



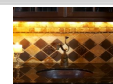
A Special Message

I am pleased to present you with the latest edition of the CENTURY 21 Fine Homes & Estates newsletter! The Fine Homes & Estates newsletter is designed to give you the luxury real estate information that is important to you. In each issue, you will find practical tips and articles related to buying, selling and owning luxury properties, as well as the latest news on trends in the luxury home market. I hope that you enjoy this issue of the CENTURY 21 Fine Homes & Estates newsletter. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Jeff Green jgreen@c21superstars.com
CENTURY 21 Superstars 1129 East Imperial Highway Placentia, CA 92870
Phone: 714.993.6040 <http://www.placentiahomesales.com>

Five Trends in High-End Home Design



Planning to purchase a new home or redecorate your existing one? New York designer Robin Baron has identified five hot new trends in high-end home design. "These trends are simple to incorporate into your current décor while adding extra interest," she says. "They help to make your home uniquely your own."

Be on the lookout for the following trends:

Shine. Baron's favorite trend is a blend of metallic and reflective surfaces. In one upscale project, she used a combination of custom glass and mirrored tiles as wallpaper and bianco antico marble coated in silver leaf for floors. Baron suggests using metallic materials and finishes combined with natural stones and wood to create a rich, layered textural juxtaposition.

Green. Eco-friendly design is the new luxe. A popular trend is utilizing materials that are sustainable—made of responsibly harvested woods or organically manufactured fabrics. In the past, these designs were very basic, Baron says, but now high-end furniture designers are producing luxurious well-detailed pieces.

Color. Colorful designs are moving from the fashion runway to the home. Just like the red bottom of a Christian Louboutin shoe, bright accent colors are adorning the inside of new furniture and accessories. Be on the lookout for new furniture with splashes of color in unexpected places such as the inside of drawers.

Personalization. Everyone wants pieces that are unique and customized only for them. Many furniture manufacturers are making custom pieces more available, allowing buyers to receive a couture piece at any price point.

Details. Nail heads in various shapes, sizes and colors are being used on all kinds of materials. Although nail heads are not a new concept, the innovative use of them on new items looks fresh. Look for them on mirrors, headboards, ottomans and storage boxes.

Tips for Finding a Perfect Vacation Home—and Some of the Best Spots to Look



With interest rates low and the real estate market still recovering, it's a great time to purchase a second or vacation home. Whether you're purchasing for your own use or with an eye toward investment, however, it's essential to do your due diligence.

According to the National Association of Realtors, people are buying vacation homes to use themselves with little interest in renting; investment considerations are secondary. But experts say purchasing a vacation home without thinking about renting down the line is a mistake. "Very few people buy with the intention of renting," says Christine Karpinski, author of *How to Rent Vacation Homes by Owner*, 2nd Edition. "But even if you have no intention to rent now, make sure you have a backup plan and are able to rent should something change in your life."

That's why she recommends purchasing where vacation rentals are popular and ensuring—beforehand—that the community you buy into doesn't have any rental restrictions that could impair your future stream of income.

If you're looking for a vacation home that's also a good investment, check out these locations, recently named by MSN Money as the top 10 second-home investment markets: Asheville, N.C.; Park City, Utah; Ashland, Ore.; Port Townsend, Wash.; Beaufort, S.C.; South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; Daytona Beach, Fla.; Sunriver, Ore.; Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and Charlevoix, Mich.

How Much Would You Pay to Eat Lunch With Warren Buffett?



Talk about a pricy meal. An eBay bidder paid \$1.68 million to lunch with billionaire Warren Buffett. The anonymous bidder and up to 7 friends will dine at New York steakhouse Smith & Wollensky. The auction, benefitting the Glide Foundation, fell short of last year's \$2.1M bid by a Hong Kong investor.