

ACADIA



This issue we ask the question: Can good design kick-start home building? I say no. My view is that good design will act as an accelerant for home building.

Too many factors play into kick-starting the industry — economy, financing, and consumer confidence, to name a few. However, great design to the home-building recovery is like nitrous oxide to race cars — it will not start the car, but it will sure help it get down the track.

An often overlooked component to great design is building cost. Still wary of the housing bubble, consumers will not stretch as much on pricing. In order to combat this fact, homes should not only be current, attractive, and well-planned, they should also be designed Lean. Lean design is about creatively maximizing marketability that applies to every price point. Eliminate construction waste and use that cost savings to add amenities, upgrade material, and drop the sales price, or all of the above. So rev it up and spray on the nitrous by developing exciting, creative homes that are not available in the existing-home market. It may not be a kick-start, but it will be a great start.

ARCHITECT

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PLAN SIZE

House

Living area: 3,335 sf
Porches: 80 sf
Width: 34 feet; depth: 98 feet

Garage

Area: 706 sf
Width: 34 feet; depth: 22 feet



- A** The stairway is placed where the action is, adjacent to the open living/kitchen space. This does two things: It eliminates the need for a grand foyer and it places the stair in a practical position convenient for everyday use.
- B** The kitchen is wide open to the great room area with a large, simple island. This is a perfect setup for entertaining and casual living.
- C** The nook has space for optional cabinets that grow kitchen storage capacity.
- D** The mudroom offers generous space that's designed for a growing family. Lockers and a separate laundry space help keep the space free of clutter.
- E** The dining room is a space that is often eliminated in current plans. This space will flex, allowing different uses as the family dynamic changes (see "F" below).
- F** The study has access to a full bath that allows the space to become a bedroom in the event of a parent coming back to live in the home. The house will flex for multi-generational living by allowing the dining room to become a study in the future.
- G** The bedroom suite provides a great opportunity for a teenager to have their own space without having to share bathrooms with the younger children.
- H** The loft space is large enough to support a couple of chairs and is a great spot for kids to work on their iPads or just hang out.
- I** In the owner's suite, a fireplace with space for seating creates a nice little retreat for relaxing solitude.
- J** Bonus space off the owner's suite is an imaginative space that opens up a lot of possibilities; it can be used as an exercise room, private study, additional storage, or TV room. The opportunities are numerous.