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CYNTHIA BENNETT
President
CYNTHIA BENNETT & ASSOCIATES

2009

the future

HOME DESIGN

THE FACTS

WITHIN A
10 MILE
RADIUS OF
DOWNTOWN
PASADENA,
HOME
REMODELING
AND
FURNISHINGS
GENERATE
\$1.9
BILLION.

THE MAGAZINE: *What are the newest trends in Home Design?*

BENNETT: Energy Management and conservation is the fastest growing trend. Luxury items though still popular, need to be eco-friendly. Consciousness of the environment affects all aspects of design from space planning to material selections to use of technology to barrier free design. Space planning has been affected in several ways. As far as environmental impact, smaller homes are being designed than in the early 2000s, so that the footprint of the house on the lot is less. Fewer "luxury" rooms are being built although there is increased interest in the Master Bath with spa-like features, and a smaller media "den" which also can serve as a library and home office. Many have discarded the separate kitchen, dining and living rooms for the new "great room" where the family can be together. Material selections are greatly influenced by interest in "green." Some of these are: bamboo; engineered, recycled woods; recycled glass and paper engineered stone; Energy Star appliances; low flush toilets; in floor heating; low VOC paints; tankless water heaters; and double and triple glazed windows. High tech electronics, controlling and dimming lighting, sound, and shading at the touch of a button are becoming more common as an energy saving feature.

THE MAGAZINE: *What does "design and build" mean for consumers?*

BENNETT: Design and Build means a "one stop shop;" a location where all the requirements of planning and building a new home or a

remodeling project can be met in one place. From the initial consultation to the finished project, design-build firms such as Cynthia Bennett & Associates, Inc. manage it all so that clients only work with one company. From the stage of just talking about ideas, through schematic designs, through all necessary construction drawings, selection of all materials, through the Building Department permitting process, obtainment of multiple bids, and meeting city inspectors for each required inspection. We take the project step by step through the whole process. Our team of designers, architects, project managers, estimators, administrative staff, and trusted sub-contractors all work together to provide a new home or remodeled space that answers our clients' goals and dreams. A design build firm has a vested interest in making sure that the project turns out exactly how it was designed.

THE MAGAZINE: *What is your vision of the future home?*

BENNETT: The home of the future will be energy efficient and eco friendly. Much like the desire to have smaller, more efficient cars, people will want smaller, more efficient houses. Homes will be built and retrofitted with universal design, meaning that there will be adaptable features for young families as well as older couples. Walls of windows or solid panels will have the ability to close off spaces or open up the whole house to the outdoors. Gray water will be used for irrigation and wastewater will be recycled and reused. All systems will be automated and energy will come from solar, wind or alternative sources.