

The New Trends in Home Building

Home building design is a constantly changing concept. As our lifestyles change, so do the homes we choose to build. After all, when families bought themselves their first black and white television, they hardly would have envisaged that many modern homes would now have a room dedicated to home theatre systems.

So what are the latest trends in home design? Carmelina Smith from Pitaro Homes, a prestige building company whose main market is business and well-established professionals, says the biggest factor currently affecting homes is block sizes.

"We have seen blocks become much smaller and as a result clients are being smarter about how to build and maximise the use of their block," Mrs Smith explained.

Mrs Smith said smaller block sizes and unusual dimensions have resulted in many new home builders reducing garden space and utilising the majority of the block for their house space. Homes are also being built with fewer bedrooms but with more room for storage.

"People are starting to forgo that fourth room for three bedrooms instead so that they have bigger rooms and more space for robes and storage," Mrs Smith said.

"The main room tends to have a his and her walk in wardrobe. Some clients put walk in robes in every room and others only have them in the main bedroom with built in robes in the other rooms." Bedrooms aren't the only areas of the home changing to suit storage demands. There is also an increasing focus on kitchens with most people requesting spacious kitchens with lots of storage space, walk in pantries and fashionable islands that look more like furniture than kitchen cabinetry.

"A lot of clients want a bigger pantry, freestanding ovens and island benches which are fast becoming the multipurpose breakfast bar," Mrs Smith said. "People are spending a lot of time in the kitchen so they are looking for space and comfort."

Formal lounge and dining rooms are also becoming a thing of the past, with theatre rooms making their mark in new homes. Options such as in-built speakers and surround sound, means your theatre room could become the real cinema experience.

"I don't think we have done one house in the past year without a theatre room," she said.



"They are kitted out with all the latest gadgets including surround sound and wall speakers.

"Homes are being built with entertainment in mind."

The alfresco is now the essential outdoor living area and is being designed to feel more like an extension of the main home. The alfresco is becoming a prime entertaining area and often contains built in kitchens and barbecues for a more sophisticated outdoor cooking experience.

"People are putting in kitchens, sinks, ovens, barbecues, pizza ovens and even their own built in bar," Mrs Smith agreed. "They forward plan where they're going to put everything before the house is even built."

Advancing technology is also impacting on home designs. Many modern homes are being designed as 'smart homes' with wireless networks and advanced home security systems.

"They come to us upfront and get us to install Star-serve systems which include built-in intercoms, security cameras and wireless internet systems in every room," Mrs Smith said.

New home builders are also considering the range of green options available when choosing which material or appliances to use whether it's the type of wood used in floorboards or the type of paint used on walls and ceilings.

"We have a number of clients who use greener options and a repeat client who is quite eco," she said.