

Decks yield nice investment return

By Keely Wygonik
special writer

COME ON deck. It's one of the fastest growing trends in the country.

"There's a tendency for people to stay home more and decks are reasonably priced living space," said Gary Kurmas, general manager of H.A. Smith Lumber & Supplies in Farmington Hills.

Decks start at \$10 per square foot compared to \$65 to \$100 for home additions. They're a good investment, too. A recent cost vs. value survey by Qualified Remodeler magazine estimated an average recovery in U.S. home resales of 40 to 50 percent of a deck addition.

The figures were even higher for warm-weather areas. With their 100-year life expectancy, chances are your deck will out live you.

THEN THERE'S the enjoyment factor. "We had a large beautiful yard and we didn't use it," said Elaine Sturman of Bloomfield Township, explaining why she added a sun room and deck to her home three years ago.

Her deck, designed by an architect, has two levels. The first level connects the sun room and kitchen, the second opens up to the family room of her



Flexibility of design makes all things possible with decks. Even in a small yard, you can have it all — swimming pool, hot tub and room to sun bathe, cook out and entertain family and friends. This deck was designed by Suburban Home Improvement with materials from H.A. Smith Lumber & Supplies, both of Farmington Hills.

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