In 2021, this historic housing market continues to be on fire. Money is cheap, and buyers and renters are plentiful. The biggest challenges continue to be low inventory, supply chain disruptions and escalating material costs. (See "Housing Industry Supply Demand Imbalance" by Calcagni's Antonio Liguori and "Seven Tactics to Manage Supply Chain Disruptions" in this issue.)

Home Design Trends

In home design, the modern farmhouse style, metal roofs and black framed windows remain popular. Arched trusses decorate soaring ceilings and stained bullnose molding adds detail to Chantilly white walls.

However, a number of this year's trends evolved from how the pandemic has changed our lives and the way we live and work.

Beth Krupa, Allied ASID, GREEN AP, who won a Special Focus HOBI for a stunning mudroom in Greenwich, commented on pandemic related design trends.

"Clients have definitely returned to the two lost luxuries of time and togetherness – they are really

enjoying spending time in their home more than ever, and want it to be a place that showcases who they are as a unique family or individuals. They have been looking for more defined work / study areas, and many times areas that have dual purposes like a formal dining room that can now serve as a flex work area. We also have been seeing many more luxury gyms and spas being added to the home as people are preferring the exercise at home options."

"I do pay attention to trends and spend about 10-15% of my work-life traveling to design shows that last anywhere from 3-5 days each, but I don't design based on trend. Trends are fleeting and home design at our level of design is truly an investment and should stand the test of time, really be ageless and timeless."

- Beth Krupa, BKI Studio



Modern office with a perfectly placed red chaise lounge with a view. A restorative space for taking a much-needed break from the computer or a place to catch up on a good book (and maybe a nap!). Beth Krupa Interiors.



The Organic Luxe Trend
Stephanie Rapp, who won a HOBI
this year for Outstanding Home Design,
weighed in with her thoughts on what she
calls the Organic Luxe Trend.

"When designing for my clients, I am always thinking about the importance of a home being livable and inviting, as well as beautiful. Organic materials that reference natural textures, but in a modern way, help to make a space feel cozy, yet chic. This trend has picked up speed in a post-Covid world, where we find ourselves gravitating towards authentic, natural materials to help create a sanctuary space."

Stephanie Rapp, Stephanie Rapp Interiors

(continued)



A breakfast table which also serves as a kid-friendly flex space by adding a glass top to the wood surface for easy clean-up of sticky fingers! The nylon area rug is not only beautiful and cozy, but durable too. Beth Krupa Interiors.

2021 HOBI Trends

Covid changed everything in the Connecticut housing industry!

In March, there was the specter of a construction shut down, which was compounded by anxious clients, who cancelled or delayed contracts, and left builders fearful of bankruptcy.

While New York shut down, the HBRA of CT came to the rescue, successfully convincing Governor Lamont that our construction industry should be considered "essential" and open for business.

An exodus from Manhattan and other densely populated areas began. Sprawling homes with multiple rooms and living space, and an acre or two of land, even in remote Litchfield County, became an asset rather than a liability, and the long suffering Connecticut suburbs became the beneficiaries of a vulture rental and for sale market.

Between March 15 and April 28, moves from New York to Connecticut increased 74 percent over the same period in 2019. New York City dollars went a lot further in Connecticut, and these renters and buyers didn't quibble about price. We catapulted from an anemic market, known best for its dwindling population, to one of the hottest housing markets in the country!

