



Putting
the
Fun

in **Function**

Five Home Design Trends That Add Value

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We often think of movements centered around colors, materials, or textures when thinking of design trends. However, homeowners' increased focus on functionality, organization, and well-being also drives many trending design decisions. Homeowners are rethinking and reevaluating what qualities are essential for them in their homes and how purposeful they can make each space. Thus, we are increasingly implementing design strategies that support these goals.

In this article, I explore the top five architectural design trends that Purple Cherry Architects are incorporating into the designs of our new homes or in our home renovations that include both fun and function and, ultimately, add value.

Double Kitchen Islands

The kitchen has always been the most social space in a home. With new “working from home” habits for adults and kids needing a place to work on their school assignments, having double the surface area is an understated luxury that has become indispensable in the past five years. Plus, adding the second island frees the original one up to use for its original intended purpose—cooking.

The height of the second island can be a lower seated table or an elevated surface, which creates a more casual seating option by nature of it being a bar-top height. Seating around the island can be limited to just one or two sides or can expand to offer seating all the way around.



The Emergence of the Back Kitchen

We have seen a significant uptick in client requests to include a “back kitchen” in both new homes and renovations. The back kitchen is exactly what it sounds like: a second cooking and prep space, a dumping ground for miscellaneous items, and even a beverage center, all right off of the main kitchen. The function of the back kitchen is different from the traditional butler’s pantry. Instead, homeowners are craving a separate kitchen space to support the main one, which has universally become more of a showpiece, as well as a family-friendly area, workspace, and hang-out spot. The back kitchen contains all of the clutter you are tired of looking at and serves as the clean-up kitchen area for large-scale entertaining. It also provides the same essential functions as a butler’s pantry but with even more practical uses—prep, storage, and mess—allowing the central kitchen to remain a communal leisure spot.



Laundry Room is a Gem

Homeowners are pushing for delightful spaces that help make the tedious chore of laundry a more positive experience. As a result, we incorporate bright pops of color, playful tile patterns, and highly functional sinks. We are also creating laundry room environments that support intense organization, proper function, and multiple purposes in addition to laundry—think gift wrapping, crafts, dog washing, or even a small desk area.





Introducing the Winter Room

Because the demand for basements has largely dissipated, younger family members are taking over the kitchen and great room space as they become young adults. As a result, many homeowners desire an additional smaller living room on the main floor, also known as a winter room, which provides parents with a nearby quiet space for reading, interacting, or watching television.

Smaller Primary Bedrooms

In general, design is trending towards simplifying living environments. Life has become so complicated that any design element that contributes to organization, helps items become hidden, or simplifies life in any way honestly helps to quiet the mind. So, while reducing clutter within our living environment is absolutely a trend in many areas, we are seeing it most significantly in the bedroom area. That's why we are seeing smaller master bedrooms with larger closets—the closet serves as a compartmentalized and organized space that hides the clutter behind a closed door.

As an architect, interior designer, and mother of three, designing beautiful and highly functional floorplans is of the utmost importance. My job is to serve as a problem solver while also painting a beautiful canvas. And at the end of the design journey, my team at Purple Cherry Architects and I have created places and spaces that evoke joy, inspiration, and contentment for our clients.



Born and raised in Virginia, **Cathy Purple Cherry** ultimately landed in Annapolis where she grew a large architectural firm specializing in high-end custom homes and estates. Today, the firm has four offices—Charlottesville, VA, Middleburg, VA, White Sulphur Springs, WV, and Annapolis, MD—and specializes in creating luxurious residences across the United States. A talented architect, visionary, and three-dimensional thinker, Cathy is able to marry clients' dreams with the reality of the built environment. While she revels in the intricate design opportunities presented by high-end residential architecture, Cathy is equally passionate about her philanthropic efforts. She and her firm offer their design knowledge and sensitivity to the special needs community via the Purple Cherry Purposeful Architecture Studio. A true creative servant, Cathy Purple Cherry is unfailing in her efforts to positively impact all those around her.

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