

A Message from the President of the Youngstown Columbiana Association of REALTORS®

The Homes of Tomorrow

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The home of tomorrow isn't just about controlling our homes with smartphone apps. It's about home value, natural resources, and our lifestyles. To predict what home features will be most valued in 25 years, let's focus on four rising trends:

#1 Extreme Energy Efficiency

Utility bills are expected to skyrocket over the next couple of decades. This will result in sustainable updates that push the green needle of household standards.

Energy dashboards: You know how cars share the miles per gallon we're getting? An energy dashboard will do the same for our homes. It's all about the emerging technologies that will surround the future modernization of the electric grid. Called the Smart Grid, it will allow a two-way dialogue between homeowners and their utility companies so we can understand our energy use and its costs in real-time.

Reusable water systems: Systems like these currently reuse some of your household water for watering the lawn and flushing toilets. The best of tomorrow trends will be high-tech purification systems that return wastewater to drinking-quality levels.

Garages wired for the electric vehicle revolution: based on the growing number of electric vehicle sales across the U.S., many people will be charging vehicles at home. Due to this rising trend, charging stations in garages will eventually become a customary protocol when building a home.

#2 The Rise of Super Storms

Since super storms like Tornados and Hurricanes are becoming the norm, homeowners can be left without electricity for weeks, even months.

Whole house generator: This will allow people to live comfortably until their power is restored. Thanks to extreme weather and our aging power grid, blackouts are becoming more common.

#3 The Locally-Grown Movement

The desire to eat healthier, better-tasting foods continues to increase. This will make indoor gardens common among our homes of tomorrow's trends. Edible indoor kitchen gardens are hydroponic systems that add to home enjoyment by allowing people to create the farm-to-table experience in their own kitchens. Also, urban farming is on the rise. It combats rising food prices and reduces the energy consumption of transporting food.

#4 Smart Home Gadgets

Homes have already started to become "smarter" as homeowners can control common tasks through their phone or smart devices (like Alexa or Google) such as turning on/off lights, opening/closing the garage door, opening the front door, controlling your thermostat, and operating household cameras.

And can you imagine kitchen sinks that will do double-duty and function as dishwashers or laundry machines that will clean and fold clothing? It's hard to visualize complex machines handling basic household chores, but the idea isn't so far-fetched and could be seen sometime in the future.

With our technology advancing and lifestyles changing, we could soon be living like The Jetsons! This is the way of the future, and we will most likely see many new advancements in the home that will focus on increasing home value, utilizing natural resources, and conforming to our lifestyles.

Michael Stevens is the 2023 President of the Youngstown Columbiana Association of REALTORS®