



# TODAY'S EMPHASIS ON *Texture*

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## Design Studio Opening in Early March



We have rapidly moved along on our new design studio. We are expected to be opening in early March this year! Be on the look out for our Grand Opening! We hope you can set an appointment to come by and plan your project with us soon!

We will have our Homecrest Cabinet displays up and running to pick out your new kitchen! We have some new appliances as well. The kitchen is up to date with a Docking Drawer to plug in your electronics, a pop-up power tower, and under cabinet lighting! We have several styles of interior doors and windows that we installed to showcase some of the different products that are available. We have installed tile flooring in the bathroom, Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) flooring in the main area, prefinished hardwood flooring in the conference room, and onsite-sanded oak flooring as well. Our office features LED lighting and a smart HVAC thermostat to utilize energy. We will be gathering lots of product info so we can make many selections 'in-house'.

The exterior of the building has custom fiber cement siding, cedar piedmonts in the gables, and extensive custom rock and masonry work. The rock tapered columns are topped with real stone slabs cut to our specs. Cedar posts and bracing hold up the front porch. The front porch has a cathedral tongue and groove beaded pine ceiling. We have new seamless aluminum guttering and an architectural shingle roof. The lap and shake siding was finished with Sherwin Williams paint and Superdeck stain for durability. Do you like our color choices on the paint? Black trim is very popular right now! We have installed a Fiberon deck featuring some of their superior composite decking and railing



products. We have a mahogany entrance door to invite you in with a craftsman-style cast iron door handle. We installed a custom 'made to order' wrought iron railing system on the front entry. Don't miss our lighted sign post with the cedar pergola surrounding it. With the new sidewalks and accessible ramp, you can park on either side of the building!

Sincerely,  
Cody Byrd, AMB, AR, CGR, CAPS, CGP  
Owner

# TODAY'S EMPHASIS ON *Texture*

As the contemporary look for interiors has gained prominence in the US, our homes are being transformed by a cleaner, more streamlined design aesthetic. Unlike modern design that homeowners often feel is too cold and minimalistic, contemporary interiors are warm and inviting, without being cluttered. They offer a subtle elegance that is the here and now.

Contemporary interiors typically focus on space, color, shape and lots of natural light. Black, white and neutral colors, as well as geometric shapes, define the space. Accessories in bold colors— even a vase of flowers or a bowl of fresh fruit— can give punch to the room. And with contemporary design, the impact of bare spaces is often just as important as the decorative objects in a room.

Textures are used to bring warmth and interest into the contemporary home. Weaving natural textures into a smooth, sleek interior makes it feel more welcoming. Layering a variety of textures in a space is becoming increasingly popular. Some of the preferred materials selected for this purpose are metal, wood, stone, glass, concrete, leather, fabric and wallpaper, as well as live plants.

Brushed brass and matte black metal finishes are on trend in contemporary interiors, yet stainless steel continues to shine.



Photo: Courtesy of Richelieu ([www.richelieu.com](http://www.richelieu.com))

Interestingly, wallpaper is making a comeback, especially geometric prints and 3-D sculptural patterns. A living green wall, created from hundreds of live plants, not only offers the benefits of adding bold beautiful color to the home environment, it also provides healthy, clean oxygen.

Another aspect of Green texture that may be used in a contemporary interior involves eco-friendly recycling ideas enlivened with modern colors and innovations. Some of today's most impressive fashion trends emphasize turning recycled and eco-friendly materials into fresh interior design solutions.

On page one, the beautiful recycled leather in a Jumbo Croc pattern gives unique texture to the kitchen island. The leather is from EcoDomo, a company that specializes in sustainable creative applications of leather. EcoDomo also designs wall panels from repurposed leather belts that can be used as whimsical accents, such as the backsplash shown here. Richelieu's novel wood wall panels are made from recycled Oak wood wine barrels from Spain. The combination of the type of wine barrel and the length of aging gives each panel its own artistic flair and color. The walk-in shower by Kohler displays the softening effect that live plants give to rooms with hard surfaces.

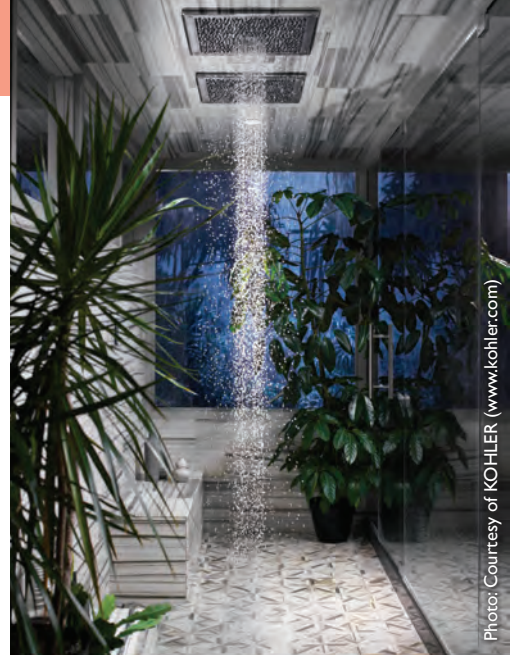


Photo: Courtesy of KOHLER ([www.kohler.com](http://www.kohler.com))



Photo: Courtesy of EcoDomo ([www.ecodomo.com](http://www.ecodomo.com))

# 4 Tips for Open Concept Interiors

The open concept for home interiors has captured the imagination of homeowners across the country. Interior walls that once compartmentalized kitchens from dining and living rooms, making homes feel confining, are coming down everywhere. People appreciate the bright, expansive feeling that is created when natural light can more easily pass through their entire living space. The open concept allows you to blend your cooking, family time and socializing.

**If you are planning to bring the open concept into your home, here are four ideas to consider:**

**1.** Consult with a professional remodeler before you start a DIY project by tearing down your walls. Disasters have resulted from

homeowners who have unknowingly removed load-bearing walls. Also, non-load-bearing walls may have wiring, plumbing or HVAC running through them that will need to be rerouted. A professional has the expertise needed to achieve the beautiful and functional end results you desire for your new open space.

**2.** Removing interior kitchen walls will eliminate some wall space for installing cabinets. You still need to have storage space for your pots and pans, utensils and food items. Purchasing cabinets with built-in, high-quality organizational storage systems, as well as extra tall cabinets with more shelves, will allow you to store more items in less space. A larger island can also provide additional storage.

**3.** Consider how your lifestyle will interpret the design of your open kitchen. For example, if you have young children who will spend a lot of time with you in the kitchen/family room space, your needs will be different from that of an empty-nester who primarily entertains friends. Make a list of your priorities before the design process begins.

**4.** Open your living space to the outdoors. Removing an exterior wall and installing a wide expanse of sliding glass doors or folding glass doors that open to an outdoor deck or patio can actually expand your living space. You can make the outside seem like a natural extension of the inside by using the same or similar materials and finishes in both locations.



Photo: By James F. Wilson

## Writable Surfaces

It isn't high-tech like an iPad or computer, but Formica's new Writable Surfaces Collection offers fun and functionality for a wide variety of locations in your home. It is available in chalkboard and markerboard options in six colors and designs. Each provides the chance to write a personal note or draw a picture on the surface, and then simply wipe it away when finished. For children (and adults) who've always wished they could draw on the walls at home and not get in trouble for it—this is the perfect answer.



Photos: Courtesy of Formica (www.formica.com)



Formica's Writable Surfaces may be used on vertical and horizontal surfaces, so it can function as a wall panel, desktop or countertop. Think about where you might want a surface like this in your home. In the kitchen it could be the place where family members add needed items to the grocery list, or make suggestions for your weekly meal plan. In the entryway or mudroom it could be a part of your family "command center" where the children are reminded to feed the dog or clean up their rooms. You might enjoy a surface like this in your craft room to help jump-start ideas. And if you really want to please the kids, give them a Writable Surfaces wall panel in their bedrooms where they can let their imaginations run wild!

Design Studio Opening!

No Contractor?

Today's Emphasis on Texture

4 Tips for an Open Concept



2318 Morganton Blvd. SW  
Lenoir, NC 28645

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# NO CONTRACTOR? WRONG CONTRACTOR?

## Why it's important to choose the right contractor

**The Case of "I'll Be My Own Contractor":** We often hear about homeowners who coordinated their own remodeling or construction projects. This has been on the rise as do-it-yourself home-improvement shows become more and more popular, with Pinterest boards and Houzz pages showing "DIY" ideas with picture-pretty results (often achieved with professional help). And Hey! who doesn't want to save a little money; why not be your own general contractor?

More often than not, this decision ends up creating a disaster and we get the call to clean up the mess. If you don't work with trade contractors all the time, it's difficult to know their work ethics. When you're in the business, you know which subcontractors (such as plumbers, electricians and excavators) are reliable, dependable, and capable of establishing a good working relationship. A good contractor knows who to trust and who will do a top notch job for you.

**The Case of "Choose the Cheap One":** While we'd never buy a cheap pair of shoes and expect them to hold up over time, or allow our children to drive a vehicle without a valid license, it's amazing how many folks will hire the cheapest contractor they can find and—too often—one without a license and insurance. Often, these "contractors" are people who've worked as a laborer or a framer for a short period of time and decide that they're ready to start their own business. When you get the bid, you're pleased to see how much this person/company says they can save you. You may even see "licensed, bonded and insured" on their business card or ad. I have met people who say, "I have a drivers license and my van is insured, that's why it's on the business card". They wouldn't know what a proper contractor's license or a worker's comp policy looks like even if they've seen one!

At first things may seem fine. In a day or two, a worker shows up and starts measuring, or a small load of material is delivered to the job site. Then the excuses begin. After a week has passed, with no work being done, you call your unlicensed contractor. You leave a message. You don't get a response. After multiple messages, you get an apologetic call telling you about some catastrophe involving his truck, his family, his help or another job he just had to complete. He promises to get right on your job the next day. A week later, he still hasn't shown up, or he does show up and says he needs more money.



Sound crazy? It happens every day. Work that is done turns out to be shoddy or won't pass inspection/isn't up to code. Fly-by-night "contractors" take your hard-earned money and disappear. The customer has no recourse but to try to find the unlicensed "contractor" and take him to court. Sadly, we get calls each month from people who chose the wrong contractors—companies or individuals with little capital and less experience who have no external verification of their quality, service, ethics, and customer satisfaction. Never hire a contractor without checking out the company's record.

This is another reason why we utilize the Design/Build method and fixed contract pricing! Choose the right contractor from the start. It's important to be able to trust your contractor. We're proud of our A+ Better Business Bureau rating, membership in professional organizations, and our customer satisfaction awards over a span of many years! Our solid reputation, dependability, and good work ethics are three of the most important reasons for choosing Vision Design Build Remodel as your contractor.

**Visit [visiondesignbuildremodel.com](http://visiondesignbuildremodel.com) to read the reviews on GuildQuality from our happy clients and call us for your next home project!**