

Right: John Winkle of Winkel Design says homeowners will make better use of space. **Far right:** Garman Homes owners, Greg and Amy Garman, say local homeowners want an outside kitchen. Photos by Annette Juergens Busbee.



Lower Right: Always one of the most important rooms in the house, there's no end in sight for focusing on the kitchen. Photo provided by Garman Homes.



become a thing of the past, rooms that won't be scrimped on are the kitchen and bedrooms. Greg and Amy Garman, owners of Garman Homes in Marion, say Corridor homeowners are putting more and more emphasis on these rooms now.

The kitchen will be a center for entertainment, say the Garmans, with a big island, quality appliances, a large walk-in pantry and a TV.

And consistent with the NHBA findings, the Garmans say, locally, upscale homeowners also want a kitchen outside for entertaining, complete with a grill, sink, cooking island and refrigerator. The deck or patio will have a cover or enclosure, audio and TV equipment, and a fireplace.

The trend toward two master bedroom suites, each with a master bathroom, is also starting to be seen in upscale homes in this market.

"Some people want the option of having a comfortable place for me space and me time," observed Winkle. "The second suite also provides guests or relatives with a comfortable, more private room."

More survey findings being mirrored locally are double vanities, linen closets, separate tub and shower spaces and of course more space in the master bathroom. Amy Garman added that waterfall features in the master bath are gaining popularity.

Nationally and locally, consumers who work with technology outside the home will have it throughout their homes by 2015. Electronic features will include fiber-optic technology and whole home control/automation systems.

"It won't be just for the sake of having electronic gadgets," noted Winkle. "The practical side is that it allows for a more efficient use of resources in the home." ♦



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