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high-rise  
design



## Architecture/Interior Design

We provided a quick look at some of the latest styles, trends and innovations from cutting-edge designers working with area homebuilders to create award-winning housing projects.

Today's urban dwellers – whether in studios or penthouse suites – are adjusting to living in considerably less space.

"Small space living doesn't mean that you have to sacrifice your sense of style. It simply means that your space has to work harder and be more multifunctional," says Jaimi Julian Thompson, president and CEO of Artisan Design Group.

Open floor plans are appearing everywhere from the highest-end custom homes to loft-style layouts in mid-rise developments.

Walls are coming down and those tucked away private spaces don't really exist anymore. Even the once untouchable divider between the master bedroom and bath is up for grabs.

"In fact, rooms that once were off-limits to guests – such as bedrooms and kitchens – are now part of the entertainment mix," says Madeline Young, Madeline Young Interiors.

Kitchens and living room combinations are commonplace in new condo construction, agrees Dawn Kearney of Design Line Interiors. The new openness in design and attitude means furnishings in those functional spaces have to work well and look good.

Many furnishings need to be active and flexible. End cabinets in a wall of shelves in the living area may roll out so they can use as tables elsewhere. An innovative desk with a hinge at one of its corners might allow it to swing out from the wall that links the bedroom to the main living area. When not in use, the desk disappears – its back flush with the wall.

"I like the idea that there can be changeability within a space. Sliding, pivoting, tracking, hinging – these are all devices designers use," says Jaimi Julian Thompson, president and CEO of Artisan Design Group.

Lighting has a larger decorative value today than it did even a few short years ago, and designers and consumers alike are now choosing lighting products as an important accessory to their overall home design.

"People approach lighting design much the same way as they approach buying a piece of art," says Dawn Kearney of Design Line Interiors.

There is no single hot color right now, but what does matter is intensity. Rich, attention-getting concentrations are showing up on walls, window coverings, sofas, chairs and accessories of all kinds.

"There are punches of brilliant color, say a deep dark chocolate wall in an office or a vivid pastel as a dining room backdrop and mixed textures such as a brick wall or maybe even a metal air duct that becomes part of the décor," – Dawn Kearney of Design Line Interiors.

