



WRITTEN BY PAULETTE DAGUE

PRIME CHOICES

Products the professionals use and recommend

Details, details—they are what make a home special and unique to the owner. Finding the right details is critical to pulling the look and feel of a home together. On the following pages, we've gathered the favorite home detail choices from some well-respected professionals—an architect, an interior designer, and a builder. The products they like cover a range of indoor and outdoor elements that reflect the design philosophies of each pro. These are tried-and-true products that they use and recommend to their clients every day. Among their choices, you may find that one spectacular item that you've been looking for to set your home apart.

Our Pro: Victor Farina

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OLD HICKORY

Victor likes wood floors. "We use both the nailed down and engineered-type wood floors. People especially like the stressed look." Rustic Hickory from the American Heritage collection features an aluminum-oxide-enriched DuraShield finish, which is resistant to abrasive wear. **Shaw Floors;** www.shawfloors.com.



"Our business is built on happy customers, the finest quality works, and the principle that our word is our honor. These are proven home products that have delighted and been requested by our customers"



MILL-WORKING

"We have always done an extensive amount of mill-work: upgraded trim, special openings, ceiling treatments, and new designs for doors," says Victor. "Sometimes we simply do a nice base-board with window and door casings."

Woodcarvings and accents from Enkeboll Designs are a fine example. **Enkeboll Designs;** www.enkeboll.com.



LIKE A PRO

"Kitchen plumbing seems to be constantly changing," Victor says. "For example, just a few years ago we were using the big farmhouse, apron-front sinks, but now we have gotten away from that." The PRO TaskSink is a high/low countertop kitchen sink with three-hole faucet punching and the SilentShield sound-absorption system. **Kohler Co.;** www.kohler.com.



PAVE THE WAY

"Travertine pavers for pool decks have been a great-selling product," according to Victor. "They provide coolness for the feet during the summer and have such an elegant look." Durango Ancient finish travertine has the look and feel of ancient Europe and is available in a variety of sizes and patterns. **Durango Stone;** www.durangostone.com.

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PICKS OF THE PROS

LOOKING UP

Charles likes laminate ceiling planks such as WoodHaven because they "cover a multitude of problems, are low maintenance, and are virtually indestructible." WoodHaven planks in finishes such as Beech, Warm Cherry, and Light Knotty Pine offer the warmth and glow of hardwood planks with the durability and easy-care properties of pre-finished laminate. **Armstrong Floors;** www.armstrong.com.



COUNTER MEASURES

Nevamar countertops are a favorite of Charles because they offer "lots of finish choices, and are a cost-effective solution for kitchen and bath surfaces." The Hallmark laminate series radiates color and texture throughout as though lit from within. **Nevamar;** www.nevamar.com.



"Old World architectural detailing lends credibility to new construction"

MAKE IT MOSAIC

"Glass mosaic tile for walls, ceilings, and floors in bathrooms has a great, rich look with many color choices," Charles notes. The Glass Windows series has stained glass window motifs and translucent colors. Shown is Abbey Field. **Trikeenan Tile Works;** www.trikeenan.com.



YANKEE INGENUITY

"Wide wood plank flooring gives a rich Old World look," says Charles of floors such as Old Growth Eastern White Pine floors from Carlisle. Selected from private stands of large old-growth timber throughout New England, the flooring features a unique grain structure, knotting, and warm coloring. **Carlisle Wide Plank Flooring;** www.wideplankflooring.com.



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"I try to spend my clients' money where it counts, where they can enjoy it most. I look for high-quality products of a unique design"

BAMBOO SHADES 

"I think bamboo flooring is one of the most important sustainable products out there," Dennis says. "Crops can be renewed every three years. I like the vertical grain pattern 3/4-inch-by-6-foot strips in a carbonized finish." Teragren bamboo flooring comes in random lengths and wide-plank and floating applications. **Teragren Fine Bamboo Flooring;** www.teragren.com.



FULL EXPOSURE 

"Simpson has a new line of prefinished connectors which are meant to be exposed, giving an aesthetic emphasis to interior column-and-beam and exposed truss construction," Dennis says. "They add a dramatic accent to any exposed woodwork." Shown are the Classic Collection smooth-edged connectors. **Simpson Strongtie;** www.strongtie.com.

LATE UPDATE 

The Lombard fixture is from one of Dennis's favorite companies—Rejuvenation Lighting. "Rejuvenation is a favorite with any remodeler that cares about quality. They provide accurate period lighting with modern updates for quality and code compliance. These fixtures can put a finishing touch on any project." Lombard is a classic choice for porches, pantries, and baths. **Rejuvenation Lighting;** www.rejuvenation.com.



PREFABULOUS 

Dennis prefers prefabricated concrete cobblestones because they "are quick and easy to install in 48-inch-long sheets rather than as individual stones. They come in a variety of colors and patterns." The handcrafted cobblestones are connected by a nylon grid that installs in seconds. **Cobblestone Systems;** www.cobblesystems.com.

LIGHT METAL 

Dennis likes Eleek, which "is a Portland-based company that makes unique well-crafted, modern-style light fixtures. My favorites are the cast and laser-cut aluminum exterior wall lights." The Irvington (far left) features warm and cool metal tones; the Shield Sconce (left) has a customizable overlay. **Eleek Inc.;** www.eleekinc.com.

