Residential architects report outdoor living areas as remaining very popular spaces

% of respondents reporting popularity of room “increasing” minus % reporting “decreasing”; Q2 2017

*Dedicated space for home automation management (e.g., mechanical room)

Outdoor living, mud rooms, and home offices top list of most popular special function rooms

Most popular special function room, % of respondents, Q2 2017

- Outdoor Living, 38%
- Mud room, 23%
- Home office, 16%
- Sun room/3-season porch, 5%
- Au pair/in-law, 7%
- Roof decks, 3%
- All other, 9%

Multigenerational living options growing in popularity as home feature

% of respondents reporting popularity of feature “increasing” minus % reporting “decreasing”; Q2 2017

Note: wider doorways and hallways not included in 2016.
FIGURE 4  Wireless features and home automation controls growing in popularity

% reporting popularity of system “increasing” minus % reporting “decreasing”; Q2 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy mgmnt</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elect. car docking station</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless telecom/data</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless sound systems</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home automation controls</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back-up power gen.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar panels</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting controls (automated)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air replenishment systems</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Wireless sound systems not covered in survey in 2016.
FIGURE 5  
Energy management and ease of maintenance are features of popular home products

% of respondents reporting popularity of product/product category “increasing” minus % reporting “decreasing”; Q2 2017

- Smart thermostats: 64% 2017, 63% 2016
- Low maintenance: 63% 2017, 64% 2016
- Synthetic materials: 59% 2017, 59% 2016
- Energy efficient: 52% 2017, 52% 2016
- Tankless water heater: 49% 2017, 44% 2016
- Water saving: 38% 2017, 38% 2016
- Reclaimed materials: 40% 2017, 35% 2016
- Thermal-moisture cont.: 40% 2017, 30% 2016
- Improv. indoor air: 34% 2017, 30% 2016
- Interior motion sensor lights: 33% 2017, 28% 2016

Project billings and inquiries ease a bit at residential firms after strong first quarter

Diffusion index: 50 = no change from previous quarter; data are not seasonally adjusted

Source: The American Institute of Architects Home Design Trends Survey, Q1-2011 to Q2-2017
FIGURE 7  Project backlogs remain healthy at residential architecture firms
Number of months of project backlogs, averages across all firms; data are not seasonally adjusted

Source: The American Institute of Architects Home Design Trends Survey, Q1-2010 to Q2-2017
Residential architecture firms in south and west see stronger growth in billings in second quarter

Diffusion index for billings: 50 = no change from previous quarter; data are not seasonally adjusted

Source: The American Institute of Architects Home Design Trends Survey, Q1-2012 to Q2-2017
Condo market recovering, but home improvement sectors continue to outpace new construction

% of respondents reporting sector “improving” minus % reporting “weakening”; Q2 2017