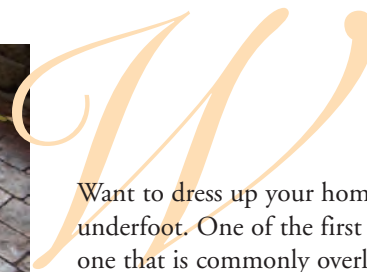


paving options



Top: Step into a world of tranquility when you step onto the concrete pavers surrounding this dream-like backyard pool. Photo courtesy of Rinox

Above: This patio floor design, installed by Carrero & Sons Concrete and Construction, is made out of stamped concrete, an option that is growing in popularity among homeowners.



By **Beth Puliti**

Want to dress up your home's exterior? Consider adding some flair underfoot. One of the first areas of the home passersby see—and one that is commonly overlooked—is the driveway. Sidewalks and patios may even greet guests before you do. What do yours say about you?

Ground surfaces have the potential to say a lot about a homeowner. Yours should portray your home and way of life accurately. Make your visitors' first impression of your home a positive one—with colored, patterned and textured paving.

STAMPED ASPHALT

It's possible to bring style to a driveway without breaking the bank. Stamped asphalt is created when a template is stamped into fresh or reheated asphalt. The asphalt can then be colored and fortified with a polymer cement surfacing system. Homeowners can choose from a variety of patterns and colors that can imitate the look of hand-laid brick, cobblestone or slate.

Driveway Impressions offers StreetPrint[®], a decorative paving



An affordable choice among many decorative paving materials, imprinted concrete combines an impressive high-end look with low maintenance, durability and longevity. Photo courtesy of Architectural Concrete Design

system that uses special imprinted products to create decoratively stamped asphalt driveways.

“We specialize in brick and stone designs that emulate real pavers and stone,” says Dan Torres, independent franchise owner. “A real popular pattern is the diagonal herringbone—it’s been around for years. It’s a timeless and classic design that mimics real stone, pavers and brick.”

Stamped asphalt driveways are installed quickly with little disruption, which is why they remain a cost-effective alternative. The asphalt base is tolerant of extreme weather, resists cracking and will not shift or break under vehicle braking and accelerating.

Simple maintenance is all that is required of stamped asphalt, notes Torres. “Basically, the homeowners take a garden hose and rinse off dirt or soil from the driveway.” The polymer cement surfacing system, called StreetBond, bonds to the actual asphalt and does not chip or peel away.

STAMPED CONCRETE

According to the Concrete Network, an informational source for consumers, builders and contractors, the variety of concrete patterns and colors available, as well as the inexpensive cost, is making stamped concrete a more popular and frequent option among homeowners. Use stamped concrete to beautify driveways, walkways, patios and pool decks. Patterns that are pressed into the concrete are designed to resemble slate, brick, stone, flagstone, tile and wood.

Architectural Concrete Design combines beauty and strength to give homeowners decorative concrete solutions for the surfaces under their feet.

Stamped concrete; exposed aggregate, including glass aggregate; and colored concrete with a unique layout and design are the most popular homeowner requests, notes Chris McMahon, president.

“By far the most popular design mimics Pennsylvania flagstone. [The stamped concrete] looks just like the pattern, but it’s less than half the cost of real stone and less expensive than individual pavers,” he says.

“People are reinvesting in their homes for the long term, not just doing cheap projects to stage for a quick home sale.”

-Ira Vosper, general manager, Rinox



This spacious patio, constructed of stamped concrete, leaves the homeowners plenty of room for entertaining and enjoying the outdoors. Photo courtesy of Carrero & Sons Concrete and Construction

Mike Carrero, co-owner of Carrero & Sons Concrete and Construction, works closely with homeowners to match concrete colors with their home. The stamping specialist has a large selection of patterns and colors, as well as front and back packaged deals to choose from.

McMahon advises homeowners to have their concrete resealed bi-annually or every two to five years.

PAVERS

Concrete paving stones offer homeowners a durable alternative that resists cracking caused from frequent freeze-thaw cycles and adds value to the home. Looking for something vibrantly-colored?



A standard scallop finish separated by a stacked brick border and a full-size medallion centered in front of the garage makes a welcoming impression.

Photo courtesy of Driveway Impressions

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picture perfect patios: bringing the inside out

It seems patios as we once knew them—simple paved exterior spaces—are ever-evolving into extensions of the home. Mike Carrero of Carrero & Sons Concrete and Construction points out that custom raised patios and outdoor kitchens with firepits are hot among homeowners right now. And he's not the only one to recognize the demand.

B&T Landscape & Patio Design, a small hands-on company that specializes in paver installations, as well as natural stone and masonry, acknowledged the trend.

"Because of the economy right now, we find customers are choosing to stay in their homes rather than move. As a result, they are looking to create fun outdoor living spaces that include water features, ponds, outdoor kitchens and fireplaces," states Rick Bealer, owner/operator.

Steven J. Doerler, president and CEO of Doerler Landscapes, concurs. Over the last several years the company has seen a growing demand for custom outdoor rooms and kitchens.

"There is usually a portion of the project that has a covered roof to extend the period of time that the space can be enjoyed. A lot of our clients are asking us to include amenities, such as water features, fireplaces or firepits and outdoor lighting," he says.

Another trend they see is a growing interest in natural products, like bluestone, limestone or travertine tile. Because these natural products are more expensive, homeowners have to budget accordingly.



Steps leading to a backyard patio are created using stamped concrete with a natural stone border. Photo courtesy of Carrero & Sons Concrete and Construction



This outdoor living area brings all the modern conveniences of home outdoors, including a flat-screen TV and fireplace. Photo courtesy of Doerler Landscapes

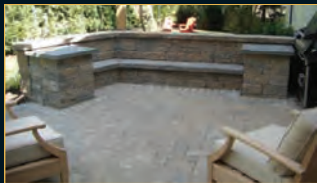
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Antiqued? Environmentally-friendly? Choose from Rinox's many unique concrete pavers.

Ira Vosper, general manager of Rinox, notes that homeowners seem to be flocking to Rinox's new Arizona line of patio pavers. The Arizona paver offers lighter colors that are ideal around pools and in backyards. Random patterns are the trend because of the natural appeal, he states. A majority of Rinox products have multiple sizes, all included on one pallet, which allows random patterns to be easily installed with less waste product. These

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This design features a flagstone-capped sitting wall complete with a water feature, as well as a paver patio and firepit. Photo courtesy of B&T Landscape & Patio Design



This landscape design shows off a natural stone pond with a waterfall feature. The landscaper also installed a paver patio with coordinating sitting wall. Photo courtesy of B&T Landscape & Patio Design

products are also manufactured for a lifetime of little to no maintenance.

“With the changes in our economy, it seems that the quality has actually risen even though overall volume is currently down,” says Vosper. “People are reinvesting in their homes for the long term, not just doing cheap projects to stage for a quick home sale,” he points out.

H&H

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