

# 6D REAL ESTATE

## Cook up kitchen of your dreams

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

We've all seen the exquisitely-designed, high-end kitchens in magazines or on television. They may have the latest gadgets, such as digital ovens or refrigerators with internet access. But, don't you wonder how they really cook in that kitchen?

"Visiting trade shows, I see many products with a 'WOW' factor," said Leslie Segrete, television designer, national home improvement radio host, 'Today Show' contributor and graduate of the French Culinary Institute. "But when I think about the products I want in my own kitchen, they're not always my first choices."

Instead, Segrete recommends investing money in the "workhorse" items of the kitchen - sinks, faucets and countertops. "The key to kitchen design is to make it work for you," she said. "You want to make sure the products you choose are functional, fashionable and easy to clean."

To create the kitchen of your dreams, Segrete named these four products as "must-haves" for their functionality and quality design.

### Sink money into a sink

When it comes to sinks, they are not all created equal. Kitchen sinks come in a variety of materials including stainless steel, granite and quartz, as well as numerous sizes and shapes. For chefs looking to blend style with function and quality, Segrete recommends Moen's new Lancelot Professional Sinks. These 16-gauge stainless steel sinks offer a visually-appealing undermount installation, 10-inch deep bowls and angled sidewalls for easy clean-up. Plus, they are available in four different size configurations to meet the needs of every cook.

"The depth of this sink makes it easier to fit large pots and pans," said Segrete. "And the angled walls are easy to keep clean while giving it a very upscale look."

### Focus on faucets

Sometimes called the "jewelry of the sink," the faucet can add the finishing touch of style to the kitchen. However, when choosing a faucet, be sure to find one with not only high style, but functionality. When it comes to meeting both criteria, Segrete's solution is high arc kitchen faucets. In addition to the beautiful lines provided by the high arc spout, the added height makes it simple to fit large pots and pans under the water stream.

"Moen offers a variety of exquisitely-designed high arc faucets, such as their Vestige kitchen faucet," said Segrete. "Plus, the line is available in a variety of finishes, including new Pewter, to coordinate with today's kitchen appliances."

### Add a personality in backsplash

The countertop is the workhorse of the kitchen - but don't forget the backsplash - it's just as important. Not only will the backsplash protect your walls from food splashes, it also gives you the opportunity to add some of personality to your gourmet kitchen. For a unique and easily cleanable backsplash, try customizing your own mix of glass mosaic tiles. "Don't forget about the grout!" Segrete adds. "Using a variety of colors of tiles and grout you can create specialized patterns that are uniquely you."

### Don't sweat the mess

Cooking in your gourmet kitchen will be much more enjoyable if you aren't thinking of the clean-up. But Segrete won't trust her delicate crystal and dishes to just any dishwasher. She recommends Bosch dishwashers, since they are highly engineered to operate in a quiet and efficient way.

## Floored by laminates



PHOTO: IARA CONTENT

Today's laminate flooring is easy to install.

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Imagine a beautiful wood-look floor that can be quickly installed, is durable enough to stand up to everyday life, and can be maintained with just a damp cloth. It may sound too good to be true, but today's laminate flooring offers all of this and more, and is fast becoming one of the hottest home improvement projects among do-it-yourselfers.

"For homeowners who want the look of wood without the maintenance headaches, laminate flooring is ideal," said Don Cymbalski, U.S. design manager for Pergo, the leading brand of laminate flooring. "It won't wear through, stain or fade, and won't ever need waxing, polishing or refinishing. And the designs are so realistic that many people mistake it for the real thing."

Introduced by Pergo to the United States in 1994, laminate flooring is made of wood byproducts compressed under extreme pressure to form super-hard layers that are sandwiched together and finished with a surface second only to diamonds in hardness. The resulting product offers durability and ease of maintenance far superior to any other flooring option.

### Substance and style

The beauty of laminate flooring doesn't just lie beneath its surface. The variety of designs available today is virtually limitless with colors and textures that are more realistic than ever. In fact, consumers routinely mistake laminates for higher priced wood, ceramic or stone alternatives. Beyond the

popular oak, maple and pine varieties, laminates are available in exotic wood looks like mahogany, walnut and cherry, as well as in classic tile designs including granite, marble and ivory.

### Quick and easy installation

Ease and speed of installation add to the appeal of laminate flooring. Where installation of real wood is typically left to professionals because of the time-consuming process to glue or nail planks, laminates can often be installed over a weekend and put directly on top of any existing floor (except carpet).

Most laminates simply click together, making them ideal for do-it-yourselfers. "Click" laminate floors feature tongue-and-groove edges that snap-together easily and tightly without the need for glue. Durable and hassle-free, click floors can be used confidently in any room of the home - even moisture-prone areas like kitchens and bathrooms, thanks to new dual-locking joint technologies.

Top-grade laminates, like those from Pergo, are attractively priced around \$2 to \$4 per square foot (uninstalled), compared with \$4 to \$6 for solid wood. But the real savings is in the installation. Because laminate floors are so easy to install, many consumers can do it themselves saving both money and time.

Pergo laminate flooring is available through specialty retailers as well as at The Home Depot and Lowe's. For more information, visit [www.pergo.com](http://www.pergo.com) or call (800) 33-PERGO.

## Redwood fencing has many uses

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

When you build a redwood fence, it's almost always because of a specific need. You need to keep the dog in the yard. You need a boundary between your house and the street.

You need a tad more privacy. How you build your fence is a matter of taste. Redwood fences range in design from the practical to the elegant. Redwood is the material of choice for these fences because it's durable, it looks good and it resists warping, splitting and checking. Redwood's beauty and long-lasting qualities are built in and natural, unlike synthetic and treated materials.

Whether they're practical or more elegant, most fences are variations on a simple structure involving posts, rails and fence boards. The post and rail support structure is made of standard dimension lumber, while fence boards of different shapes and sizes give a fence its individual style. There are many standard designs to choose from.

Solid board fences provide maximum privacy. Alternating board and board designs are known as "good neighbor" fences because they look the same from either side. Lacy lattice screens are ideal for climbing plants. Classic picket fences make attractive boundary markers.

You'll find lots of great sources for fence design ideas. First of all, you can drive around your neighborhood. Unlike decks, which are usually hidden in back yards, you can see fences from the street. You can find fence plans in books at the library or your local home center, and there are often articles in how-to magazines. The California Redwood Association offers a booklet on fence design called "Redwood Fences for All Reasons."

In addition to the design, the materials you choose are important and help determine whether your fence is in the practical category or the elegant category. Most utilitarian redwood fences are built with knot-textured "garden grades" of redwood. These rugged grades are economical and provide the best combination of performance and value. More elegant fences use better grades of redwood. Some high-style fences make great use of other materials for design accents. For example, ceramic ornaments, oxidized copper or other metal elements can give your fence a one-of-a-kind distinction.

It is important to use non-corrosive nails and hardware to avoid unsightly stains. Stainless steel, aluminum or top quality hot-dipped galvanized hardware is required. When you complete your project, you might decide to use a water repellent finish to protect the redwood from rain and sun. However, redwood is one of the few woods that perform well without a finish. So it's your choice - apply a finish or leave the fence to weather naturally.

If you want an elegant fence that's a work of art in your yard, you may want to contact a pro to design and build it for you. If you're interested in a practical no-nonsense fence and want to save money, you may want to build it yourself.

## REAL ESTATE / CLASSIFIEDS / REAL ESTATE / CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR RENT

Place Your Property Listings in The Charlotte Post Classifieds for only \$18.00 per column inch or just \$1.05 per word.



Call 704-376-0496 ext 104



### NOW

is a good time to move to **KINGSPARK.**

We are still the "Westside's Best Kept Secret."

Ask About The Summer Special

Judy Williams, Manager  
704-333-2966

### Village Of Buena Vista

\$199 Move In Special

\* Conditions Apply  
Now Leasing 1, 2, & 3 Bedroom  
Apts & Townhomes

CALL TODAY  
before they are gone!

4929 Tuckaseegee Road  
704-392-9944

### FOR SALE

BANK FORECLOSURES  
and FIXER UPPERS  
These homes need work!

[www.charlottefixeruppers.com](http://www.charlottefixeruppers.com)



### NO QUALIFYING!

• Assumable Loans •

• Seller Finance • Lease Purchase •

Work 4 Down Payment!

New and Existing Homes Available!  
704-926-7100 704-541-7100

[www.McGaryRealty.com](http://www.McGaryRealty.com)

### VACATION RENTAL

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC  
OCEANFRONT! Up to \$200 Discount  
Summer Beach Rentals. Over 600 beach homes/condos. Summer Vacations! Free Brochure. Call Elliott Beach Rentals, 1-866-878-2754

Newly Renovated & Available Now!  
3 BR/2 BA home at Idlewild South. New Berber Carpet & Paint. Refrigerator included. Owner will pay closing costs. Call 704-604-8780 \$93,000.

**Nia Point Apartments**  
Brand New Large Affordable Apartments!  
Pitts Drive  
Directions: Turn onto Tate Street from Beatties Ford Road 1/4 mile north of Brookshire Blvd. We accept Section 8 Vouchers!  
2BR Rents - \$615 - \$625  
3BR Rents - \$670 - \$690  
704-334-1940  
Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 6:00

**LITTLE ROCK APARTMENTS**  
Newly Renovated  
2, 3, & 4 Bedroom Apartments  
Now Available  
Includes Central Air, Heat Dishwasher  
Garbage Disposal, Range & Refrigerator  
Rents are based on your Income  
Call 704-394-9394 Ext 13  
Ask for Ms Perry