



*Relax, Refresh,  
Rejuvenate*

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Residential Design + Build

[www.hammerschmidtinc.com](http://www.hammerschmidtinc.com)

## Fireplace Redefined

The fireplace has gone through a radical metamorphosis in the way it is typically used in our homes. Once primarily a practical source of energy for cooking food and heating the home, the fireplace has come to be more often an aesthetic addition to a living space, providing ambience and enhancing the mood. Who can resist the romance of the flickering flames?

This may explain why the new horizontal direct-vent gas fireplace designs are all about drama. Designed with the specific objective of making the most stunning visual impression possible, a wide-angle contemporary fireplace can take your breath away.

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## New Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

If you've been thinking of making energy efficiency improvements to your home, now is the time. The recently enacted U.S. stimulus bill made significant changes to the tax credits available to homeowners in 2009 and beyond. Here are the highlights: Effective for 2009 and 2010, the tax credit has been raised from 10% to 30% of the cost, up to \$1,500, for windows, doors, insulation, metal and asphalt roofs, HVAC systems, non-solar water heaters, and biomass stoves. Please note that the qualification requirements for windows have significantly increased: not all ENERGY STAR® windows will qualify. Some improvements such as geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, and solar panels are not subject to the \$1,500 maximum. Tax credits are available at 30% of the cost, with no upper limit through 2016 for geothermal heat pumps, solar panels, solar water heaters, small wind energy systems, and fuel cells. For more information, visit the website at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits) and call **Hammerschmidt Construction** for an energy consultation to see how you can take advantage of the credits in your home.

Sincerely,

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Photo: by James F. Wilson

Photo: Courtesy of Escea Int'l Ltd.  
([www.escaanet](http://www.escaanet))

# Relax, Refresh, Rejuvenate

Is your home designed to help you relax and unwind as soon as you walk through the door? You may be stressing over a number of things you still need to accomplish, but the atmosphere that greets you as you enter has a calming influence on your mind. Even your friends and guests sense the welcoming spirit pervasive in your home.

If this is not the case, and you've been searching for ways to make your home into this kind of wellspring of refreshment and tranquility, the kitchen and great room of The New American Home (TNAH) 2009 can be inspiring. The ideas showcased in this spectacular home during the International Builders Show in Las Vegas this year are adaptable to home design and remodeling at all price levels.

One notable feature of the home are the restful horizontal lines found in the contemporary architecture as well as the interior furnishings. The great room emphasizes this with its casual, low-profile furniture that invites conversation. The horizontal lines are repeated in the 45-inch wide-angle gas fireplace, exquisitely accented with a flat eyebrow mantle finished in amber-colored glass tiles. The 18-foot-wide sliding glass panels that open to the patio area, along with the large rectangular windows overhead, continue the horizontal theme.

Simplicity of form is another feature of the home that helps create a peaceful attitude. One example



Photo: by James H. Wilson

is the use of natural organic materials, like stone, metal and wood, as well as an emphasis on texture rather than complex patterns. This can be seen in the kitchen, with its strong, clean solid-wood cabinets in a cherry chocolate glaze and the glass-accented tile along the kitchen's wall surfaces. The sleek contour of the island with its waterfall countertop treatment is echoed in the contemporary chrome and leather bar stools.

A third feature that serves to rejuvenate mind and body is the complete integration of the interior spaces with the outside environment. The 16-inch square travertine floor tiles in the great room extend seamlessly to the zero-edge pool outside, and at the same elevation. Across the still, reflective water you can see the "rejuvenation room" appearing to float on the surface of the pool, creating a sense of quiet serenity.

Of final note, TNAH 2009 is an environmentally responsible, energy efficient house. This was achieved through the combination of sustainable design concepts and building practices, as well as innovative, eco-friendly products. When you know your home is doing its part to protect our fragile environment, that in itself can provide peace of mind.

## Screening Room

Sliding glass panels that pocket completely into the sidewalls of the rooms have made possible the expansive openings that help blend indoor spaces with the outdoors in TNAH 2009. Perhaps you are drawn to the concept, but you're not sure it will work in your home. There may be times of the day when insects become a problem, or the sun increases in intensity and you want to avoid the solar heat gain, or you simply want a little more privacy. Retractable screens allow you

to enjoy those wide openings, while providing the occasional protection you need.

Perhaps you are already familiar with the motorized retractable screens that descend and coil back up into their housing at the push of a button. However, if the area you are wanting to screen receives constant traffic from indoors to outdoors and vice versa, you need a different solution that provides a passageway.



Infinity Screen

# Color Forecast '09

What makes one color look fresh and exciting while another seems outdated and boring? Our color preferences reflect our constantly evolving interactions with culture, commerce and technology, both at home and abroad. Through these influences, color possibilities are expanded as new sources of color inspiration emerge.

Each year Sherwin-Williams creates a color forecast to help homeowners choose beautiful hues that encompass the latest trends. "Our 2009 Lifestyle Collection embraces earth-inspired trends and consumers' environmentally focused ways," says Jackie Jordan, director of color marketing for Sherwin-Williams.

The 24 hues selected by Sherwin-Williams color experts for 2009 are illustrated below:



Conscious Luxury Color Palette



## Techno Color

As technology continues to drive innovation, it is also driving an evolution in the world of color and design, creating dimension and luminescence never before possible.



## Conscious Luxury

This palette evokes a feeling of luxury and sophistication while also reflecting a conscious investment in preserving our surrounding landscape.

## Global Tapestry

Exotic hues weave together a vibrant patchwork of earth-inspired colors from the world over, including Russia, East Asia and Latin America.



## Local Momentum

These colors are inspired by the handiwork of local artisans and the beauty of the natural resources that abound in all of our communities.

Phantom Screens recently introduced two manual retractable screen options specifically designed for oversized openings.

The **Infinity** screen has no width limitations and is therefore ideal for folding or sliding wall systems. It uses a series of pleated screening panels that fold away when they aren't required. Any of the 3-foot panels can be designated as an entry or exit point along the screening span.

The **Distinction** screen is intended for oversized doorways in high traffic areas where the screen will be frequently opened and closed. It also pulls into place when required and retracts out-of-sight when not in use.

Under certain conditions heavy winds, dirt, sand and salt spray can affect the performance of retractable screens. Be sure to consult your contractor to see if they are appropriate for the use you may envision.



Local Momentum Color Palette

# HAMMER TIMES

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## Fireplace Redefined

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The unique shape of the firebox especially complements the horizontal lines of a contemporary-style home, as does the clean, unadorned faceplate in natural materials such as stainless steel or stone.

Perhaps the most unusual feature is the appearance of the fire itself. Not content with conventional ceramic logs in the firebox, these gas fireplaces don't even try to imitate a wood-burning fire. Instead they have a stylish look all their own. The elongated burner is covered with crystals, ceramic stones, or coals through which the flames project. For added effect, the outer edges of the fuel bed is often filled with delicate accent pebbles. Stainless steel reflective panels serve to amplify the visual impact.

Make no mistake, though, a horizontal fireplace is much more than just a pretty face. If desired, it can also be used to heat a room or take the chill off a lovely evening spent outdoors under the stars. A control panel allows the flame height to be adjusted for extra warmth and viewing pleasure.



Photo: Courtesy of Escea Int'l Ltd. ([www.escea.net](http://www.escea.net))

*The striking Escea outdoor fireplace took up residence in the "sky deck" of TNAH 2009. Here it enhances an outdoor patio. It has the option of white or black coals with matching decorative stones in front. A removable stainless steel weather shield protects the fireplace when not in use. In addition, all Escea fireplaces are zero-clearance.*



Photo: Courtesy of FPI Fireplace Products Int'l ([www.regency-fire.com](http://www.regency-fire.com))

*The Regency Horizon fireplace lent glamour to the family room of TNAH 2009. The panoramic double-sided model functions here as a room divider. The Horizon comes standard with cobalt blue glass crystals in the firebox, or optional ceramic spa stones.*