SUITE'S BLUE WALLS ARE CREATING A FRESH, INVIGORATING ATMOSPHERE. PHOTO BY STEVEN B. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF HAYDEN HOMES



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- There are various contemporary and more industrial contemporary materials are 'harder,' like hardwood flooring, harder tiles and lots of porcelain.
- Stainless appliances are a must, and we've even seen stainless countertops in lieu of granite or wood. Other features include pendant lighting and a mix of metal and wooden cabinetry with long bars for the hardware. Many homeowners are choosing a horizontal grain on cabinets, and open stainless shelving creates the more industrial look.
- Flooring and lighting are important. Hardwood is all over because everyone loves it, and lighting can really be drastic. There is a huge variety of glass and colored fixtures available.