

# HOMES



Complete with astounding period details and a story to match, this circa 1807 Ipswich "antique" presented by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is unlike anything you've seen before. Please see Page 22 for all of the details and additional photos.



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Lillian Shapiro

## To our readers:

Along with the melting of those last patches of snow and the budding of our long-awaited perennials comes a sort of rebirth.

Whether you are looking to relocate or to simply revitalize your existing home, spring is unquestionably the ideal time to do both.

Regardless of your journey,

I hope that this latest issue of "Homes" will serve as a reminder of the captivating communities and the endless resources available to us on the North Shore.

Thank you, as always, for reading.

**LILLIAN SHAPIRO**  
Director of Real Estate  
Advertising  
North of Boston Media Group

# HOMES

Decorating  
Renovating  
Real Estate

SPRING 2017

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# Taking the leap: Incentives for first-time homebuyers

BY RACHEL HARTMAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Buying a home for the first time can be daunting. In addition to mountains of paperwork and new financial terms to sort through, you'll face costs and fees that can quickly add up.

In short, purchasing a home isn't a financial step to take lightly. Perhaps that's why 74 percent of millennials say that saving for a down payment still represents the most significant hurdle to achieving the American dream, according to a 2016 survey carried out by TD Bank.

Fortunately, many grants and programs exist to help first-time homebuyers. Here are some options:

## FHA loan

With this option, the Federal Housing Administration, or FHA, insures the mortgage. The FHA is an agency that operates within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD.

Since the FHA insures the loan,

lenders receive a layer of protection and won't experience a loss if you default on the mortgage.

FHA loans typically come with competitive interest rates, smaller down payment requirements and lower closing costs than conventional loans.

If you have a credit score of 580 or higher, you could be eligible for a mortgage with a down payment as low as 3.5 percent of the purchase price.

## VA loan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA, helps service members, veterans and surviving spouses purchase homes. The VA guarantees part of the loan, which makes it possible for lenders to offer some special features.

VA loans offer competitive interest rates and require no down payment. You may not be required to pay for private mortgage insurance, and there isn't a minimum credit score needed to be eligible.

If it becomes difficult at some

point to make payments on the mortgage, the VA can negotiate with the lender on your behalf.

## Federal Housing Administration 203(k)

If you want to purchase a fixer-upper, the 203(k) rehabilitation program may be a solid fit.

This type of loan, backed by the FHA, takes into consideration the value of the residence after improvements have been made. It lets you borrow the funds you'll need to carry out the project and includes them in your main mortgage.

Local first-time homebuyer programs

In addition to the grants and programs provided by the federal government, some communities offer help for first-time homebuyers. Before purchasing a home, check your state or city's website for information on housing aid available in your area.

Considering contacting a real estate agent to learn more about grants and programs that could

fit your situation.

## Good Neighbor Next Door

The Good Neighbor Next Door program is sponsored by HUD and focuses on providing housing aid for law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians and pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers.

Through this program, you could receive a discount of 50 percent off a home's listed price in specific regions known as "revitalization areas."

Using the HUDHomes website, you can search for properties that are available in your state. As part of the program, you'll need to commit to living in the home for 36 months.

## Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are government-sponsored entities. They work with local lenders to offer mortgage options that benefit low- and moderate-income families.

With the backing of Fannie Mae

and Freddie Mac, lenders can offer competitive interest rates and down payment amounts as low as 3 percent of the purchase price.

First-time homebuyers could also be eligible for home financing education programs with the HomePath Ready Buyer program through Fannie Mae.

## Energy Efficient Mortgage

This type of loan's purpose is to help you add improvements to your home that will make it more environmentally friendly. The federal government supports Energy Efficient Mortgage loans by insuring them through FHA or VA programs.

The key advantage to this grant is that it allows you to create an energy-efficient home without the need to make a larger down payment. The amount is rolled into your primary loan.

Some improvements you can make include installing double-paned windows, new insulation and a modern heating and cooling system.

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Chris Sweda/TNS

Jessica Doane and Russ Page put off homebuying to get their careers on solid footing. Both now 28, they are hoping to stop renting soon and trade their apartment for their first home.

## Settling down: Millennials tossing their hat into housing market

BY GAIL MARKS JARVIS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Millennials are finally starting to show interest in homeownership.

Weighed down by massive student debt and job struggles, the generation brutalized by the Great Recession has lacked both the money and the desire to buy homes. They've been a generation of renters.

But as millennials have entered their 30s, established themselves financially and started having families, they've gradually begun to

show interest in homeownership, according to Fannie Mae economist Douglas Duncan.

To be sure, millennials still trail other generations in homebuying by a long shot. But they are making gains as they age.

"They were hard hit by the economy, went back to college because they couldn't find jobs and got a later start," Duncan said. "They will start catching up."

The trend comes as a relief to real estate agents desperate to sell homes and economists worried that

the economy would remain bogged down without enough first-time homebuyers. Typically, 20- and 30-somethings play an essential role in the economy and housing market. They become first-time homebuyers, filling their new homes with everything from appliances to yard equipment. Millennial home purchases also give older generations the chance to sell their own houses and move up.

Millennials are coming of age as homebuyers, though, just as housing prices are climbing and a lack of homes

in some markets is causing bidding wars.

However, surveys have found that millennials represent a practical generation that watched parents struggle to hold onto jobs and homes as unemployment soared to 10 percent and housing prices crashed 30 percent in the Great Recession.

But Duncan, who has been tracking today's millennials as they have been aging, is picking up on some solid trends in millennial homebuying. He has seen distinct increases in buying as

millennials have moved from their early 20s to late 20s and into their 30s. For example, as he followed a demographic group of people ages 28 to 29, he found that by the time the individuals were 30 to 31, they increased their homebuying by 2.8 percent.

Millennials seem to be doing at a later age exactly what their parents' generation did when younger, Duncan said. Millennials as a generation have delayed marriage and have waited for several years for the job market and pay to improve. But as incomes rise and they

marry and get ready for children, they are less interested in cramming into studio apartments in high-demand areas, and they start searching for homes or condos they can afford to buy.

However, an increase in home prices is an issue for young adults because income growth still is very weak, Duncan said. Nationally, housing prices have been growing at four times the rate of incomes.

Still, many millennials say they will not be pushed by concerns over rising prices to move faster than they should.



Prior to the housing crash, which started slowly but took hold in 2008, people had been trying to rush ahead of fast-rising prices to buy while they thought they could. The overinflated market led to the crash.

Now many millennials have learned from the past and are determined to have their finances in solid condition before making a move.

"Have you seen the interest rates on student loans?" asked Leksi Culafic, a 27-year-old lawyer with student loans. She lived at home for a year after law school because, "I wanted to aggressively pay down the loans," she said. Now she lives in an apartment and wants to buy a home eventually, but she's determined to get rid of the student loans first.

She's using apps to explore the possibility of buying a home, but her intention is to pay off her law school loans over the next 1 1/2 years before making a purchase.

"Owning a home is a goal," she said.

# Young homebuyers more traditional than imagined

PRNEWswire

When it comes to homebuying, millennials are much more traditional than previously believed, according to a recent survey of 2,050 Americans ages 18 to 34.

Three-quarters of respondents said that they would use a local real estate agent instead of an online agent, reports CentSai, a financial wellness educator.

Almost three-quarters, 71 percent, said they would choose a local lender.

This is in stark contrast to recent data showing approximately 69 percent of all homebuyers would apply for a mortgage online.

Online mortgage lending and brokerage services are expected to transform homebuying, but millennials surveyed by CentSai said that, contrary to popular belief, they prefer



Associated Press file photo

local providers due to existing relationships and local knowledge.

"We were surprised to learn that online providers are not yet as big a disruptor in this sector as we first thought, despite purported cost-savings," said Doria Lavagnino, CentSai co-founder and president. "We found that millennials

place a high value on the personal touch and knowledge of a local agent.

"Buying a home for the first time is daunting, and working with a local agent — particularly an agent-referred by a parent or friend — could provide peace of mind."

Likewise, the survey reveals that online real

*"We found that millennials place a high value on the personal touch and knowledge of a local agent."*

Doria Lavagnino, CentSai co-founder and president

estate agents seem less popular with millennials than expected, despite advertising cheaper overall service via mobile apps. That said, the vast majority, 91 percent, of millennials surveyed said they would use an online site or mobile app to research neighborhoods and home prices and to identify houses that they might buy.

The survey respondents cited various reasons for going local, including personal touch and handling, longstanding relationships, local knowledge and amount of hassle.

More than half (56 percent) of the millennials surveyed plan to purchase a house in

the next two years.

Of the 44 percent who said that they did not plan to buy a house in the next two years, more than two-thirds (68 percent) said that they are not buying because they cannot afford to do so. Only 12 percent said they preferred the freedom of renting, and 10 percent cited student loan debt as a reason not to buy in the next two years.

The survey included a random group of participants between ages 18 and 34 who live in the U.S. CentSai's mission is to make learning personal finance skills approachable and fun for young Americans through every stage of life.



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# Just 2 homes left at Beverly's Essex Crossing at Montserrat

By LILLIAN SHAPIRO  
DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE  
ADVERTISING

If you've been considering a move to Essex Crossing at Montserrat, do not delay, for there are just two homes remaining in the final phase of this new executive neighborhood of 16 meticulously crafted, colonial-style residences.

Interested parties are urged by Realtor Kevin Pietrini of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage to act quickly, as they are ready and waiting for immediate occupancy.

"This is the absolute last chance to live in a gorgeous community built to the highest of standards by longtime and well-respected DiBiase Homes," Pietrini says. "These two homes are sited on larger lots, professionally landscaped and abutting woodlands."

Though the styles are different, they both feature two-story foyers; gas fireplaces; two-car garages; maintenance-free, premium clapboard siding; 30-year architectural roofs; and composite decking. They are also outfitted with high energy-efficient central air and gas heating, central vacuum and home security systems.

"They are stately, well-designed homes with all of the premium builder's selections you would expect, such as superior trim packages and classic, New England-style details like dormers and custom moldings on the interior."

At #8 Pond View Lane, find the 2,640-square-foot "Bailey" model, complete with two full and one half baths and four bedrooms, including the master suite with jetted tub and double sinks.

The thoughtfully open floor plan brings with it formal living and dining rooms, a well-equipped granite and stainless-steel kitchen with adjacent morning room, a first-floor study, a walk-up attic, and a large bonus room



Courtesy photos

**The kitchen at 8 Pond View Lane is quite beautiful with white cabinets, granite countertops, stainless-steel appliances, and an adjacent morning room.**

above the garage. This home lists for \$739,900.

Lot #12 offers the "Beverly Two" design, slightly larger at 2,800 square feet and featuring a walk-out basement and a generous, flat backyard.

Priced at \$814,900, it has a similar floor plan as the "Bailey," yet is bursting with custom upgrades such as extra recessed lighting, upgraded GE Profile appliances, quartz countertops, custom stained wood floors, and a convenient second-floor laundry.

The master bedroom in this home is oversized and boasts a tremendous walk-in closet and custom tiling in the ensuite bath.

"Essex Crossing at Montserrat is in a spectacular location with more than half of the 18-acre property preserved as open space for the



**ABOVE: Sited on Lot #12 is the slightly larger "Beverly Two" model, complete with a walk-out basement and a plethora of custom upgrades, such as GE Profile appliances, quartz countertops and custom stained wood floors. RIGHT: The 2,640-square-foot "Bailey" model at #8 Pond View Lane features four bedrooms, two full and one half baths, a walk-up attic, and a large bonus room above the garage.**

residents to enjoy. There are walking and jogging trails as well as Kelleher's Pond for relaxing by in the summer and skating on in the winter," Pietrini says. "The fact that it is just minutes to the Montserrat train station and all major routes makes it ideal

for easy commuting.

"This is a very peaceful site in a beautiful seaside community that offers all of the benefits of city living with the serenity of suburban life," he adds. "It is not every day that an opportunity like this arises. We expect these



## AT A GLANCE

- 10 rooms
- 4 bedrooms
- 2.5 baths
- 2,640 and 2,800 square feet
- \$739,900 and \$814,900

### LISTED BY:

- Kevin Pietrini, 978-578-4376
- Pamela Spiros, 978-808-6022
- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage



**Kevin Pietrini**



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# Serenity, tranquility abound on Danvers cul de sac

By LILLIAN SHAPIRO  
DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE  
ADVERTISING

This stately hip-roof colonial ideally situated at the end of a sheltered cul de sac boasts undeniable curb appeal. Edged by well-manicured grounds and stone walls, the home sits neatly on 1.5 acres surrounded by conservation land. Presented by Pamela Spiros of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, it lists for \$724,900.

"This is a very serene setting, yet it is a commuter's dream because it is literally two minutes to Route 1. It is also one of just a handful of newer homes (2004) available for sale in Danvers right now, so I don't expect it to be available for long," Spiros says.

A welcoming foyer leads to a main level enhanced by gleaming hardwood floors, generous windows and recessed lighting. Formal spaces include the living room with marble fireplace and detailed moldings and a generous dining room beautified by warm tones.

For less structured gatherings, a family room is stunning, yet cozy with a wood burning stone fireplace and French doors to a back patio. Just adjacent and one step up is the cherry kitchen, outfitted with stainless-steel appliances, granite counters, breakfast bar and a bump-out dining nook with views of the backyard. Also on this floor, find a convenient guest bedroom, half bath and a full laundry.

Upstairs, the master suite is a true oasis, complete with a spa-like bath featuring a Jacuzzi soaking tub and double vanities. Three additional bedrooms with walk-in closets share a second full bath. For extra space, the finished lower level with wall-to-wall carpeting affords a true bonus. Perfect for a home office, game room or in-law suite perhaps, this additional 1,000 square feet of living space also features a



Courtesy photos

**TOP:** This stately hip-roof colonial sits on 1.5 acres and is surrounded by conservation land, providing a true country feel. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The family room features a wood-burning stone fireplace and French doors to a brick patio. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Well equipped with stainless-steel appliances, granite counters, a breakfast bar and dining nook, the kitchen affords beautiful views of the backyard.

full bath and walk-in storage area with custom shelving.

Other highlights of this home include a first-floor laundry; an over-sized,

two-car garage; central vacuum, security system, underground sprinklers, wiring for surround sound and town water and sewer.

"With four to five bedrooms and that wonderful finished space on the lower level, this is a home that provides a lot of options. There

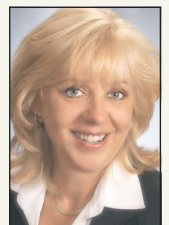
is plenty of room for everyone," Spiros says. "Couple that with the convenience of the location and you've got a 'win-win.'"

## AT A GLANCE

- 9 rooms
- 4 bedrooms
- 3 full and 1 half baths
- 4,287 square feet
- \$724,900

### LISTED BY:

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**Pam Spiros**

*This home is shown by appointment. For more information, or to schedule a showing, call Pamela Spiros at 978-808-6022.*





Courtesy photo

A fresh coat of paint and landscape improvements can pay dividends in the value of your home.

# Value added: 5 upgrades to boost curb appeal

BY DAN KETCHUM  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Everyone wants to turn their house into their dream home, but that's often easier said than done. Whether you're upgrading your space or gearing up to sell, renovating your home is a big financial decision. After all, it's not only the place you live, it's most likely your largest investment.

"So how much does a home remodel cost?" you ask. If you have a home equity line of credit, or HELOC, you have a higher degree of flexibility. That's because when you choose a HELOC to finance your upgrades, you're embracing the financial fluidity of borrowing against your home's available equity.

"With a home equity line, you have the access to the money you

need to finance a remodel, plus the flexibility to re-utilize the line for other needs as they arise," said Jon Giles, senior vice president of TD Bank's Home Equity Group.

And clearly it's a popular option — according to a recent survey, 64 percent of people said they have or would use a HELOC for home renovations or improvements. You can borrow multiple times if you need to, or borrow any amount you want on a secured credit line with interest that's typically tax deductible.

Here's a tour of potential home improvements:

## Liven up the landscape

Landscaping is among the three most effective home improvements you can do to generate the biggest return on your money. It creates curb appeal in spades, and also helps prevent expensive potential

damage, like fallen tree limbs and mold. Think of it as a safety net mixed with some green marketing that can increase your house's value by up to 5 percent.

**Average cost:** You can put in some attractive curbing for a little over \$1,000, or invest in the whole front-lawn package for about \$3,400

## Freshen up exterior paint

If you're like the 41 percent of survey respondents whose property value has stagnated over the last year, giving the exterior of your home a fresh look could make a world of difference.

You just can't beat the cost effectiveness of exterior paint. Plus, it has a leg up on the limited color and texture options of siding — if you can imagine a paint color, it exists.

**Average cost:** Heartier exterior

paints exceed the cost of interior options, but not by much — the national average cost to paint a house is a little over \$2,500, though you should account for about \$1,500 more if you have a two-story residence.

## Revitalize your roof

Whether you're playing catch out front or just cruising by, it's pretty hard to miss a roof. That could be why the National Association of Realtors named replacing a home's roof as the home renovation with the single greatest cost recovery in 2015 — this project usually recoups about 105 percent of its price tag.

**Average cost:** About \$7,600.

## Gear up the garage

The garage door probably isn't the go-to improvement when you think about upping your curb

appeal. But it does take up a whole lot of exterior visual space, and for that reason alone, it's totally worth a slice of that HELOC. Replacing the often-neglected garage door can net you a nearly 93 percent return on investment, on average.

**Average cost:** This upgrade usually only runs about \$730 to \$1,400.

## Revive the driveway

Assessing your driveway nets you a double benefit. One, it's a utilitarian feature that just about everyone needs to protect that other big investment — the car. Two, a cracked driveway tanks your curb appeal, and can even make way for unsightly weeds.

**Average cost:** To repair a driveway, you're looking at about \$1,500, or a little over \$3,800 for a new one.



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Single-Family  5 Northend Avenue Salem	Single-Family  7 Myrtle Street Beverly	Single-Family  6 Riverway Road Salem	Single-Family  46 Lewis Road Swampscott	Single-Family  30 Ravenna Salem	Single-Family  26 Clarks Amesbury	Condominium  5 Bradford Street U:1 Salem	Condominium  23 Beach Avenue U:3 Salem	Condominium  95 Federal Street U:1 Salem	Condominium  315 Essex Street U:1 Salem
Condominium  11 Church Street U:308 Salem	Condominiums  11 Cedar Street U:1, U:2 & U:3 Salem	Condominium  7 Spring Street U:1 Salem	Condominium  20 Federal Street U:5A Salem	Condominium  6 White Street U:1 Salem	Condominium  22 Williams Street U:1 Salem	Condominium  16 & 16.5 Holly Street U:1L & U:2L Salem	Condominium  324 Essex Street U:3 Salem	Condominium  68 Essex Street U:1 Salem	Condominium  49 Independence Way U:49 Marblehead
Condominium  19.5 Broad Street U:1 Salem	Condominium  7 Howard Street U:1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Salem	Condominium  7 Daniels Street U:3 Salem	Condominium  262 Lafayette Street U:2 Salem	Condominium  97 Essex Street U:1 Salem	Condominium  90 Wharf Street U:L10 Salem	Condominium  34 Walter Street U:2R Salem	Multi-Family  59 Broad Street Salem	Multi-Family  6 Naples Road Salem	Multi-Family  114 Derby Street Salem



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# GARDEN DOWNLOAD

## Virtual technology has ability to make landscaping easier

By KATHERINE ROTH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just as virtual technology has become a common tool for anyone planning to repaint or redecorate a home, a growing array of apps can make landscaping easier too. But know when to use them, and when it would be easier to pull out an old-fashioned pencil and a sheet of graph paper — or to seek out a professional.

“We’ve seen an increase in virtual interior design services within the last two years, so it’s only natural that this functionality would make its way to the exterior of the home as well,” said Stephanie Sisco, Real Simple magazine’s home editor.

A few of the more popular DIY gardening apps include Garden Designer (\$9.99, from Artifact Interactive), Design your New Surroundings (\$9.99, from Home Revivals), Garden Plan Pro (\$9.99, from Growing Interactive), and Perennial Match (\$4.99, from Harmony systems, Inc.).

“We have seen several hundred thousand downloads,” said Patrick Pozzuto, founder of the iScape app (\$9.99, from Home Revivals LLC), aimed at both professional and home landscapers. Pozzuto worked as a contractor before launching his app.

“Arranging plants using a touch screen is way easier than using your lower back to do it,” he said.

“But while the pros have been using apps for a long time now, home gardeners do encounter some hiccups sometimes,” he added. “They don’t necessarily know what

plant goes with what, and what areas it’ll grow in. And some people don’t have an artistic mind, and get into trouble.”

Dave Whiting, executive director of the National Gardening Association, warns that while some tech-savvy gardeners quickly get the hang of landscaping apps, the learning curve is steep, and they may be impractical for most home gardeners. The association, founded in 1971, helps put out the “Gardening for Dummies” book series (published by For Dummies) and hosts the website garden.org.

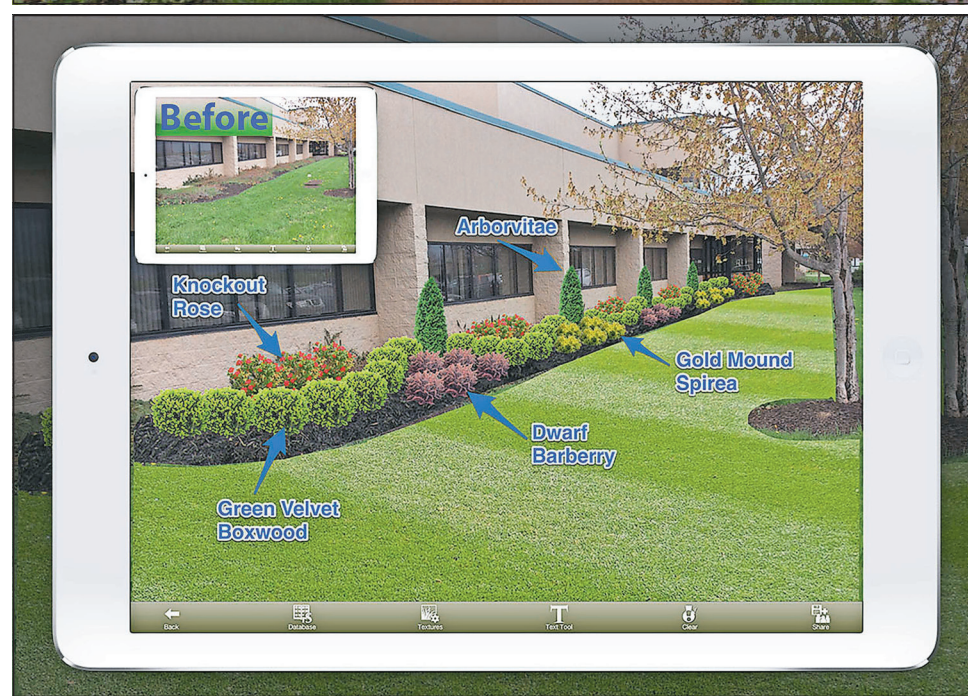
“The reality is that while the virtual tools are great for a minority of gardeners, many more people find them far too confusing, and they get really frustrated,” he said.

Many home gardeners, he said, would be better off using a pencil and graph paper, with each square representing 6 inches, or whatever scale is appropriate for the particular garden.

Yet even for amateurs, he said, the information on some online sites can mean the difference between failure and success with gardening and landscaping projects.

Garden.org, for example, features a database for the entire country, searchable by zip code, to tell home gardeners what the frost dates are for their area, when to plant which vegetables and flowers, and what kinds of plants will encourage, say, certain varieties of butterflies or bees.

“Knowledge like that is crucial to whether a person’s gardening project succeeds,”



“We’ve seen an increase in virtual interior design services within the last two years, so it’s only natural that this functionality would make its way to the exterior of the home as well.”

Stephanie Sisco, Real Simple magazine’s home editor

he said. “Lettuce and spinach and tomatoes all have different dates when they should be planted for best results, and planting dates vary depending on where you live. Just because you see the

plants for sale in the nursery doesn’t mean it’s the right time to plant.”

And even if you haven’t figured out all the features of the gardening apps, they can be a good way to show

professional landscapers what you have in mind, Pozzuto said.

Richard Heller of Greener By Design, a New York firm that uses 3-D software to help with both landscape design

iScape via AP

**ABOVE:** Before and after views of landscaping changes initiated using iScape’s mobile garden and landscape design application. **LEFT:** Digital garden and landscape design apps like iScape can help gardeners virtually map out their plans for outdoors before their hands even touch the soil. Here, a screenshot from iScape’s company website shows before and after photos of a redesigned landscape.

and communication with clients, said the software makes a huge difference.

“Three-D software is still not very common, and it gives us an amazing competitive edge. It allows people to see what’s not planted, so they start expanding on projects they have in mind,” he said. “The software is accessible to anyone, but there’s a steep learning curve involved. And you need a high-end gaming computer to use it.”

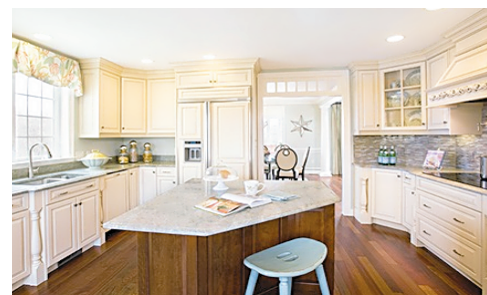
Heller said while the apps are a good starting point, most home gardeners would still want to work with a professional who knows plants well.

And there’s always graph paper and a pencil if the learning curve proves too steep.





Caldwell Farm, Newbury

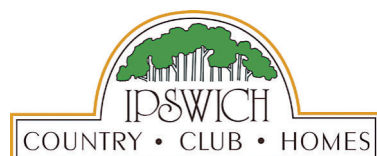


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# Private Hamilton oasis offers country-club feel

By LILLIAN SHAPIRO  
DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE  
ADVERTISING

Whether you enjoy your time spent inside or out, this grand Hamilton property will not disappoint. Boasting views of Chebacco Lake from nearly every room, the home sits on more than 3 1/2 acres in an exclusive neighborhood of similar homes. Complete with a professionally landscaped backyard that Listing Agent John Farrell equates to a “private oasis,” it is on the market for \$899,900.

Essentially rebuilt and expanded by its current owners, the home offers nearly 4,000 square feet of living space on two levels. The thoughtful addition of a skylit sunroom; a second-floor ensuite master with walk-in closets, fireplace and Jacuzzi soaking tub; and a great room with wood-burning fireplace, granite wet bar and cherry cabinets only enhance the already spacious interior. While the rooms are generous, they are also relaxed and intimate, according to the Realtor.

“This home has been well-planned for entertaining as well as comfortable day-to-day living,” he says. “Great attention was paid to every detail by the previous owner, who was an experienced builder himself. This home is very in vogue for 2017.”

Formal rooms include a dining room with bay window, wainscoting and French doors, and a living room offering cozy seating around an additional fireplace. The exceptionally large kitchen was remodeled and expanded to include granite countertops, stainless-steel appliances, a thoughtful workspace, and an island with breakfast bar. An adjacent seating area would serve well as either a dining or office space, Farrell suggests.



Courtesy photos

Just in time for the “dog days of summer,” find an enviable backyard complete with private spa; heated, inground Gunite pool; a pool house, and extensive patio.



**LEFT:** The remodeled and expanded kitchen features granite countertops, stainless-steel appliances and an island with breakfast bar. **RIGHT:** Boasting over 3.5 acres, this exquisite home affords views of Chebacco Lake from nearly every one of its nine rooms.



Sharing the second level with the master suite are three additional bedrooms, two more baths and an in-home office.

An open stairway from the first-floor great room leads to a finished lower level with a wine cellar and a carpeted room spacious enough to accommodate a family

room, game room or gym.

Perfectly complementing all of this beauty and functionality is the breathtaking grounds. Edged by rows and rows of mature trees and plantings, the secluded backyard showcases a private spa with heated, inground Gunite pool, pool house and patio.

“To have all of these amenities in a neighborhood like this is quite unusual,” Farrell says. “Because it is sited at the end of Hamilton, it is very close to all of the exceptional recreation outlets in Essex, Gloucester and Manchester, not to mention its convenience to the commuter rail in the center

of town. This is a truly ‘turn-key’ home with a fabulous location.”

To view additional photos, visit <http://bostonnorthrealestate.com/85-gregory-island-road-hamilton-ma>. This home is shown by appointment. To schedule a viewing, call John or Cindy Farrell at 978-468-9576.



John and Cindy Farrell

## AT A GLANCE

- 9 rooms
- 5 bedrooms
- 4 full and 1 half baths
- 3,942 square feet
- \$899,900

## LISTED BY:

- John and Cindy Farrell
- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
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- Farrell@BostonNorthRealEstate.com
- <http://bostonnorthrealestate.com/85-gregory-island-road-hamilton-ma>



# Custom-built Hamilton colonial radiates elegance

By LILLIAN SHAPIRO  
DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE  
ADVERTISING

There are very few things as wonderful and exciting as new construction, and this commanding colonial in Hamilton is no exception. Situated on nearly 2 private acres in a pastoral neighborhood of similar homes, this dignified residence has seemingly been custom designed for the discriminating buyer. Listed for \$899,900, it is being marketed by Michael McNiff of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

"This is the kind of intriguing home that despite its 3,000 square feet offers comfortable and convenient living for the whole family," McNiff says. "It is nestled in a pastoral setting yet it is close to schools, trains, beaches, parks and downtown."

An attractive portico welcomes you into the home, where striking features such as oak flooring; coffered, 9-foot ceilings; detailed moldings and designer lighting are found throughout. Leaving nothing to be desired, the gourmet kitchen is a virtual chef's delight with high-end Schrock cabinets, stainless-steel appliances, Italian granite counters, a center island illuminated by pendant fixtures, a large pantry, and French doors to a vast deck.

This space is thoughtfully open to a sun-drenched family room complete with a gas fireplace and decorative, circle-topped windows. For more structured gatherings, there is a spacious living room and an eye-popping dining room enriched by superior trims that include shadow boxing and wainscoting. Additionally, there is a home office with built-in cabinetry and a full laundry room.

One flight up, the private master suite is enriched by a tiled shower, double vanities and generous closets. Versatile and similarly spacious, another four bedrooms on this level could also allow for



Courtesy photos

The chef's kitchen is well appointed with high-end Schrock cabinets, stainless-steel appliances, and Italian granite countertops.



This custom-designed, nine-room stately colonial is situated on almost 2 acres in a pastoral neighborhood.

a playroom, a home gym or a media room, McNiff suggests.

As for those things a bit more "behind the scenes," find Andersen windows, AZEK trims, central air

conditioning and vacuum, security system, a walk-up attic, an expandable basement for future added space, and a one-year home warranty. An oversized, two-car garage and



Features throughout this newly constructed home include oak flooring; coffered, 9-foot ceilings; and detailed moldings, trims.

professionally landscaped grounds help to complement the exterior.

"The home sits on an expansive and level corner plot of land, so if there is the

desire for a swimming pool, tennis court or basketball court, it could be easily done," McNiff says. "This big, flexible lot in the midst of a beautiful family neighborhood is really

## AT A GLANCE

- 9 rooms
- 5 bedrooms
- 2 full and 1 half baths
- 3,000 square feet
- \$899,900

### LISTED BY:

- Michael McNiff
- Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
- 978-590-9062
- Michael.McNiff@NEMoves.com
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# WORKING WITH WHITE

Going clean and colorless can make a powerful statement

By CATHY HOBBS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**W**hite is one of the easiest colors to work with, and for some, one of the most difficult. Many are surprised when they browse the paint aisles and discover literally hundreds of shades of white.

One of the many design tips relating to the use of white is that white often takes on a neighboring shade. Ever wonder why some whites appear more green, blue or gray? Transference of color is one of the main reasons. When looking to use a predominantly white or off-white decor, here are some tips:

1. Pay close attention to the color of the primary pieces in your space. Make sure that the shade of white you select complements the space and helps make it feel bright and fresh.

2. Do consider traditional brighter white shades for walls and ceilings.

3. Be careful not to select a white with too much of a yellow tone, as in some spaces the color may read dingy.

4. Don't be afraid to use different tints, tones and shades of white. Remember beige and taupe are shades of white.

5. Consider using white as a contrast color. A presence of white in a space can help make darker colors pop.

6. Think about pairing white with metallic finishes. It can create a soft, relaxing look.

7. Don't forget white is a color, too. A popular designer trick is to use white as an accent.

8. Try introducing white into a space using texture such as toss pillows or throws.

9. Take a chance with white furniture. In many environments it can feel luxurious.

10. Consider an all-white or mostly white space. The result can make quite an impact.



Tribune News Service

**TOP:** This predominantly cream and white living space feels bright and fresh. **BOTTOM LEFT:** White florals such as orchids can provide attractive yet neutral accents. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Different shades of white create a soothing bedroom.



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SARAH DORIO/Betsy Burnham via AP

Rather than selecting a set of matching outdoor furnishings, designers like Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design are encouraging clients to mix and match a variety of styles and brands as they decorate their outdoor spaces.

# INSIDE OUT

## Finding a look you love outdoors

By MELISSA RAYWORTH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

For decades, “outdoor decorating” meant arranging a few nice chairs and a table near a barbecue grill, then adding an umbrella to block the summer sun. But as patios

and decks have morphed into “outdoor living rooms,” the bar has risen for outdoor style and comfort.

“HGTV Design Star” judge Vern Yip said he knew we’d reached a new level of outdoor decorating this year when he discovered a fully upholstered, tufted,

Chesterfield-style sofa designed for outdoor use. It’s not a less comfortable, backyard version of a classic piece of furniture; it’s a classic piece of furniture that happens to be weatherproof.

Technology has come so far, Yip said, that we can now have anything outdoors that

we like indoors.

As warm weather returns, we’ve asked Yip and two other experts — interior designer Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design in Los Angeles and Sarah Fishburne, director of trend and design for The Home Depot — for the furnishings, color palettes and

accessories they are using this year to make outdoor spaces even more luxurious and inviting.

### Mix and match

It’s been decades since people looked for a “suite of furniture” for their bedroom or living room. But until

recently, Burnham said, that’s been a common approach to outdoor space. She said that’s slowly changing, as people want a more interesting look that doesn’t seem lifted directly from a single catalog page.

Designers are encouraging their clients to mix and match,



creating outdoor spaces that feel as personal and layered as interiors.

Fishburne said retailers have noticed this trend. At The Home Depot, her design team selects a few popular shades and makes sure they stay consistent throughout the furniture offered in a given season. So “chili red,” for example, will be the same shade if you buy a rug from one brand and pillows from another.

And rather than having to buy a group of four or six identical dining chairs, Fishburne said many chairs are now available in sets of two that can be paired with a contrasting style.

There are also more outdoor styles available than ever, offering more to mix and match.

Aluminum-frame furniture is back, with updated details.

“It’s the sort of stuff your grandparents used to have, but the 2.0 version,” Yip said. “The proportions are what we like today, deeper and bigger and more comfortable.”

If you’re worried about



SARAH DORIO/Betsy Burnham via AP

As basic patio decorating has grown into the idea of creating an “outdoor living room,” seating options have come to include items like this rustic daybed on a patio designed by Betsy Burnham.

how to mix and match successfully, try one of these approaches: You can mix furniture frames, perhaps using a few teak pieces alongside metal or woven resin pieces, and then keep all the cushions or pillows the same. Or you

can use all metal or all resin frames from different brands, and mix up the pillows and cushions.

Either way, you have consistency, but also a unique look that isn’t exactly the same as your neighbor’s.

### Don’t settle

“If you had put an outdoor sofa and an indoor sofa side by side in front of a consumer a year ago or two years ago,” Yip said, no one would have had trouble picking out which was which. Today, he

said, “you really can’t tell the difference.”

So take time to shop for what you love, rather than settling for the typical outdoor furniture you see everywhere.

There are outdoor fabrics that feel as soft as what you’d expect indoors, and cushions that are just as soft and deep. Yip said the newest outdoor cushions offer two layers of foam and then a top layer made of a down alternative.

Seek “that super-plush feeling with your outdoor furniture that you’re used to feeling with your indoor furniture,” he said.

And start with your favorite interior design retailers. They’re likely to offer outdoor options.

“It’s not just at the patio store anymore,” Burnham said. For example, she said, Design Within Reach and Restoration Hardware both offer wide selections of outdoor furnishings.

### Seek next-level details

Outdoor storage has become even more inventive: You’ll find “console tables

that have built-in coolers, or daybeds that have built-in coolers,” Yip said.

And outdoor accessories have “detailing and embellishments that used to be reserved for indoor stuff,” Yip said, including hurricane lanterns with mother-of-pearl detailing, and pillows with feathers, beading or embroidery.

“We’ve figured out how to have all this detailing, all this embellishment,” he said, and “how to have it on the outside, so it does endure and it does last.”

To define your outdoor space and bring in plants and flowers, Fishburne recommends large “statement planters.” They come pre-planted with a mix of plants that look stylish and grow well together.

Most important: Go for a look you love, rather than one that’s perfectly coordinated.

“All the rules have kind of been broken,” Fishburne said. “No one says you have to have a matching cocktail table in front of your chairs.”

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# Ipswich Federalist comes complete with a 'twist'

By LILLIAN SHAPIRO  
DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE  
ADVERTISING

Very little astonishes seasoned real estate professional Peter Dorsey of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, yet he acknowledges that this Federalist period masterpiece has taken him by surprise. The true epitome of reinvention, this remarkable home was disassembled in 1997 at its original location and reassembled and expanded right here in Ipswich on Candlewood Road. On the market for the first time in 20 years, it is priced at \$895,000.

"I've never seen anything like this in my 30 years of real estate. It is what I would call a 'modern antique' — sort of a 'hybrid,'" he says. "Using museum-quality, handpainted surfaces — some newer and some in their 19th-century condition — as well as many other original elements, the home was masterfully crafted and restored. At the same time, it was reconstructed and expanded to bring it up to modern standards."

Built in 1807 in Middleboro, Massachusetts, the home sat vacant and in disrepair for a long time until an interested party decided to buy it from the then owner, who was using it simply for its connection to electricity. There began the dismantling and storage of the valued pieces, which included the front door with side and fan light windows, door and window frames, a large Palladian window, and the grand staircase, to name just a few. Once these remarkable artifacts were purchased, the new owners reconstructed the house on a brand new foundation large enough to accommodate both the old and the new spaces.

From the start, the rebuilding of this house was very deliberately intended to replicate the original



*"This is an extraordinary property in an unexpected spot."*

Peter Dorsey, real estate professional

Federalist style, appointing it with high ceilings, some original flooring, early moldings and trim work, and beautiful fireplace mantels. Placed in the central front-to-back hallway and anchored by the parlor and the dining room, the recovered stairway with 1800s stenciled designs is precisely where it would have been 200 years ago. Atop the stairs, in keeping with this traditional floor plan, find

two bedrooms, including the spacious owner's chamber, complete with fireplace and walk-in closet.

In addition to the installation of all new plumbing, electrical, heating/cooling systems, surround sound and baths, the home's "expansion" included an additional second-floor bedroom, a first-floor family room, and a modern, eat-in kitchen featuring a Wolf gas range, granite counters, a

beehive oven with original wrought-iron door and fireplace, and a sub-zero refrigerator disguised as a period-appropriate cabinet.

Sited on a generous 4-acre parcel and bordered on three sides by 24 acres of Essex County Greenbelt conservation land, this amazing property is intensely private. Meant to enhance the already gorgeous backdrop, find a formal, walled garden with blue stone patio, mature specimen plantings, early gates, a wisteria-covered trellis and a whimsical garden shed.



Courtesy photos

**LEFT:** Recovered from its original location, this staircase with 1800s stenciled designs is one of the many elements taken from the original location. **TOP RIGHT:** In keeping with its Federalist style, this home features period elements throughout that include beautiful fireplace mantels and early moldings and trims. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** During the period, traveling artists were known to exchange their work for a hot meal, as replicated here on the rear stairway landing.

"This is an extraordinary property in an unexpected spot. It is very unusual to find an early Federal house in a country setting such as this, as most homes of that period were built on country roads that, over time, became busy main streets," Dorsey explains. "As for the artistry of an antique with all of the important parts preserved, yet it is modern enough to accommodate the needs of today. When you step into this house, it is like stepping back in time."

For more information on

## AT A GLANCE

- 10 rooms
- 3 bedrooms
- 3 full baths
- 3,282 square feet
- \$895,000

### LISTED BY:

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- Peter.Dorsey@NEMoves.com
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# Eclectic seaside living in Manchester-by-the-Sea

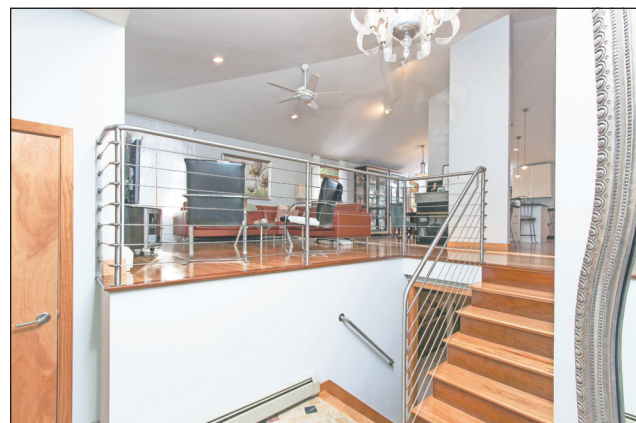
By LILLIAN SHAPIRO  
DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE  
ADVERTISING

The perfect blend of “retro-chic” and 21st-century sophistication, this renovated contemporary brings a cool Southern California vibe to Manchester-by-the-Sea. According to Realtor John Farrell of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage who lists the residence for \$1,195,000, an offering such as this is rather a rarity.

“To find a completely updated home so close to Black Beach and White Beach and have it be under \$1.5 million is very unusual here,” he says. “This entire property brings an almost Mediterranean feel with a dramatic tiled foyer and an irrigated, professionally landscaped yard with inground pool, yet it is immensely modern.”

From the moment you step into this split-level, you are struck by its openness. Rebuilt with Truss construction for an angular shape, it boasts a sunny fluidity thanks to soaring vaulted ceilings, gleaming hardwood floors and abundant lighting.

A vastly fashionable stairway comprised of stainless-steel cable rails leads up to the main living space, where the kitchen is quite clearly the star of the show. Complete with luminous white cabinetry, granite counters, a center island with ample seating, and commercial-grade appliances, including a six-burner gas stove with griddle and an oversized Sub Zero refrigerator, this space is further enhanced by its superb use of recessed lights and pendant fixtures. A dining room with French doors and a formal living room enhanced by a large ceiling fan and gas fireplace are thoughtfully adjacent. Also on this level, find two bedrooms including the master, showcasing walk-in closets and an ensuite bath with glassed-in shower and bidet.



Courtesy photos

**TOP:** The kitchen – complete with white cabinets, granite counters and a generous island with seating – is the true heart of this home. **BOTTOM LEFT:** This contemporary split just minutes from both Black Beach and White Beach has been masterfully renovated from top to bottom. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Striking appointments include vaulted ceilings, gleaming hardwood floors, and a stairway with stainless-steel cable rails.

A second renovated bath rounds off this floor.

The walk-out lower level is virtually a home in itself, with finished rooms that include a casual family room, a bedroom, an exercise room, a home office, a full bath and a wine cellar. French doors afford easy access to the aforementioned yard,

where little has been left to the imagination. In addition to the heated saltwater pool, it is highlighted by both a deck and a patio, an outdoor shower and a cabana with a half bath and kitchenette.

Sited on a quiet cul de sac, this striking property also has a two-car, heated garage; new heating system and both

interior and exterior French drains for added protection.

“Imagine spending time enjoying the sand, the ocean and salt air and then coming home to all of this,” Farrell says. “This is a well-styled, polished and comfortable home that is close to the commuter rail, Route 128 and a great downtown. What more

could you possibly want?”

An open house is planned at 6 Victoria Road for Sunday, May 14, noon to 2 p.m.

For additional photos, go to <http://bostonnorthreal-estate.com/6-victoria-road-manchester-ma>. Call John or Cindy Farrell at 978-468-4180 for more information or to schedule a showing.



John and Cindy Farrell

## AT A GLANCE

6 VICTORIA ROAD  
MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

- 8 rooms
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- 3 full baths
- 2,819 square feet
- \$1,195,000

## LISTED BY

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WADEWORKSCREATIVE.COM/Chip Wade via AP

This backyard incorporates a multi-use recreational space with a central court-style hardscape.

# GET OUT AND PLAY

## Crafts and creativity turn backyards into playgrounds for all ages

By KIM COOK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**V**olleyball courts. Sand pits. Splash pools. Giant movie screens. You don't have to be a kid to design and enjoy an outdoor play space.

Al fresco kitchens, all-weather lighting, and improvements in the comfort and durability of patio furniture mean we're enjoying our outdoor spaces more than ever. And designers are coming up with imaginative ideas for fun and games, whether you've got a big yard or one the size of a postage stamp.

"There is something very nostalgic about incorporating the outdoor games you grew up playing into your adult life," said Sarah Fishburne, trend and design director for The Home Depot. "Most of these games span age groups, so they can be shared with the kids and enjoyed by the adults."

Easy additions to any backyard include cornhole, tic-tac-toe, checkers or kubb — a Nordic game that combines lawn bowling and chess, Fishburne said. All you need is some level ground, covered by faux or real grass, sand, or a few pavers.

You can find instructions

for a cornhole game that can be color-coordinated with backyard decor at blog.homedepot.com.

Another easy DIY project is creating an outdoor scoreboard. It requires just some chalkboard paint and a piece of fiber cement backer board. Monica Mangin has a YouTube how-to video in her The Weekender series at [eastcoastcreativeblog.com](http://eastcoastcreativeblog.com).

Tara Gudger, a spokeswoman for Lowe's, likes the idea of stringing fairy lights around a volleyball net for evening play. She also suggests creating a backyard sand pit.

"Use wooden beams to



A honeycomb-inspired reading pod designed and built by Chip Wade and Wade Works for one of his book-loving clients.

create a designated space for playing horseshoes or bocce. When you're not using the space for activities, you can create your own beach oasis with outdoor chairs, an umbrella and even exotic potted plants," she said. "With hammocks or hammock chairs, some greenery, and a few tiki torches or a fire pit nearby, you've created the newest hangout spot."

Portable wireless speakers

that connect to your devices make it easy to bring the tunes outside.

Chip Wade, the Atlanta-based principal at Wade Works Creative and a designer on several HGTV and DIY shows, has done large- and small-scale backyard fun zones. He said one of the most common requests he gets is for multipurpose spaces.

"We combine favorite activities in the same square

footage," he said.

For example, you could create one court for multiple games or use walkways and paths as temporary play areas.

In one project, he crafted sliding deck panels over a pool. The sections can be pushed together or separated to take advantage of the swim zone, a hot tub and a fire pit.

For another client, he built a climbing structure with an





WADEWORKSCREATIVE.COM/Chip Wade via AP

**ABOVE:** A pool area with movable platforms and concealable hot tub cleverly maximizes the square footage. **LEFT:** A convertible pavilion features a golf simulator that doubles as an outdoor theater.

air cannon deck on top, a hidden hammock and a tunnel entry. He used architectural elements and a living wall of plants to connect the area visually with the rest of the home.

Before you build anything,

Wade said, think about how often you'll use the games. Either commit to your recreation theme and build the best version you can, or find creative ways to stash and store equipment when you won't be using it.

"I like to have an option of putting away or concealing large 'play' items like goals, nets or other clunky games," he said.

He builds storage units behind solid fencing, or adds shallow cabinetry with doors

that blend in with the rest of the home.

One of Wade's favorite projects was a freestanding pavilion-with a golf simulator, swing analyzer and synthetic putting surface, complete with sand bunkers and water features.

"It was a golf lover's dream," he said.

A putting green can be landscaped into most small yards. Lowe's has instructions online (lowes.com)- for an 8-by-8-foot framed space that can be built in a weekend. Or buy one ready-made; several sizes and configurations are available.

Portable nylon screens for watching movies or sports (campchef.com)-are easy to assemble, come in various sizes and store in a handy carry bag.

Even in large yards, Wade encourages clients to think on the small side when creating a backyard play zone.

"It's more easily maintained, and it gives a bit of a buffer between you and your neighbors," he said.

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# Clear favorite



Nick Schale/Interiors by Design via AP

**A Lucite bench at the end of a bed adds a whimsical touch while also providing a pop of color and texture.**

## Acrylics a versatile furniture option

By MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**C**lear the way for acrylics.

Furniture makers are using the see-through material for everything from couch legs and bed posts to tables and footstools.

It's a way to add drama to a room without overloading it, said Sheila Schmitz, an editor with Houzz, an online source of interior design photos and decorating ideas. She said acrylics are being used to update many different kinds of furniture, to fit any budget.

"It's really very versatile," added Michelle Lamb, editorial director with The Trend Curve, an industry observer. "Because it's clear, it can become a showpiece or just an accessory."

The pieces are lighter, stronger and less expensive than glass, said Tara Donovan, style director at Wayfair, an online home goods store.

"It's more malleable and easy to work with, so it can be worked into more shapes," she said.

Acrylic is ideal for small rooms because it doesn't make the space look or feel crowded, Schmitz said.

"It can be a functional piece that doesn't add visual clutter," she said.

Clear furniture also can make small spaces feel more open and inviting, said Karen Mills, an interior designer.

"It's lighter and brighter," she said. "It bounces that light around, whereas darker pieces soak up all your sunlight."

Even something as simple as an acrylic chair can make a statement in a room, as designer Philippe Starck proved more than a decade ago when he introduced his Ghost Chair — a clear replica of the classic Louis XV armchair, Mills said. The chair helped launch the resurgence in acrylic furniture, she said.

Now, you can find clear chairs to fit any room.

"There's probably an acrylic chair for just about any taste," Schmitz said.

Add a vibrant cushion, and clear chairs — along with benches and footstools — can become the centerpiece of the room, Mills said.

"When you put fabric on it, it just looks like it's floating. It adds a touch of fantasy," she said. "It's fantastic."

Acrylic really shines when accessorized with pops of color and texture, agreed Emily Arnow, editor at All-Modern.com, an online furniture store.

"It's there, but not really there, so it's a great complement to bolder pieces that are also there to make a style statement," she said. "The key to decorating with clear acrylic is playing with perception and contrast."

Clear legs on couches, chairs and cabinets can

**This gold and acrylic bed by Bernhardt Furniture Company features a plated brass frame and fine acrylic posts. It is shown upholstered in an ivory plain cloth.**

Stacey Van Berkel/Bernhardt Furniture Co. via AP





Wayfair via AP

The Ralston Slipper Chair by Wayfair brand Mercer41 features acrylic legs.

“create a look of suspended animation,” Lamb said. “It may take you a second or two to realize what’s going on. Once you figure it out, you can’t stop looking at it.”

Or if you prefer, the pieces can take a backseat to other furnishings in the room.

“You’re getting the function without taking up much visual space,” Donovan said.

Designers often use acrylic when they want to highlight another exceptional element

in the room, she said. Clear tables are a way to accentuate beautiful carpets, she said. Clear chairs will not detract from an ornate desk or a special dining table.

Acrylic’s “unique silhouettes can be truly magnificent, allowing them to act as the focal point if you want a statement piece — think acrylic table or grouping of ghost chairs,” Donovan said.

“Yet their transparent appearance can also be very



Houzz via AP

An acrylic chair looks right in place in this airy room.

delicate if the space has as a vintage rug or piece of it’s all about how you pair the space and where you want really vibrant pieces such art,” she said. “Ultimately, acrylic furnishings within a the focus to be.”

# Enhance your exterior space



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# Eclectic al fresco: Outdoor decor gets free-spirited

By KIM COOK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

There are those who prefer perfectly matched furniture and a monochromatic color scheme in decor. But for those who like to shake things up, it's time to take it outside.

There's a free-spirited attitude now in outdoor decor, with mix-and-match elements and an easy, colorful, playful charm.

"People are setting up their outdoor spaces just like their family rooms, with a focus on comfort and conversation," said Better Homes & Gardens editor Amy Panos.

"The idea of mixing different furniture styles is coming outdoors. Rather than a matching set, pair different styles. Put a modern sofa with a raw wood table, for example. Pair a teak dining table with brightly colored, molded plastic chairs."

Consider throw pillows and rugs as inexpensive ways to add eclectic flair.

The range of colors and patterns in durable outdoor materials is greater than ever.

"I like eclecticism," Ikea's creative lead Karin Gustavsson said. "It allows you to create an environment that's more personal, and much more interesting."

"The different colors and shapes allow you to create a space based on your own mood," she added. "It's a cool style created by artists, designers, photographers, surfers and musicians. Beachy and bohemian."

Gustavsson was inspired by Indonesian prints and colors for Ikea's new JASSA collection, which includes throw cushions, spatterware plates, plaid woven seagrass baskets and rattan lounge chairs.

Crate & Barrel's vice president of design, Raymond

Arenson, also embraces the trend.

"We're living at an increasingly fast pace, bound to a sleek computer that we keep in our pockets. We need relief, warmth and texture to help us relax," he said. "Eclecticism is a way of helping us slow down to create our own story. It's a philosophy and a way of life, more than a style or fashion."

He suggests using color and contrast to achieve the look.

Crate & Barrel has a new indoor/outdoor sectional with a powder-coated steel and mesh frame. With navy Sunbrella upholstery, it's a modern piece on its own. But Arenson suggests incorporating a couple of white, cast-aluminum drum tables with mismatched latticework motifs, a variety of concrete planters, and a bold, checkered blue rug.

RH Restoration Hardware's summer outdoor collection has Javanese batik print and West African mudcloth print pillows, in Sunbrella fabrics. Think about unusual containers for greenery; the retailer has giant clamshells and vintage Chinese tea harvest bowls.

Pieces that get the conversation started are great additions to an eclectic outdoor space, too.

At Anthropologie, British designer Tracey Boyd's octagonal Moussem stool takes a Moroccan-inspired pattern back to its simple, geometric roots, in a warm palette of cream, ebony, sky and persimmon. Illustrator Alex Sickling's folk-inspired ceramic pots feature quirky sketches of playful alpacas. And a hot-air balloon ride over the African savannah inspired the bold patterns on stools by Arizona designer Whitney Pozgay.

A dreamcatcher weave



INTER IKEA SYSTEMS B.V. 2016 VIA AP

**TOP:** Colorful fabrics and furnishings made from natural materials are a hallmark of IKEA's new eclectic JASSA collection. **BOTTOM:** Modern and traditional craft techniques combine to create IKEA's new eclectic JASSA collection.

creates the back of a breezy beam or tree, or on a free-swinging chair from Pier 1 that can be hung from a



Curated and collected furniture and décor, like this Swingasan Blue Medallion Hanging Chair and this hand-gilded Balinese umbrella with a bamboo pole and mother-of-pearl embellishments, both from Pier 1, are part of the eclectic trend for outdoor living.

Pier 1 Imports via AP

floral motif would be a pretty accent on a deck or patio with all-weather wicker armchairs and a simple fire pit. Also here, a hand-gilded Balinese umbrella made of canvas, Durian wood and mother-of-pearl can be found

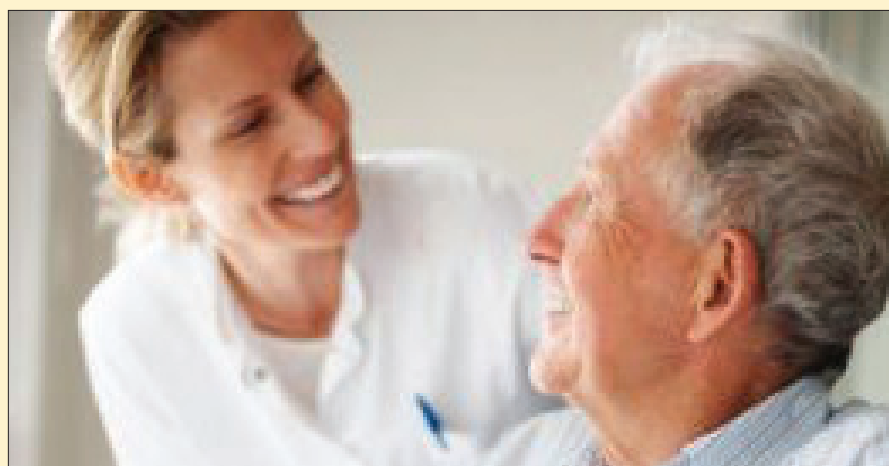
of pretty stones or shells; a group of vintage tins or bottles. And don't forget lighting: Battery-operated or electric string lights, lanterns and candles put the finishing touches on a welcoming outdoor space with lots of personality. Include collections if you've got them — a bowl



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# GARDEN GEMS

## Why buy when you can grow these instead?

BY DENISE SCHOONHOVEN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**F**resh, wholesome food straight from your garden makes summertime eating a joy. Fruits, vegetables and herbs grown from seed or plants raised in your own containers are free from harmful chemicals and they're often more economical than buying the same ingredients in the store.

Compare the price and effort of homegrown favorites with what you can purchase in your grocery store's organic produce section before you decide how to plan your time, energy and food budget during the next growing season.

### RADISHES

At only \$1.32 per pound, you could easily stock up on radishes for a few weeks. But \$2.85 total will get you a packet of seeds, which — planted in short rows at weekly intervals in ordinary garden soil — will keep you supplied with the zesty salad ingredient through cool spring and autumn growing seasons. For classic red radishes with crunchy white



Tribune News Services

**Planting radishes in the garden will guarantee zesty salads right through the fall.**

centers, choose Cherry Belle. But for a rainbow of pink, red and purple radishes, get the Easter Egg variety.

### KALE

Superfood kale averages \$1.59 per bunch in the store, but it's much more cost effective to grow your own hardy, weather-resistant kale plant. Seeds come in under \$2 per packet, and live plants are only about \$5. Kale is a superstar in the garden, in patio pots and as a decorative addition to flower beds. It thrives



File photo

**Fresh tomatoes from the garden create endless possibilities in the kitchen.**

in garden soil amended with compost or potting mix to yield robust leaves you can cut, cook and come back to again and again for more.

### CILANTRO

Buying a fresh bunch of cilantro for your salsa only costs about \$1.99, but when you grow your own from the same priced packet of seeds, you'll have more than enough for south-of-the-border style cooking all summer long. As a bonus, seeds of older cilantro plants allowed to

flower and dry are the spice coriander, which can be used all year long for seasoning curry, roasts and Latin American dishes.

### MINT

Muddled in a mojito, tossed in tabouli or steeped for tea, fresh mint leaves are easily accessible when you raise a \$5 mint plant. Why pay for fresh mint leaves — which can be sold for more than \$10 per ounce by specialty retailers — when the plant's aggressive growth habit



Staff file photo

**There are a number of benefits of growing your own produce.**

makes it an abundant harvest when kept in a pot on your patio?

### TOMATOES

Perfect for container gardening in a sunny spot, meaty Roma tomatoes and tiny, snack-able grape tomatoes are favorites that do best when you start with sturdy

plants that cost around \$5 per pot. At \$1.79 per pound for Romas and \$2.50 per pint of grape tomatoes in the store, the price of growing is about the same or a little more than buying, especially when you add in the planter, tomato cage and potting soil costs. But sun-ripened succulence makes it a worthy investment.



Dreamstime

**Petunia plants help keep gardens healthy by repelling aphids, leafhoppers and Mexican bean beetles.**

## 16 plants for a healthy garden

Here are 16 plants to use strategically for a healthier garden.

- **Lavender:** Repels slugs.
- **Basil:** Repels aphids, flies, mosquitoes and mites; also has fungicidal properties. Plant around tomatoes to repel hornworms.
- **Catnip:** Repels ants, fleas and mosquitoes.
- **Tomatoes:** Plant around asparagus to repel asparagus beetles, and around roses to help prevent black spot. Keep away from cabbage, fennel

and potatoes.

- **Oregano:** Repels cucumber beetle.
- **Borage:** Repels tomato worms.
- **Onion:** Repels ants, aphids, borers and moles. Also discourages black spot on roses. Plant around carrots, beets, strawberries, tomatoes, lettuce and cabbage, but avoid around beans, parsley, peas and leeks.
- **Rosemary:** Deters cabbage moth, bean beetles and carrot fly.

- **Petunia:** Repels aphids, leafhoppers and Mexican bean beetles.
- **Thyme:** Deters cabbage worms and slugs.
- **Nasturtium:** Repels aphids, spider mites and whiteflies. Plant around fruit trees, cucumbers, squash and tomatoes (for improved flavor).
- **Mint:** Repels aphids, cabbage moths and cabbage worms. Plant in containers, though, or it will take over your garden.
- **Radish:** Plant around

- cucumbers and squash to trap beetles.
  - **Marigolds:** Pests (aphids, bean beetles and others) find the scent of marigolds repulsive, so plant them throughout the vegetable garden. French and African varieties eliminate nematodes from the soil.
  - **Chamomile:** Repels cabbage moths.
  - **Chives:** Plant around roses and lettuce to repel aphids.
- Jessica Damiano, Tribune News Service



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