

Survey

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pertain to each appear on Page 3.

Several other features were also in popular demand, no matter what size the house. All respondents wanted a fireplace, pantry, deck and extra insulation. And more than half asked for a basement, utility room, family room, kitchen, work island, isolated master suite and skylights. These features were included in all three Landmark plans.

Other features varied a great deal, according to size. Those who dreamed of small and medium homes wanted one-level houses, while those who dreamed big wanted to spend their time at home

on more than one level. When it came to exterior styling, small house dreamers were committed to country styling; medium house dreamers were split between contemporary, country and ranch; and large house dreamers preferred English, country and contemporary.

Special emphasis was placed on the kitchen in all three houses designed for Observer & Eccentric readers. All were large, placed in a central location and outfitted with eating bars so people could sit and chat while meals are being prepared.

Sunny nooks with a view were another common request. They were included in the medium- and large-house plans.

Forty-four was the average age of those who submitted a survey, and 89 percent owned their own homes now.

For a studyplan of any of the three dream home models, send \$7.50 for each plan to Landmark Design, P.O. Box 2307, Eugene, Ore. 97402, specifying plan name and number when ordering. See Page 3 for floor plans.

Function

from page 1G

2,500-square-foot home. The rest of the respondents were fairly evenly divided in the four remaining size categories, although no one requested a house under 1,000 square feet. And only six respondents were dreaming of the next smallest house, 1,000 to 1,500 square feet.

But, while readers were appreciative of the more glamorous features of their idea homes, they were militant about function.

Phyllis Staugand of Rochester Hills expressed frustration in general with the houses being built today. She wrote:

"I have yet to find a home designed for both entertaining guests and daily living. They are either very showy with large entertaining areas and a bath area with very small utility rooms or very small homes with even smaller utility rooms."

"I recently saw a 2,000-square-foot home with a back hall/laundry room area smaller than mine. I'm sorry, but when you have two children and they bring in friends with books, smocks, pants, etc., you need more space."

Staugand and her husband built a 2,800-

square-foot home in 1986-87. If she had to do it over again, she would build a 3,000-3,200-square-foot house. Her biggest change?

"Most important of all, I would have a large five- or six-foot wide back hall accessible from both the garage and side of the home—a hall large enough to accommodate a bench to sit down and put boots on with room for more than one person at a time. This back hall would access to the basement and staircase to the upper level."

And she's not alone. A number of respondents suggested back halls or mudrooms to house those family activities that are rarely seen on TV sitcoms.

And then there were closets. Respondents wanted closets and lots of them. "Walk-in closets in every bedroom," one reader wrote. "Abundance of cupboards, closets," wrote another. Linen closets near the main bath; room and near the master suite area were suggested.

The laundry room also received reader attention.

One reader wanted theirs to be "HUGE!"

That translates to "large enough to hide laundry awaiting process, areas to hang drip dry clothes (drain under or utility tub to catch drips). Built-in iron cabinet and storage; recessed nooks/arcs for detergents, not adding cabinets which jut out into valuable working space. Access to garage or outside door."

Other desires frequently mentioned:

- Overhead lighting in all rooms.
- Treed or wooded lots.
- Thermal windows.
- Central vacuum system.
- Barrier-free design.
- Hobby room.
- Screened porch.

Some readers are planning to build a house, others had no such aspirations.

Joanne Schwartz of Livonia probably expressed the conditional intentions of many. Checking the \$350,000 category, she responded to the question if she would be building a home:

"Yes. If I could afford it or win the lottery, I'll call you."

Pleasant dreams.



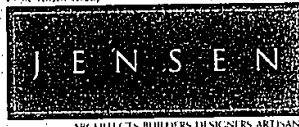
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