

Make an ENTRANCE

Volume 2, Number 1

What's My
Style

Save Energy,
save Taxes

Patio Door
Pointers

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Editor's Note

Your home has a personality just waiting to get out. Whether you're buying new or remodeling, you can take some simple steps to help realize your home's full design potential.

In this issue of *Make an Entrance*, for example, we offer some ideas on how to build a unique outdoor space that's a natural extension of your home's environment. We show you how to create an entryway that highlights your home's architectural heritage. And where to find design inspiration that complements your home's best features.

Best of all, these ideas don't involve big, expensive changes. They're not about "makeovers." They're about listening to what your home is telling you – and allowing it to be the best it can be.





Save energy save taxes with a fiberglass door system

You may be eligible for tax savings if you purchase a new door for your home this year.

The Federal Energy Policy Act provides a tax credit of up to \$500 for qualifying energy-saving products – including an energy-efficient fiberglass exterior door.

The credit is available for only two years – it applies to improvements made between Jan. 1, 2006 and Dec. 31, 2007. You can claim 10 percent of the door's cost (not including installation), up to a maximum of \$500, for qualifying products. The qualifying requirements vary for different parts of the country. Check with your local retailer or contractor to be sure the door you're purchasing qualifies in the region where you live. Also, check with your tax advisor to find out what you can claim.

Up to seven times the insulation value

Fiberglass doors are an ideal way to get the look of a traditional wood door while reducing your home's energy consumption.

They do more than save you money, though. They also improve your home's comfort by reducing drafts and cold spots in the winter and easing loads on the cooling system in the summer.

Tests at Therma-Tru's Advanced Technology Center in Edgerton, Ohio, show that fiberglass doors provide three to seven times the insulation value of wood. The primary reason: a CFC-free polyurethane core that's highly effective at blocking heat transmission.



The insulating properties of the door itself are only part of the story. Wood doors tend to swell and shrink with changes in temperature and humidity, and they can warp over time. Fiberglass doors are dimensionally stable, virtually eliminating air infiltration when they're used with a high-quality frame and sill.

When you're shopping for an energy-efficient entry door, consider the materials

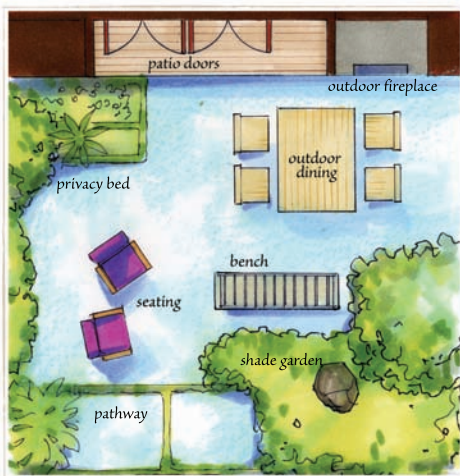
and construction of the entire door system, not just the door itself. Therma-Tru's door systems, for example, include the option of a rot-free jamb, high-performance sill and weather-stripping engineered to ensure a good fit and long service life. High-quality hinges and low-E glass also contribute to energy efficiency.

ENERGY STAR program

A variety of Therma-Tru products meet the stringent requirements of the federal ENERGY STAR program. ENERGY STAR is a voluntary labeling program launched in 1992 to help identify and promote energy-efficient products and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ENERGY STAR-compliant products deliver the same or better performance as comparable models while using less energy. Overall, they're estimated to save approximately \$10 billion in energy costs every year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. You can learn more about the program at www.energystar.gov



LIVING *al fresco*



Floor plan for patio shown above.

Whether simple or elaborate, the most enjoyable decks and patios are an extension of the home, creating an outdoor living space. With careful attention to design, placement and amenities, you can make your space more fun, more functional and enjoyable.

Design: To create continuity between your home and backyard, integrate the design elements of your home with the patio or deck. For example, use similar materials or furnishings inside and out. A matching trim color can coordinate both spaces. Or install a patio door with internal grids to match traditional divided-light windows.

Consider how much privacy you want to create. For example, a planter or a trellis is an inexpensive way to set off the patio from the rest of the backyard while still allowing you to keep an eye on the kids.

You can
EXTEND *your*
outdoor-living season



Liveability: Careful attention to layout and placement can make your patio more comfortable and allow you to use it through more seasons. Consider how much protection you need – it can range from a fully enclosed sunroom to completely open space. Even when it's open, some protection is advisable – for example, use a fence or wall to soften prevailing winds.

Work with nature to manage light and heat. In cooler climates, a southern or western exposure makes the most of natural heat and light in cooler months. In warmer regions, a northern or eastern exposure may be more comfortable in the summer.

Retaining walls and privacy screens can accomplish the same effect.

Umbrellas and awnings offer more flexibility than a fixed roof. You can fold them up in cooler months to let in more light and warmth.

Amenities: You can start simply and upgrade over time. Most important is getting the basics right. Install plenty of weatherproof electrical outlets, landscape lighting, hot and cold water lines and a gas line for cooking and heating (keep in mind that you'll need to use a grill designed to run on natural gas or convert your propane grill).



Of all the doors in the home, patio doors probably come in for the most wear and tear, and investments in quality really pay off. “Better-built patio doors mean less maintenance, less hassle and more money in your pocket,” says James Carey of the Carey Brothers radio show and website. Here’s a checklist to help you choose a patio door that will look good for many years.



PATIO DOOR

IS IT THE RIGHT STYLE?

Gone are the days when every patio door looked the same. With today’s doors, you can choose one that complements your home’s architectural style: stainable

or painted, modern or traditional, wide stiles and rails or narrow ones. You can also consider triple or quad patio doors or transoms to bring more light into the home.

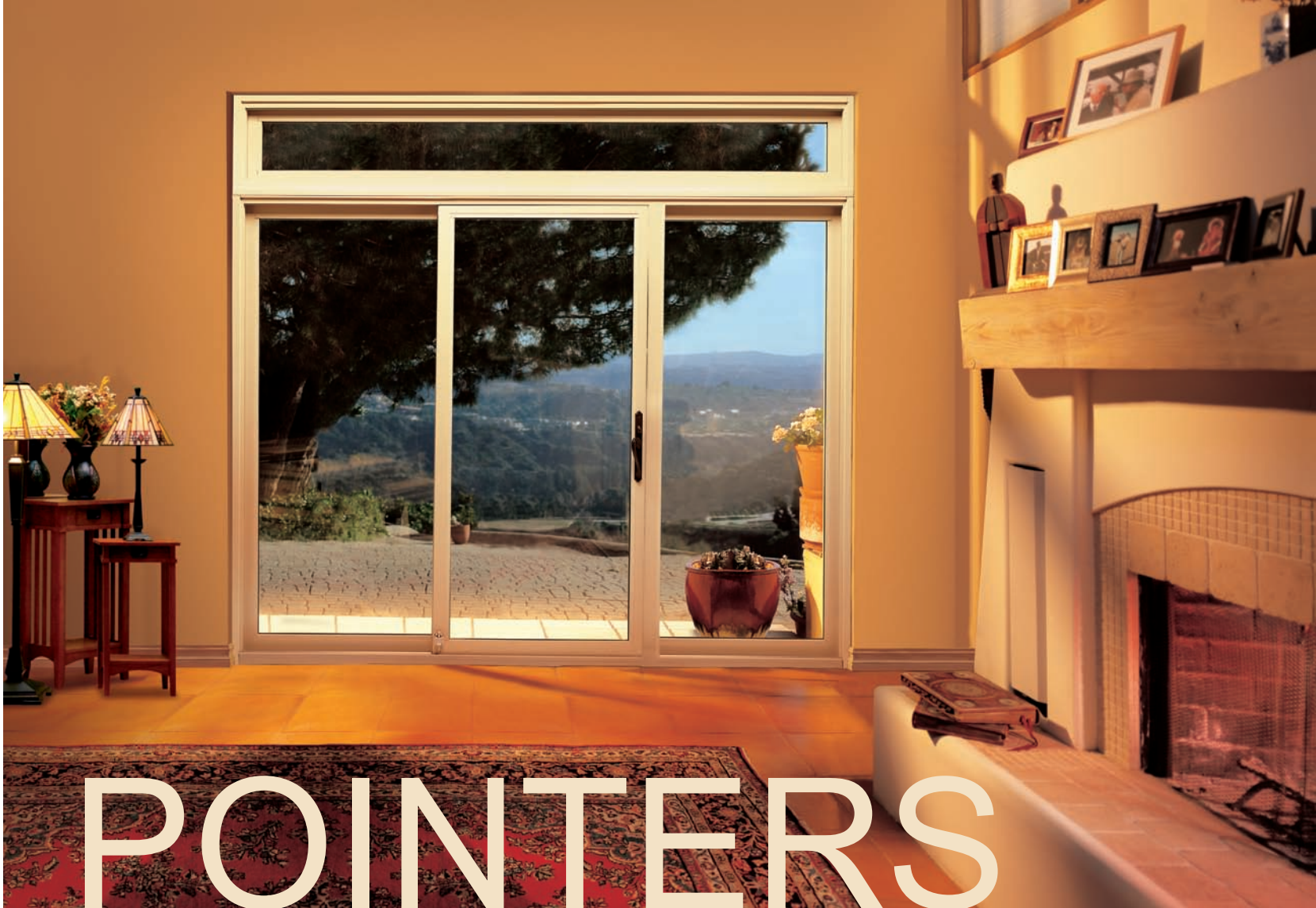
WILL IT LAST?

Quality materials ensure years of effortless performance, and Fiberglass doors such as those offered by Therma-Tru® provide the best performance. They won’t split or rot like a wood door, and they don’t ding or dent like steel doors can.

IS IT SECURE?

For maximum security, look for multipoint locking systems. They enhance security by engaging the lock to the frame at several points. And they keep the door panel seated squarely in the frame, ensuring proper alignment and a tight seal against wind and rain. For sliding patio doors, a footbolt provides added security.





POINTERS

SLIDE OR SWING?

A sliding patio door makes the most of limited space, because you don't have to leave clearance for the doors to swing open. Swinging doors (French doors)

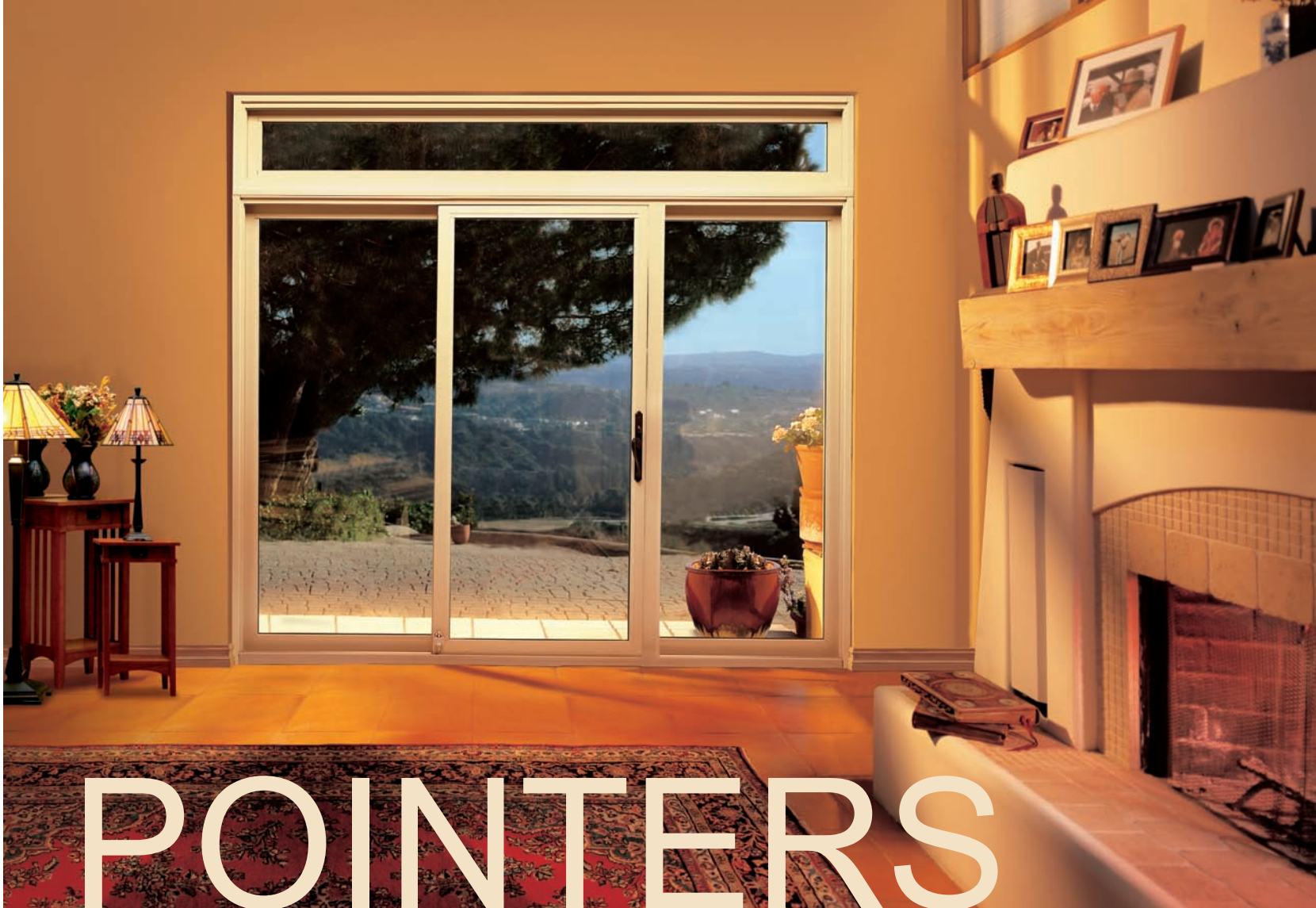
offer a more traditional look, and you have the option of both doors opening – handy if you're moving lawn furniture in and out, for example.

IS IT ENERGY EFFICIENT?

Fiberglass doors offer better thermal efficiency than wood or steel, keeping your house warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Premium weatherstripping and sills further reduce heat loss, and maintenance-free internal blinds can control glare. With low-E insulated glass, you don't have to sacrifice the view to save energy.

As the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass doors, Therma-Tru offers a variety of styles to meet your needs and budget. For more design ideas, visit the Idea Showcase at www.thermatru.com





POINTERS

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Simple outdoor cooking

Asian BBQ Sauce

Makes about 1 cup

1/2 cup oyster sauce
(available in the Asian foods section of the supermarket)

3 tablespoons grated fresh ginger

3 tablespoons soy sauce

2 tablespoons dark brown sugar

1 tablespoon sesame oil

1 tablespoon lemon juice

8 garlic cloves, pressed

Heat all the ingredients together in a saucepan over medium heat until steaming. Cool. The sauce will keep in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.





DAVE LIEBERMAN

Y O U N G & H U N G R Y

More than 100 Recipes for Cooking Fresh and Affordable Food for Everyone

Outdoor entertaining is all about simplicity and comfort, and that includes cooking. Try these easy-to-prepare barbecue recipes from television chef Dave Lieberman, and check out more great ideas from his new book, “Young and Hungry” (Hyperion Books, 2005).

Shortcut Classic BBQ Sauce

Makes about 1 cup

2/3 cup ketchup

3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

1 tablespoon white vinegar

1 tablespoon dark brown sugar

2 teaspoons soy sauce

1 teaspoon chili powder

Heat all the ingredients together in a saucepan over medium heat until steaming. Cool. The sauce will keep in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.



Dave's Rub

Rubs bring an immense amount of flavor to foods with little effort. You simply mix the dry spices together and rub them into the meat you want to flavor. It's best to make them fresh for maximum intensity.

3/4 teaspoon dried oregano

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon paprika

1 teaspoon chili powder

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

Crush the oregano by pressing it into your palm with one thumb. Mix the oregano together with the rest of the ingredients in a small bowl until you have a homogeneous mixture. Makes enough to season one flank steak or a few pounds of chicken breasts.



Choose the
PERFECT DOOR
for your home's
architectural style.

WHAT'S MY

Style



Victorian

The steep gables and heavy ornamentation of Victorian and Queen Anne homes require a door with a lot of presence. Glass plays a big role in Victorian entryways: beveled, glazed, frosted, or even etched.

Getting the look: Consider a Classic-Craft® oak or mahogany entry door from Therma-Tru in a dark or medium stain. The white frosted design of Therma-Tru's Prestwick™ glass adds a touch of elegance. An oval design complements Victorian features like turrets and gingerbread accents.





Modern

Modern style is usually seen in one-of-a-kind showcase homes or adaptive re-use projects. The style is geometric and functional, featuring flatter roof lines.

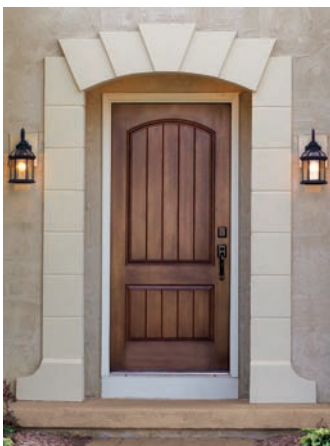
Getting the look: Minimalist door styles work best such as Therma-Tru's Smooth-Star®: simple frames (often finished in white or neutral gray) with lots of glass. Full lites with Saratoga™ glass or Sedona glass create privacy while preserving the clean lines of the modernist style.



Coastal

This style reflects eclectic influences: island architecture from the Caribbean and Bahamas, French and Creole inspirations from Louisiana, and traditional colonial designs from the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas.

Getting the look: A variety of door styles work well with coastal homes. Transoms, sidelites and doorlites create a sense of airiness – especially for homes with deep porches. Consider a colonial look with a Smooth-Star® door system from Therma-Tru featuring Archlite™ glass with brass caming and matching hardware.



European

Styles influenced by traditional European homes, such as Tudor and French Provincial, feature rustic materials such as slate roofs and heavy masonry walls. Overall harmony is more important than strict stylistic accuracy.

Getting the look: Therma-Tru's Rustic Collection™ is an ideal choice that works with many styles. A solid panel Fiber-Classic® door, with a mahogany or dark oak finish, adds a fantastic look to a French inspired home. Sidelites and transoms with wood grills and textured glass offer privacy and a more artisan look.





OLD IS NEW



Builders, remodelers and homeowners are looking to the past for inspiration these days. Traditional neighborhood developments – with their front porches, walkable streets and small-town feel – are the hottest trend in homebuilding. And when homeowners choose upgrades, they're less interested in "modernizing" than in preserving their homes' architectural heritage while adding modern-day convenience and comfort.

"Homeowners are increasingly aware of their home's architectural heritage," says Patricia Rodemann, principal of Designed for Success, a firm that tracks design trends in residential construction. "Authenticity is important to them." Reflecting these trends, the Therma-Tru® American Style and Rustic collections offer historically accurate door styles with all the performance advantages of fiberglass construction.



Therma-Tru's Rustic Collection™ is the ideal choice for Mediterranean and Southwestern home styles. Powerful yet meticulously detailed, it creates a dramatic entryway that works well with stone and stucco exteriors, tiled patios and other natural materials.

The American Style Collection™ was inspired by Craftsman, Bungalow and Cottage homes of the early 1900s. It features powerful, simple lines and flawless grain that evokes the look of western fir or cedar. Optional dentil shelves and flush-glazed glass with bold geometric patterns create period-perfect architectural details.

*Unlock your
home's*
HERITAGE





NEIGHBORLY



New research* sponsored by Therma-Tru finds that when people think about building or remodeling their home, they like to see what the neighbors are up to.

Nearly 70% of American homeowners drive through their neighborhoods for design ideas before they build or remodel, according to the study. And nearly 25% of them take photographs of homes they like for future reference.

Given their high regard for neighbors' opinions, it's not surprising that when folks do build

or remodel, they're most likely to focus on what's visible from the street: landscaping, the front door and front porch.

Other top sources of inspiration include home magazines, home improvement shows and friends and family, the study found.

Nearly two thirds of homeowners said they would copy a house that they liked. Higher-income homeowners (household income above \$100,000) were even more likely to pursue this approach.



ADVICE

Homeowners also look to famous homes for ideas. The most popular ones cited in the study are Martha Stewart's farmhouse, followed by Tony Soprano's home, the suburban Chicago house featured in the movie "Home Alone," and the homes on "Desperate Housewives."

The study suggests that women are more confident than men about their design sense: Just 38% of women said they looked to construction professionals for design advice, compared with 59% of men.

* The study was conducted in November 2005 by Harris Interactive among a national sample of homeowners.





Smooth-Star® Fiberglass

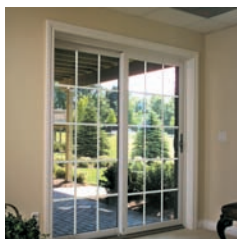
Therma-Tru® patio doors with the advantages of fiberglass.

We've brought two decades of innovation in fiberglass entryways to patio doors. Fiberglass gives our complete line of hinged and slider patio door systems superior strength, thermal insulation and resistance to dents, dings, rust and corrosion.

Nobody brings more style, features and performance to patio doors than Therma-Tru. Learn more at: www.thermatru.com



Fiber-Classic® Fiberglass



Slim-Line™ Fiberglass



PDF™ Fiberglass



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DOORS

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