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DESIGNS



materials

13 TO THE TOUCH



SET IN STONE

Using local materials was important to architect Douglas Fredrikson, who sought inspiration for this Scottsdale house from Puebloan dwellings. So when it came time to find a material at one with the desert, he chose locally quarried sandstone, which set the tone for the additional elements he used throughout: earthy flagstone flooring inside and outside and aluminum awnings cut in a geometric pattern. [dfarchitects.com](http://dfarchitects.com)



▼ LAYERED LOOK

To give a depth of feeling to a Chicago master bedroom, designers Tom Konopiots and Michael Stornello chose to incorporate different textures with a variety of materials. The wall boasts a natural jute-and-silver-leaf wallcovering, the bed cover is a wool-and-silk-blend, and the carved-wool rug sports a leather border. [vincereltd.com](http://vincereltd.com)



▲ ALL CLEAR

Serving as the architects and interior designers for this Wilmette, Illinois, home, Elissa Morgante and Fred Wilson replaced a living room wall with floor-to-ceiling glass doors by NanaWall that open to a limestone-and-steel addition. During the summer, screen doors can be lowered, creating a room that easily flows from inside to outside. [morgantewilson.com](http://morgantewilson.com)



▲ SUBWAY RIDE

Designer Summer Thornton and architect Ken Brinkman used classic white subway tiles in this Chicago breakfast nook to balance the brass light fixture and patterned kitchen chairs. [summerthorntondesign.com](http://summerthorntondesign.com); [environsdevelopment.com](http://environsdevelopment.com)

14 elements of DESIGN

"Collaboration with great partners creates great results," says architect Stephen Sutro. For example, Sutro worked with designer Claudia Juestel on this Sonoma County, California, home that features a contemporary aesthetic and a warm palette, as exemplified by the open kitchen. "The clients were looking for a light, calming and warm interior," says Juestel. Here, the two weigh in on the role of materials in achieving that result. [sutroarchitects.com](http://sutroarchitects.com); [adeenidesigngroup.com](http://adeenidesigngroup.com)

**Natural selection:** "We used natural-appearing materials with a variety of textures and placed them in a sleek configuration," says Sutro. "The result hits our intended mark, and the open storage system relaxes the look."

**Surface appeal:** "The island in the kitchen is a gathering place, and we wanted it to be minimal while interesting," says Juestel. The surface selections and their application did just that. "The counter on the island is crisp compared to the grain of the walnut," says Sutro.

**Less is more:** "Since this is a green project, our clients requested the use of fewer, and sustainable, materials. We offset the gallery-white walls with cedar on the ceiling and walnut on the cabinetry," Juestel explains. "The pale-gray concrete countertops are custom, and the backsplash is made from a single panel of the same concrete embossed with subtle texture."



15 THE IT LIST

BUILDING EXPERTS SHARE THEIR TIPS FOR GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, WHETHER YOU'RE REMODELING OR STARTING FROM SCRATCH.



STEVE KADLEC

**Most important feature to spend money on:** Quality wood flooring. It is often a value-engineered item and too often a compromised decision. **What's needed for a successful remodeling project?** A good floor plan is the foundation of good interior design. A functional room layout, organized lighting, thoughtfully placed windows and doors, and continuity between spaces define the feel of a home as much as the finishes. [kadlecdesign.com](http://kadlecdesign.com)



TONY CALVIS

**Favorite materials:** Printed porcelain tiles and slabs. There's been such an advancement in printing technology that they can now mimic almost any natural material, including wood. **Splurge-worthy item:** The right interior designer is a great investment in multiple ways: You'll get good advice, enjoy the selection process more and make better decisions. Spend money on what you see, feel, touch and use every day. [calviswyant.com](http://calviswyant.com)



JAMES MANSFIELD

**Tenet of success:** Accountability. As the contractor, we are accountable for the project being on time, on budget and having amazing quality. **Preferred accent:** Wallpaper. Gone are the old patterns of your grandmother's kitchen, and in their place are bold, masculine metallics, like silver leaf, and sensual grass cloths that have allowed us to transform the humble painted wall into the anchor of the room. [westvillagegc.com](http://westvillagegc.com)



DON TANKERSLEY

**What design trend are you loving right now?** I'm really into raw brass and bronze finishes for hardware and plumbing fixtures. They have this patina you can only get with time. You just want to touch those types of elements. **Material of choice:** Oak is a great floor and furniture wood because it is resilient and stable, refinishes well when necessary, and takes stain evenly—making it a staple in every era. [dtportland.com](http://dtportland.com)



BEN COATS

**Adding value:** Kitchens and bathrooms are common spaces that the whole family will use. The design and functionality of these spaces define how a home is experienced. **Elemental ideas:** I love working with authentic textures—leather, various metals, woods. It's also fun to connect a home's space and its family to the natural surroundings, and features like floor-to-ceiling windows bring the outdoors in. [coatshomes.com](http://coatshomes.com)

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# GOLD LIST

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