

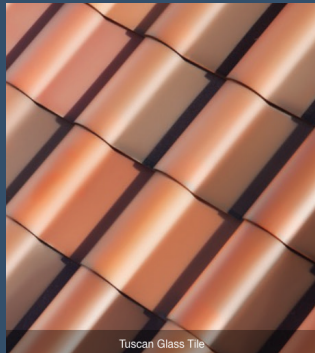
If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. -MAYA ANGELOU



Blueprints

ISSUE 6

Occasional Musings of a New Jersey based architect



Tuscan Glass Tile



Slate Glass Tile



Textured Glass Tile



Smooth Glass Tile

ELON MUSK HAS YOUR HOUSE COVERED

One of the most intriguing and thrilling new developments that could have a big impact on house design is Tesla and Elon Musk's newest project to produce solar roof tiles. These tiles are designed to look like more conventional roof tiles that will cover the roof rather than panels sitting on the roof. Different style tiles for different style homes. Given that solar panels are not efficient on all roof surfaces, dummy tiles are made to create the seamless appearance of the roof. "I think there's quite a radical difference between having solar panels on your roof that actually make your house look better versus ones that do not, I think it's going to be a night-and-day difference," said Musk in a statement before the product's official launch. This past October, unveiling a demonstration project created to showcase this seamless design, an entire audience of press needed to be persuaded that they were in fact looking at a solar roof.

Musk claims that a Tesla solar roof will be cheaper than regular roofing when factoring in the electricity cost savings, though most analysis has it currently in

the luxury realm. But given the projected lifespan of the product, it should be compared to metal or tile roofing, not asphalt, for cost comparisons. The quartz tiles have been demonstrated to be extremely durable and able to withstand heavy loading and pressure that will often damage or destroy other roofing products.

The projection is that Solar Roofs will go on sale in July 2018. This is really a product we should all be excited about, with hope that it really delivers on the promise. WWW.TESLA.COM/SOLAR

Shadow • Benjamin Moore/Jennifer Ott Design

Violet Verbena • PPG Paints

Byzantine Blue • Glidden

Cloudberry • Olympic

Kettleman • Kelly-Moore

Posed Taupe • Sherwin-Williams

Honey Glow • Dunn-Edwards



TRENDING NOW

Houzz.com published these swatches of various paint company picks for their upcoming color of the year. A lot of grays with color undertones. **Pantone** went in a different direction with their Color of the Year for 2017, a vibrant spring-green hue called Greenery.

Gary Rosard Architect, NJ



A THOUGHT FOR FOOD

The NY Times recently published their food forecasts, (www.nytimes.com/2016/12/27/dining/food-trend-predictions). One item that caught my attention was Sorghum, which fits into their theme that “the overarching trend we are seeing is along vegan, gluten-free and clean eating”. Sorghum is a popular grain worldwide, but little seen in the U.S. Like the ubiquitous Quinoa, it is prized for its high protein and nutritional content. Sorghum is native to Africa, where I first discovered it. This drought tolerant, eco-friendly grain is worthy of attention. While Quinoa has become so popular, the price has risen exponentially, while Sorghum remains relatively cheap. Peruvians are having a hard time affording Quinoa -their traditional staple crop- due to the increased global demand. Many hope that the rise of Sorghum’s popularity will result in a leveling of the price and demand for Quinoa.

Bath and Hardware Trends

I RECENTLY MET WITH **LARRY GOREN**, OWNER OF *HARDWARE DESIGNS* IN FAIRFIELD, NJ. HE TOOK ME ON A TOUR OF HIS SHOWROOM, AND I ASKED HIM TO TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE BUSINESS.

WHAT TRENDS HAVE YOU NOTICED IN BATHROOM DESIGN IN THE PAST YEAR?

More people seem to be looking for a more modern look in the bathroom, less of the traditional styling than in the past. They want quiet neutral colors. Wall hung vanities are very popular now. People like the modern look and the open feel that having more flooring exposed creates. Linear drains in showers, rain shower heads, rectangular sinks as opposed to ovals, medicine cabinets and mirrors with built in LED lighting and even music controlled through bluetooth.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW AND INTERESTING TO YOU?

We have a lot of chef style kitchen faucets ranging from traditional styles to very sleek and minimalist. And galley type kitchen sinks provide flexible functionality.

Mica surfaces on cabinets, these are not your 70’s Formica looks. They are impervious, very durable and there are many interesting textures and colors.

HOW HAS INTERNET SALES AFFECTED YOUR BUSINESS, AND WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF SHOPPING IN YOUR STORE INSTEAD?

Many buyers are buying online instead of coming in to the store. Sure it’s quick and convenient, but a lot of what we sell should really be seen and touched before purchasing. Plumbing and hardware can get complicated, and our salespeople are experts at helping clients solve problems and selecting the best products for their needs. Service counts for a lot and you just can’t get that same level of support from online sources. If there’s a problem with an order, we are surely going to be better equipped to deal with it in a successful way.

I OFTEN DO MUCH OF MY RESEARCH ONLINE, BUT THEN WORK WITH A SALESPERSON AT A LOCAL SUPPLIER TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS AND DO THE ORDERING. EVEN IF IT’S A FEW

BUCKS MORE ON SOME ITEMS, I ALWAYS FIND IT WORTH IT TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS WELL COORDINATED AND ALL THE DELIVERIES CAN BE TIMED FOR WHEN THE PRODUCTS ARE ACTUALLY NEEDED ON THE JOB SITE.

Sure, that would be hard to achieve if you order lots of items from various online sources and try to get them to check stock and lead times, then hold products for you.

A SMALL BUT GROWING NUMBER OF CONSUMERS ARE BECOMING MORE INTERESTED IN WHERE THE PRODUCTS THEY BUY ARE MADE. WHAT IS THE AVAILABILITY OF AMERICAN MADE HARDWARE AND FIXTURES?

There aren’t a lot of domestic products that are fully made in America. Even companies that claim to be made in the US are buying parts from abroad and assembling here. The American made products tend to be of high quality but also more expensive than those from Asia. Even many of the high priced European brands source their parts in Asia.





ARCHITECTURAL HIGHLIGHT OF 2016

The “River Building” at Grace Farms, New Canaan, CT

En route to Cape Cod, we made the easy detour off I-95 to visit this inspired complex, a structure that must be experienced in person to appreciate its immense power. Lucky to be there on a weekday, we could enjoy the full serenity of this bucolic oasis.

Grace Farms is a private non-profit community center in Fairfield county, and features the 2015-built River Building. Designed by the Japanese architectural firm SANAA, “The River” gets its name from the way it meanders down the hillside in a series of bends and twists. Viewed from the highest point of the 80 acre property, the seamless roof shimmers and glows like liquid mercury. Inside the building, continuous floor-to-ceiling glass walls offer ever changing

views of the natural surroundings as the spaces fold and double back on themselves. And

like a slow-moving river, the narrow circulation spaces give way to pond-like glass function rooms, then narrow again before the next pond space: auditorium, library, cafe, meeting hall, chapel, even a sunken basketball court. All under one long roof.

The library has an impressive collection of design and nature books with plenty of comfortable

seating. (I could imagine how great it would be to spend a winter day browsing through the collection in warmth, with a snowy landscape in full view.) We chatted with people who work there; each one friendly and gracious, their love for the place evident. For workers and visitors alike, the embrace of this quiet, spare building is strongly felt. WWW.GRACEFARMS.ORG

PS. Should you visit Grace farms, I encourage you to combine with a visit to Philip Johnson’s famous “Glass House”, only 4.5 miles away, also in New Canaan. WWW.THEGLASSHOUSE.ORG



Gary Rosard Architect, NJ



I love to turn Ugly Duckling houses into modern, elegant Swans. Mid century ranches and split levels are ideal candidates for makeovers for an owner who wants to create something different than the typical luxury home in this area. See the blog post on my website that features a dramatic makeover of an early 60's split level in Scotch Plains. If you hear of anyone who might be interested in a similar type project, feel free to pass on the link.

<http://www.garyrosard.com/from-unloved-orphan-to-cool-kid-on-the-block>

Gary Rosard Architect, NJ

WWW.GARYROSARD.COM

FAQs

Custom home Design Projects

DO I NEED BOTH AN ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER FOR MY PROJECT?

THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR CHOICE of architect and your preferences. Typically, architects are responsible for the space planning, structure and exterior of the building, while interior designers are called upon to do kitchens, bathrooms, and select interior finishes. However, some architects (including us) also excel in interior planning and finish work, so you will have a **single source of both creative vision and responsibility**. If you use a separate designer, make sure they collaborate with the architect so all decisions are coordinated to achieve an harmonious design throughout.

HOW CAN I GET A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENT DESIGN STYLES AND FIGURE OUT WHAT I LIKE BEST?

UNTIL RECENTLY, PEOPLE WOULD buy design magazines and cut out pictures they liked. Today's online resources provide a much easier process and more comprehensive range of images to search and select from.

A great website for residential design is houzz.com. They have an enormous library of images submitted by architects, designers and suppliers that are easily sorted by room type, style, and budget. You can create "Ideabooks" on their website, where you save images you like. Use them like file folders to separate different aspects of the project. After a while you will notice patterns develop that illuminate exactly what "your style" is. This is also a great tool to **share with your architect, who can then help you synthesize this into a cohesive design aesthetic** that you helped to create.

Pinterest is another source for searching for images with keywords. Like houzz, you create "Boards", which are collections of images with links back to the original source. You can "pin" photos from almost any source to your Pinterest boards, so you're not restricted to their own web site for reference material.

HOW LONG WILL MY PROJECT TAKE?

THINK ABOUT AND SHARE WITH your architect key target dates that are important to you. When do you want to start and finish the project? Bear in mind, as a rule of thumb, depending on the scope of the project, it takes **at least 4-8 months to finalize the design, prepare construction drawings, hire a contractor, and obtain building permits before construction work can begin**. If you need a zoning variance to build your project, this process can add several months. You are less likely to be disappointed if you allow at least 6-9 months for work on existing homes and about 12-18 months for new homes. Times may vary depending on the scope and complexity of your project.

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WWW.GARYROSARD.COM

Find answers to frequently asked questions about custom home renovations at our website:

GARYROSARD.COM/RESOURCES

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