

For more information contact:
Lana Simon
Coldwell Banker Gundaker
847-313-6770
lane.simon@cbexchange.com

THE HOME DESIGNS OF TOMORROW *Emerging design trends are focused on purpose rather than aesthetics*

ST. LOUIS, MO (May 23, 2011) – Do you like the Cape Cod style of a home? Perhaps you prefer Victorian? Well, how about a “healthy” home instead? Rapidly gaining popularity with builders and homeowners alike are home designs that are unconventional in concept and geared strongly toward specific, often practical, purposes.

“Architects, builders, and home buyers are starting to look beyond the aesthetics of home design and focus instead on the purposes they would like the home to serve, what they can gain from its design,” said Jim Dohr, president of Coldwell Banker Gundaker.

Each of the design styles of tomorrow incorporates elements that address a certain issue that has been given priority during the conception process.

- **Earth-Friendly:** Some architects are going back in time in search of “greener” methods for home construction. They are experimenting with ancient building techniques that used simple, biodegradable materials.
- **Healthy:** Synthetic materials and the chemical additives used in paints, as well as composition wood products, can have a negative impact on your health. With this in mind, more homes are being constructed without plastics, laminates and fume-producing glues.
- **Flexible Floor Plans:** Truly modern are those homes designed with sliding doors, pocket doors, and other types of movable partitions that allow flexibility in living arrangements. Gone are dedicated living and dining rooms; in their place are large multi-purpose family areas. Some homes also include private “bonus” rooms that can be adapted to a variety of specialized needs.
- **Abundant Storage:** Homeowners desire storage space now more than ever before. With this in mind, features like cavernous walk-in closets, built-in cabinets, and larger garages are taking precedence over other design elements in some of the layouts architects are creating.

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