



ELITE REMODELING DISCUSSES TOP **POST-COVID- 19 DESIGN TRENDS IN 2021**

The year 2020 brought a great number of unexpected occurrences. Among them, one stood out. Homeowners spent far more time in their homes than they anticipated, which seems to have left a substantial mark on remodeling and design trends and buyer preferences. Some key trends, such as the increased number of bathrooms and bedrooms and the shift toward seeing our homes as a sanctuary, were correctly predicted by forecasters during the last year.

So, what else is in store for homeowners in 2021? What will be the dominant aesthetic for bathrooms and kitchens? Elite Remodeling is here to define and predict the key features and trends in interior design in 2021 based on the shifting buyer preferences. Overall, more space and comfort seems to be what most homeowners want out of their homes in 2021.



Larger homes, more rooms, open spaces

In the wake of COVID-19, several key trends have reversed course in 2020. This includes the no longer declining average home size, now steady at 2,486 square feet, and the increasing number of bathrooms and bedrooms.

In 2020, the percentage of houses with 3 or more bathrooms and 4 or more bedrooms increased to 33% and 46% respectively.

The key reason for this is that the COVID-19 pandemic has led a substantial segment of buyers to want bigger, suburban homes with more rooms. But having the same footprint with more rooms has also required homeowners to become more creative in opening up the space and making it feel more flexible and better defined.

Buyers seem to be preferring new homes as well. To be precise, 60% of them have an increased interest in buying new homes, which is the highest percentage since 2008. This may be due to the buyers being hesitant to tour other people's houses, that the existing home inventory is lacking, and that new homes tend to be in the buyers' desired locations. For instance, outlying suburbs seem to be leading in popularity.

Hygiene-centered bathroom trends

Homeowners and buyers have been adjusting to a new world where hygiene is a top priority across the board. This is particularly important for 2021 bathroom design, as new trends and innovation can help shape the new bathroom "normal" that is both hygienic and aesthetically pleasing.



Even before COVID-19 showed up, we saw the emergence of a new bathroom design trend. Multigenerational living and the changing households in general have fueled the demand for infra-red products in bathrooms, and the greater demand for these touchless products seems to be one of the biggest shifts we'll see in 2021.

For example, wall-mounted taps with infrared technology can help optimize bathroom hand hygiene and reduce bacteria spread. Additionally, touchless toilet flush controls have also experienced a larger demand and become a large consideration for developers and builders.

Another bathroom trend shaped by COVID-19 also includes simpler developments such as special toilet and washbasin glazes with smoother, non-porous surfaces. These glazes enable easier cleaning and prevent ceramics staining, which can make the bathroom both look and feel cleaner.



Kitchen sanctuaries

COVID-19 has transformed our kitchens into family rooms and offices. They have become the place where everyone gets together to reconnect, play, work, and craft creative meals. This is why kitchen design has seen a number of key trends in 2020 that seem to be steadily making their way into 2021. In fact, they may be here to stay.

Some of the main remodeling trends for kitchens include more creative storage cabinets, pantry upgrades, fewer open plans, contrasting island cabinets, high-tech faucets, more vinyl flooring, and neutral kitchens with pops of color.

Greater demand for accessibility options

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for the elderly and people with disabilities. Luckily, the challenges homeowners and their loved ones faced in 2020 have led to a marked increase in demand for accessible home features. Home improvement products that seem to be on the rise include curbless showers, wheelchair access cabinets, safety bathtubs, and more.



The appliance market is booming



Since the kitchen has become such an integral part of American homes, consumers have started to rely on common kitchen appliances more than ever before. This includes greater use of dishwashers, refrigerators, ovens, microwaves, and toasters. The primary reason for this seems to be that 35-40% of homeowners now prefer home-

cooked meals because of the pandemic.

According to the NPD Group, there was an 8% increase in household appliance sales in the week of March 14, 2020. This included even the less frequently bought appliances, such as bread makers, citrus juicers, waffle makers, and so on.

On top of that, other household appliances in rooms other than the kitchen seem to be used with greater frequency. Homeowners seem to rely on their water heaters, laundry machines, exercise equipment, barbeques, and lawn mowers more than ever before. It is predicted that this will have a lasting impact on some consumer behaviors and appliance preferences.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has also impacted the appliance market in quite a negative manner. The shockwaves of COVID-19 coupled with frequent weather emergencies are causing significant issues with appliance ordering and delivery delays.

Overwhelmed with the unforeseen surge in demand, shipping companies now find it more difficult to provide manufacturers with components, while warehouses and manufacturing plants have to work on skeleton crews. On top of that, the ports across the country seem to be backlogged, lacking the manpower and space to efficiently unload packages coming from overseas.

Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in long lead times, delayed freight pickups and deliveries, and an ever growing number of back-ordered products. Appliance manufacturers and shipping companies are working extra hard to overcome these unique challenges and meet the unprecedented demands.

Combating COVID-19 with color

The psychology of color has a crucial role to play in 2021 post-COVID-19 trends in interior design. The feelings of concern, angst, and unrest caused by the pandemic has led many homeowners to seek ways to counterbalance the effect. They seem to be going for colors that give them a sense of comfort, encouragement, and peace. Neutral, earthy hues that emulate the sensations of being in nature will take the

stage in 2021, as they help promote inner peace.

However, bright, bold colors have also made their way into homes in 2021. Colors such as teal, yellow, and pink help homeowners have a more positive view of the future.



Cost vs. Value of remodeling

Although remodeling activity has been growing at a somewhat slower rate in recent years, it still continues to grow. With the COVID-19 pandemic, an array of unique challenges have sprung up. Nevertheless, the Dallas market still

has an average of remodeling projects returning more than 57% of their initial cost. In this environment, remodeling can't be a bad investment, not to mention the other type of value homeowners receive that can't be quantified as easily. These values include the health and safety of the occupants, long-term materials, and enjoyment of a newly renovated space.



Elite Remodeling: your trusted partner in Dallas

As a team of nationally certified bath and kitchen remodelers, designers, and accessibility professionals, Elite Remodeling is your top pick if you'd like to improve

your home in 2021. If you'd like to boost your home comfort, aesthetics, and accessibility to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, make sure to get in touch with one of our design specialists. Contact us now!

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