

The Tundra: The exterior has curb appeal with a beautiful vaulted entry way.

Tundra can be expanded to fill need

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If you have been searching for a house design that has extra space for future development, take a good look at the Tundra.

As your children get older, or your family increases, the Tundra provides an unfinished basement that gives you 2128 square feet to finish as you like. When the time is convenient, you can decide if your family needs more sleeping quarters, a game room or home office.

Perhaps the future will bring aging relatives into the house. In that case, a small apartment can easily be created, offering a safe environment while still providing privacy. The basement comes with a partially completed bathroom, extra storage and a separate entrance.

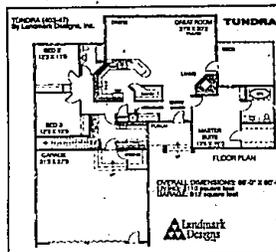
The exterior of the Tundra has tremendous curb appeal, showcased by the beautiful vaulted entry, multi-paned glass floods the entry with sunlight, fashioning a welcome atmosphere for your guests. Horizontal siding accents the trim lines of the outer design.

The main floor of the Tundra has an open configuration that doesn't waste any of the available 2,110 square feet of living space. Facing directly into the entry is a huge great room. This is the primary gathering area in the house and has windows on two sides. There is access to a side deck, where warmer weather will find the sun seekers.

The walk-through kitchen adjoins the dining room, allowing the cook in the house to save steps while serving meals. For a quick snack or less-formal dining, there is a handy eating bar. In addition to built-in appliances, the kitchen features a roomy walk-in pantry. The elegant master suite is situated to the

left of the entry. Isolated for privacy, the master suite amenities include a large walk-in closet, vanity and private bathroom with an oversized spa tub. The two secondary bedrooms are at the opposite end of the house. Each has abundant closet space, and they share a full bathroom and linen storage.

A spacious utility room, with deep sink and freezer chest, completes the design. Placement of the utility by the garage is a big plus when it comes to unloading groceries.



Flexible plan: The Tundra has a lot of space that can be developed for different needs.

Wood shake roofs are crowning glory of restored houses

(AP) — The crowning glory of an old-house restoration is a new roof of wood shakes or shingles.

The standard roofing material of Colonial times continues to be used today in many parts of the country. Originally, the type of wood used was dependent on what was available locally. For example, red cedar was plentiful on the West Coast, swamp cedar in the mid-Atlantic states, white cedar in New England and cypress in the South. Today you'll find a variety of woods used to make wood shakes or shingles, such as red and white cedar, white pine and oak.

If it's installed and maintained properly, you can expect a wood roof to last a long time. Although 25-30 years is a good minimum, we've seen some 70-year-old roofs that are still functioning properly. Understanding what's involved for installation and maintenance will go a long way in helping you decide if a wood-shake or shingle roof is the right choice for you.

One of the secrets of a successful wood-roof application is adequate ventilation. Because of the nature of the product, air must be able to circulate underneath it to prevent moisture buildup and its resultant rot. Historically, an open-shedded roofing system was used, which accomplished this objective very nicely.

Today, this is still the preferred method of installation. But keep in mind that the rough, uneven nature of shakes demands some extra protection. When installing shakes, the open sheathing should be interwoven with the felt paper so the tips of the shakes are up underneath the felt. This provides extra protection from driving winds and rain, but still allows adequate ventilation at all times.

The felt paper interweave is usually not necessary with shingles, since they lie flat. If an open-shedded roof isn't a practical option for you, the shingles or shingles should be attached to horizontal furring strips that allow an inch or so of air to move between the bottom of the shingles or shakes and the plywood or solid sheathing.

Another important factor is allowing for the natural expansion of wood. If space is not left for this and the shingles or shakes are butted up close together, you're likely to get a failure, or crack, in the nail line. Usually, leaving one-quarter-inch space or keyway between each shingle, and about one-half-inch space between shakes is enough to allow for any movement.

When actually fastening shingles, the shingle, ideally, should hang on its nails. The nailheads should be driven so they are just flush with the shingle surface. Don't dimple it or sink the nails in, as you run the risk of punching a hole which will allow the shingle to lift right off the roof. Two nails should be used per piece, placed about three-quarters-inch from each side, 1-inch above where the next butt line for the next row will be. Covering the nailheads like this helps prevent them from rusting and staining the roof surface. The seams should line up for three courses, preventing water from wearing a channel or path in the roof.

Before starting the job, always check local building codes before reroofing to see what requirements there might be in terms of products used.

By Popular Mechanics for AP Special Features

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Buyers are looking for quieter houses

By BARBARA MAYER AP FEATURES

It wasn't even noon and already Dana Hougland had fielded phone calls from two clients in search of some quiet. The owner of a large open-plan house in Aspen, Colo., was bothered by reverberating footsteps. The caller from Vail, Colo., wanted to minimize plumbing and heating noises so he could better enjoy his new home theater.

The scenario is repeated almost daily, says Hougland, an acoustical engineer in Denver, Colo., who chairs the technical committee on architectural acoustics for the Acoustical Society of America.

A noisy home is becoming a no-no. Whether an open-plan layout or overcrowded lives set nerves a-jangling, the need for the sound of silence is rising, especially among the affluent.

Floors that don't squeak, appliances that are seen but not heard and walls that don't talk are held up as models by those in pursuit of quiet homes.

"Sometimes, it is even a matter of 'I don't want to hear my own teen-agers,'" says Hougland, a principal in the firm of David L. Adams Associates.

Through the 1970s, a lot of the residential construction was aimed at fire-prone buyers, and speed and cost were factors. Today, the market is in luxury homes, and insulation against unwanted sound is important.

In a survey conducted for Owens-Corning Fiberglas in Toledo, Ohio, more than 40 percent of prospective home buyers said they would pay an extra \$500 for sound barriers in interior walls and floors. As a result, the company is promoting its thermal insulation as a sound insulation, too. Jim Schaefer, a company spokesman, says a 1996 booklet titled "Quiet Please," refers to the insulation as a "comprehensive acoustic control system."

Prior to the postwar building boom in the 1960s, Hougland says interior noise wasn't much of a problem because walls were built of plaster on lath. That's far too expensive today and, in some cases, wouldn't meet modern building codes.

Instead, there are newer products and techniques to create heavier, such as light-weight concrete for subflooring

and metal channels for walls that decouple joists and wallboard.

The door, a first line of defense against unwanted noise, has also changed. Hollow-core doors replaced solid wood doors as an industry standard in this early 1980s because they cost less. Unfortunately, they filter out less noise.

Several companies now sell solid-core doors with a molded fiberboard filler for better sound insulation. Fremdor, a Tampa, Fla., manufacturer, says prices start at about \$75, compared with about \$25 for hollow doors. Solid wood doors start at about \$100.

Quieter appliances are other allies in the war against noise in the home. Older dishwashers can be loud enough to stop conversations. Upscale European brands such as Miele and Bosch introduced the concept of the quiet dishwasher about five years ago. American makers were quick to follow.

"Quiet operation has become the main selling point for high-end dishwashers in the last year or so," says Mark Euss, vice president of Jenn-Air Co. in Indianapolis.

Jenn-Air recently introduced three UQ — ultimate quiet — models that the company says are 50 percent quieter than its other dishwashers. At around \$500 to \$650 each, they're about \$50 more than other Jenn-Air models.

Although many new dishwashers are quieter than their predecessors, there's no industry standard to measure the differences, as there is with energy efficiency measurements.

"At this point, consumers are at the mercy of the seller and manufacturer," Hougland says. "If they say it is quiet, you have to take their word for it."

Dishwashers may be quieter, but refrigerators are noisier than ever because of recent changes in condensers for greater energy efficiency, says Tracy Hank of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers in Chicago.

Other major appliances due to be introduced are home laundry equipment.

"It wouldn't surprise me if clothes washers received more attention, now that they are moving out of the basement and into the kitchen and the bathroom," Hank says.