



Contemporary
Classics

By Jen Reeder

A modern living room with a linear gas fireplace. The fireplace has a wide, low-profile surround made of horizontal wood-grain panels. The fire is burning brightly with blue and orange flames. To the right of the fireplace, there are three white ceramic vases of different shapes and sizes, one containing a white branch. A white sofa is visible on the left side of the frame.

**NEW PRODUCTS
AND TECHNOLOGIES
ARE TAKING**

**HOME LIFE TO THE
NEXT LEVEL**

Style pairs with innovative technology in the PRIMO linear gas fireplace available at Rio Grande Co. TV or artwork above the fireplace maintains a contemporary, clean look. Photo by Heat & Glo



Custom Sliding Doors



For Your Livingroom...



For Your Office...

DESIGN • FABRICATE •
FINISH • INSTALL
we do it all

www.sliderartworks.com
720.327.6442



CenturyLink's new 1 gigabit highspeed Internet connection provides **faster at-home capabilities** for work, study and play. 1 Gig technology makes homes and homeowners smarter. Photo by CenturyLink

It's an exciting time to be a homeowner in Colorado. Like the culinary trend of taking a classic comfort food and elevating it to fine dining, home products and technologies are celebrating the past with an eye firmly on the future. Thanks to these innovations, Coloradans can decorate their homes in distinctive styles and embrace modern conveniences and comforts that would have seemed like science fiction to previous generations.

Connectivity and Convenience

Take Samsung's new Family Hub refrigerator line. Each one has a Wi-Fi enabled touchscreen and interior cameras that take a photo each time a door on the appliance closes. So if you're at the grocery store and can't remember if you need milk, you can link through

your smartphone to view the contents of your fridge. Family members can sync their calendars from sources like Google or Outlook to the 21.5-inch touchscreen so that everyone's schedule is in one place, and voice recognition technology means the Family Hub can respond to general inquiries or read back recipes. It can also display photos or shopping lists, play music and live-stream videos.

Shane Higby, vice president of marketing-home appliances at Samsung Electronics America, says the Family Hub is more than a food-storage device. It's the "connected hub of the home. Household appliance devices are offering levels of convenience, connectivity and meaningful innovation once thought impossible," he notes.

Washers and dryers have also evolved. For instance, the Samsung



PROVIDING PROACTIVE RESULTS-DRIVEN CIVIL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS.

We Share Our Clients' Passion For Homebuilding



Services To The Homebuilding Industry

- In Depth Due Diligence
- Land Surveying
- Project Conceptualization
- Team Collaboration
- Precise and Expedient Infrastructure Design
- Final Platting
- Structural Engineering
- Construction Staking
- Construction Services

Karl Knapp P.E.
720.249.3527
kknapp@cvlci.com
www.cvlci.com

Members:

- HBA Board of Directors
- Metro Housing Coalition
- HBA Government Affairs Committee
- CAHB Political Funding Committee
- CAHB Board of Directors



Striking, thin masonry from General Shale provides beautiful interior highlights, such as **arches and accents walls** and is applied in a similar fashion to tile. Photo by General Shale

FlexWash® and FlexDry® can both handle simultaneous loads of laundry because they have two compartments instead of just one. Wash a load of whites in the five-cubic foot compartment while cleaning delicates in the smaller top-loader of the machine. When it's time to dry, a special rack can gently dry the undergarments while the large load tumbles below. Thanks to the connectivity of the

“Internet of Things (IoT),” you’ll know when it’s ready to start folding even if you’re out of earshot.

“The laundry pair is IoT-enabled, allowing you to monitor remaining cycle time, receive alerts when the cycle is complete and schedule cycles with a smartphone,” Higby says.

Past, Present, Futuristic

As appliances become more modernized, many homeowners are opting to add a classic feel to their homes to balance a busy lifestyle with the nostalgia of perhaps a favorite, old leather chair, says Mark Stutz, regional sales manager for General Shale.

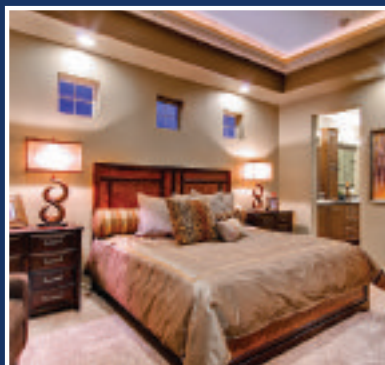


IoT-enabled FlexWash and FlexDry laundry appliances from Samsung offer **ultimate flexibility** with options for regular, large and small loads. Photo by Samsung

Thin brick, a fired clay material which is applied like tile, has become increasingly popular for interior decoration on accent walls or entire rooms in suburban housing and hipster LoDo lofts alike. With more than 75 styles to choose from—or mix and match—homeowners can decorate with crisp, modern lines or distressed bricks with an

REAL COMMUNITIES with **PURPOSEFUL & EFFICIENT DESIGN**

Oakwood Homes is nestled in communities across the Colorado Front Range, with luxury homes from the **\$200s to \$700s**. Whether it's your first home or your fifth home—come explore our floorplans to **find the perfect home for you.** — *Luxury at every level.®*



5 COLLECTIONS in Erie Highlands, Green Valley Ranch & Commerce City.

CARRIAGE HOUSE • FAIRWAY VILLAS Active Adult 55+
OVERLOOK • PARK HOUSE • VISTA POINT

303-486-8915 • OakwoodHomesCo.com

©2017 Oakwood Homes 

aged feel. “The Old Brick Originals kind of bridge the past with the present and the future, if you will,” Stutz says. “I’ve heard it described that in the hustle and bustle of the culture that we live in, it’s nice to come home to something that is traditional, that is enduring.”

While paint will chip or crack and wallpaper can quickly become outdated, thin brick needs little to no maintenance. It needs to be sealed if behind a sink or stovetop, but otherwise requires no upkeep. “Brick just adds such a feeling to a room versus some of the simpler ways in which we’ve decorated,” Stutz says.

Fireplaces are another popular classic being reimagined for contemporary homes. Jim Iversen, division manager for Rio Grande Co., says fireplaces have evolved from having no screen to safety screens to glass that is safe to touch and won’t leave fingerprints.

“When it gets cold, people start firing up their fireplaces and then kids get burned. That’s where this type of technology is really something that we’re excited about: the glass is cool to the touch,” he says. “Cool is relative, but it’s not scalding.”

The way the glass stays safe depends on the product. Some have two panes of glass with cool air flowing between them, while others pull the heat from the glass and vent it elsewhere, such as other rooms of the house. Iversen says there are more than 30 options in the Heat & Glo product line of natural gas and liquid propane fireplaces, which are also beloved because they have LED mood lighting in the ember beds that changes colors with the turn of a switch.



The Flourish model at Green Gables Reserve by CalAtlantic Homes, Architecture by KGA Studio Architects, offers **low-maintenance duplex living**, with wide-open living spaces. Photo by Eric Lucero

50 years. Now the homebuilders are at the forefront of building automated homes. For instance, they're constructing luxury homes in southwest Littleton's Sterling Ranch development that are all outfitted with Siemens' STEWARD system. Essentially, through a tablet in the wall, residents can monitor their energy and water consumption, turn lights on and off, control the thermostat and security system, and receive notification of Amber Alerts, road closures, weather advisories and community events like live music.

Each home will have an "iHub" space near the tablet where family members can charge their devices at night. "We'll have USB outlets there that everybody can plug into and then come in, sit down, and relax as a family rather than being connecting to their phones," he says.

Davidson says there are trends in other developments and neighborhoods that reflect the needs of the communities. In Stapleton, where yards tend to be small, Wonderland Homes plans to incorporate shared front courtyards, where neighbors can gather to watch children play. In four-story townhomes in metro



The Twilight Modern gas fireplace from Heat & Glo offers **fireside relaxation** inside and outdoors. Photo by Heat & Glo

"A year from now, you'll be able to operate your fireplace from your phone," he predicts. Iversen also notes that instead of buying standard knobs and handles for kitchen and bathroom cabinets, homeowners are investing more "time, effort and energy" into selecting decorative pieces. It's an affordable way to add personal flair to a room.

Quality and Comfort

Michael Davidson, vice president of sales and marketing for Wonderland Homes, says energy efficiency continues to be a strong trend in homebuilding, a principle the company has promoted for over

PB&T BANK
 Local People Making
 Local Decisions
 Since 1889



Lending Solutions for any Project

*Call one of our trusted
lenders today for a
personalized loan that
fits your needs.*

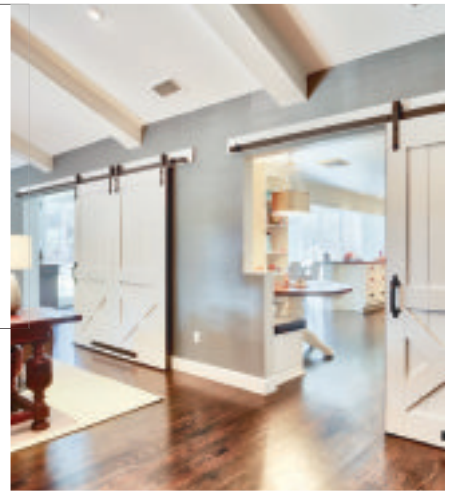
(303) 758-5617

**David Neff
 Ron Saidy
 Sheryl Patterson
 Nancy Shea**

www.pbandt.com
 2351 S. Colorado Blvd
 Denver, CO 80222



Handcrafted, custom, sliding doors provide a **space-saving** and uniquely functional division between interior rooms. Created from new or repurposed materials, the result is a timeless and inspired addition to any home. Photo by Slider Artworks



Denver and Superior—popular with people who want to downsize from big houses and yards—they’ve added rooftop decks accessible from kitchens or main living areas instead of the bedroom, as was common in the past.

“If you’re carrying drinks or appetizers up to your friends who are hanging out on the rooftop, you don’t have to go up as far,” he says. “We’re obviously putting elevators in these as an option, as well.”

Healthy Choices

Patrick Werner, owner of Slider Artworks, says sliding doors are a terrific option for people who want to maximize their square footage in a condo or townhome. The doors offer as much sound-proofing and privacy as traditional hollow-core doors, but are easier to open than one with a door knob, a boon for older folks with arthritis or mobility issues.

Plus, they’re handcrafted to be one-of-a-kind doors. Werner grew up in a barn his father converted into the family home, so his work is influenced by his father’s unique craftsmanship and the love of nature that his mother helped instill in him.

“I want each piece to tell a story about either the material or the client,” he says. “But each door is practical. I call it ‘functional artwork’ because it serves a purpose. It’s not just a statement piece.”

Instead of traditional, oil-based coatings and sealants, Werner

uses water-based products to help customers with chemical sensitivities—a growing concern, since homes built today are more tightly constructed and therefore have less airflow than in the past. “These products don’t off-gas, meaning they don’t leave your home smelling like an open can of urethane,” he explains. “The overall trend I’ve noticed is a move toward the healthy home.”

Geoff Haskell, sales manager for Builders FirstSource, agrees that healthier indoor air quality is an important trend in the industry. He often recommends green products like SPERO mouldings and boards that don’t add formaldehyde and are made from recycled wood fiber.

He’s also seeing increased interest in Neat glass for exterior windows. Titanium dioxide on the outside of the windows sheds water so that it doesn’t leave streaks, and works with UV rays to break down organic materials like dust, dirt and fingerprints. “It keeps your glass cleaner and your views better—especially in a place like Colorado, where views and sunshine are really important,” he adds.

Haskell says his biggest takeaway from the International Builders’ Show earlier this year was that home automation is exploding. “Systems just continue to advance,” he notes. Internet speeds will need

to keep up with these advancements. That's why CenturyLink has started providing 1 gigabit high-speed internet to residences in select parts of Denver (and other cities nationwide), according to Guy Gunther, vice president of operations for CenturyLink. "We have higher speeds that leverage our existing network, but wherever there's a new development, we're putting in Gig," he says. "That's probably a lot more speed than most people need, but it is fiber-based and what we call 'future proof.'"

In addition to helping homeowners utilize new technologies when they're developed in the future, right now 1 Gig will particularly benefit people who work from home or who need in-home medical care. "Think about everything you can do in a hospital. Being



Embracing the evolution to **automated homes**, the latest designs from Wonderland Homes include wall tablets that monitor a variety of functions, such as energy/water consumption, and control interior/exterior features. Photo by Wonderland Homes

able to do that in a home and the amount of bandwidth that requires, depending on the content, the imagery involved ... it enables that as well."

Gunther notes that homes with 1 Gig service appraise and sell higher, and that "smart homes" are just the beginning. The future will see "smart cities" in which services like street lighting, emergency response and waste management

are automated. "It's just an evolution, but we're out ahead of it," he says. Clearly, technology will continue to amaze us with innovative ways to enhance our homes and lives.

Award-winning journalist Jen Reeder works from her home office in Durango. Her work has appeared in Family Circle, The Christian Science Monitor, Modern Dog, Shape, The Huffington Post and many other publications. Visit her online at jenreeder.com.



PROGRESS LIGHTING
Swing Collection

YOUR HOME SAYS
A LOT ABOUT YOU.
WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN.

Request an appointment with us today.

FERGUSON
Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery

DENVER 17655 E 25TH DR. (303) 739-8000
FergusonShowrooms.com

ApplianceCenter
A FERGUSON ENTERPRISE

ENGLEWOOD 1880 W OXFORD AVE. (303) 789-9945
4BAC.com

©2017 Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. 0617 505277