

Hints *For* Homeowners

Extend Your Living Space With A Front Porch



The more things change, the more they stay the same — particularly when it comes to home design features such as this porch.

(NAPSA) — A growing number of homeowners are looking for ways to get more out of their property and expand their living space. Many have decided the answer lies in either adding or remodeling a porch.

New research unveiled at the 2009 International Builders' Show reveals that the majority of homebuyers want a front porch. This reflects a previous National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) study that reports the front porch will be a standard feature on homes by 2015. It's a sort of throwback to the turn of the 20th century.

In fact, the front porch is one of many elements building industry insiders say are changing about the American home, according to the NAHB's "Home of the Future" study. Other trends include smaller square footage, two-story design and resource efficiency.

For many, a front porch provides an affordable extra room

that refreshingly comes without walls — literally and figuratively. In other words, the front porch can serve as a dining room, game room, reading room, office, even the neighborhood's hangout.

Whatever the reason, builders and remodelers who think outside the walls by adding a porch, or "the American Great Room" as CertainTeed calls it, stand to gain customers and move inventory. Consumers who are driving this trend view porches as a way to gain living space, curb appeal and home value.

Consumers interested in adding a front porch to their new construction or existing home can obtain design ideas by visiting the Dream Porch Web site at www.certainteed.com/porch.

Of course, as more homes are being built or remodeled to include a front porch, a simple drive around town will also spur design ideas.