



Home Designs Reflect How We Really Live

By Carrie Rossenfeld

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ALISO VIEJO, CA—Home designs are changing to meet the needs of real families based on how they really use their space, says **Joan Marcus-Colvin**, senior VP of sales, marketing and design for **the New Home Co.** As **GlobeSt.com** **reported in July**, the firm had sold 23 luxury homes in its new neighborhoods **Trevi** and **Amelia** in the **Orchard Hills** master-planned community in Irvine, CA, since they opened less than two months prior, representing more than \$50 million. The homes

include features such as the family office and foodie kitchen. **GlobeSt.com** spoke with **Marcus-Colvin** about the creation of these features and what's changing in today's home design.

GlobeSt.com: What was the inspiration behind elements like the family office and foodie kitchen in the Trevi and Amelia neighborhoods in Orchard Hills?

Marcus-Colvin: After spending time with our buyers in Lambert Ranch, it was clear that everyone spent time around the kitchen table to do their various projects/homework/bills. We had just completed a very high-end custom home for a family who wanted a shared workspace with their children, so why not combine the desires of a custom solution into a production program? I think the added storage and project island enhance the entire space and make it much more than a spot for homework.

GlobeSt.com: What other design elements like these do you see entering the residential market?

Marcus-Colvin: What is so fun about our job is that we are constantly trying to figure out what the next trends will be and how to design our homes to support them. I think the relationship between our kitchens and outdoor spaces will continue, along with new ways of bringing generational families together.

GlobeSt.com: Any other thoughts on the latest in residential design?

Marcus-Colvin: In these last few years, we've made a distinct turn toward a more contemporary sensibility in our interior design, although our exteriors have stayed more traditional. And although this mix of styles between the interior and exterior was once unheard of, I think we'll continue this trend for the foreseeable future.



The home study or family office in the Amelia neighborhood mimics the way families gather around the kitchen table to tackle projects.



The foodie kitchen in the Trevi neighborhood provides elegance and continuity between the kitchen and dining areas.

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