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Fall 2004



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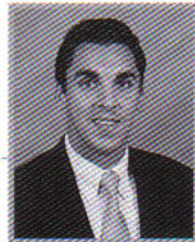
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ExpertAdvice



Billy Buck

Born and raised in Arlington, VA, Billy Buck of Buck & Associates is a leading Associate Broker in Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Each year since 2002, Mr. Buck has been awarded the NVAR \$10 Million + Sales Club award which denotes over \$10 million in residential sales. He specializes in listing and marketing a wide range of properties including high-end custom homes.



Real Estate Agent

From a Realtor's perspective, the justification for choosing high-end appliances falls in two categories: now and later. High-end appliances will afford you the immediate benefits of performance, style, and utility; all indulgences that you want and deserve to enjoy while you own your home. Choosing high-end appliances is also an investment you will realize when it comes time to sell, or even rent your home (for the investor at heart). Viewing these choices as a wise investment will also help give you piece of mind, making it easier to enjoy their superior performance now.

The kitchen leaves a lasting first impression of a home and is the hub of hospitality. Quality appliances are key here, especially the high-end brands. Some common top-of-the-line winners that I see include a Wolf, Viking, or Thermador Range with a custom hood either hidden behind cabinetry or in stainless-steel. A second dishwasher (Meile or Bosch) and a water tap above the range are becoming more standard. Other good thoughts are to include a computer nook enabled for laptop and online hook up, a space for a built-in or compact stereo or television, and a wine refrigerator (some can even be custom built to fill in small, awkward places). An outdoor kitchen can be equally as attractive and useful. A Viking or Lynx gas grill in an outdoor area landscaped for the space are good bets. You can then run a natural gas and water line outside to the grilling area.

For those buying new construction homes, high-end appliances are a must. You should even consider going beyond builder options. The additional cost for installation of non-builder options will pay off—appliances can be what set a home apart from other identical homes in a development or complex when it comes time to sell. Luckily, you have even more flexibility and options from which to choose with new home construction.

Media rooms and spa-like master baths are indulgent additions to a new home. When building media rooms, you need to first decide between available media types (e.g., cable versus satellite dish) “pre-drywall” in order to prevent the need to run obtrusive wires later. To keep up or win the technology contest, high-definition capable plasma screen televisions are a must. Larger rooms may demand movie theater style projection sets, such as the Knoll HD Projector with 93-inch high-definition screen. More homeowners are outfitting the master baths with two, if not four to six, showerheads with optional seam showers. Be sure to allow space to consider a television, telephone, or radio.

There is no real science when it comes to choosing one type of appliance or room over the other. The key is to strike a balance between achieving the highest quality per item possible, while fitting your needs and tastes now. Your home is your investment, but one you have to live in for now. ^