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NEWSDAY

SUPPLEMENT

SATURDAY 2 JULY, 2022



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CAROL QUASH

People are always grateful to have a roof over their heads, no matter what type it is. And especially in the rainy season, a good, sturdy roof is a necessity. While there may be a variety from which to choose, the Maracas, St Joseph-based Leak Specialist and Roofing Guru told Newsday there are three types that tend to be more commonly used in the Caribbean – the gable, hip and shed roofs.

“Depending on a home’s architecture, a roof can potentially make up 40 per cent of the exterior, often playing a big role in its overall look and curb appeal. So, when the time comes to install a new roof, you’ll want to pick roofing materials and colours that work well with the shape and slope of your roof, as well as complement your home’s exterior design,” the company said.

“Understanding the potential performance and design impact of different roof shapes and slopes can help you decide which roofing materials are best for your home from both a performance and an aesthetic point of view.”

The gable is basically a triangle with the base resting on top the house while the two



Standing seam roofing sheets. SOURCE: ROOF-IT.NE

sides rise to meet the ridge.

“Slopes can vary drastically on the gable roof from steep chalet-style designs to rooftops with a gentle grade,” Leak Specialist said, adding that it works well with a variety of building designs.

The hip roof is made up of four equal-length slopes that meet to form a simple ridge.

“There are variations though,

such as a half-hip that features two shorter sides with eaves.

If you have a hip roof, then you may have already realised that most of the roof is visible when looking at your house,” the company explained. As a result, the type and colour of roofing materials you use on this type of roof is important.

The shed roof, traditionally

used in porches and additions, is now being used a lot in modern home designs.

“This ‘lean-to’ style resembles half of a traditional gable...Most shed roofs tend to have lower slopes. Homes with shed roofs tend to be unique structures that reflect their owners’ style and personality. Shed roofs allow for some interesting window

placement opportunities, from small rows of glass panes directly beneath the roof to large picture windows across the front of the house.”

Leak Specialist and Roofing Guru said the structure of the roof, from start to completion, and the quality of the material and workmanship will determine how much wear and tear it can take. And while everyone will want the highest quality roof, it all boils down to the customer’s budget.

The company said the installation of a roof begins with a design, usually recommended by the person doing the house plan. Once a design is selected, the next step is the framing.

“This is key because everything else on the roof is secured to this. If the framing isn’t done properly, obviously you will encounter issues. When framing a new roof there are various connection types to consider to ensure the roof is properly anchored based on the type of roof being installed.”

The next step is the installation of fascia flashing to prevent water from entering the openings and cracks of a roof, followed by the installation of guttering, sheeting and additional flashing.

continues on page 4 >>>

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Gable roof. SOURCE: DECOIST.COM

ROOF INSTALLATION BEGINS WITH A DESIGN

from page 3 >>

“Roof sheets can be installed at an exceptional speed and ease over other materials. What’s more, many roofing sheets are also highly durable,” the company said.

It said customers frequently ask about the different types of sheets and the suitability of the sheets.

“The answer to the second question, of course, depends on your budget as well as the needs and requirements of your project.”

The answers to the first are:

- Corrugated sheeting, the oldest and most commonly used roofing profile because of its easy handling, is the traditional and familiar S-Rib profile for roofing and cladding applications. The S-rib is derived from sinus curve and offers very strong and structural properties.

- R-Panels are easy to install using self-drilling fasteners and can also be used as siding for wall, interior and linear panel applications. R-panel is great for self-storage buildings, as equipment screens, for architectural accents, as decorative fencing, as a textured ceiling or even as an interior wall treatment.

- Standing seam metal sheeting is a concealed fastener metal panel system that features vertical raises and a broad, flat area between the two raises. It’s also described as having raised seams or vertical raises, that rise above the level of the panel’s flat area. The main idea to remember for standing seam systems is that the fastener is hidden, whether the panel is attached to the roof deck using a dip or is directly fastened to the decking material under the vertical leg using a fastener.

But as with everything else, roofs too need maintenance. Leak Specialist and Roofing Guru said it offers customers a maintenance service that includes a full evaluation of the roof.

“We make sure the downpipes and guttering are clean. In areas where there is a lot of greenery, we recommend gutter guards as an option,” to prevent debris from entering the guttering.

“We also ensure there are no loose sheets or rotting screws that can result in the roof being blown off because it’s not properly secured. Additionally, we reseal areas that need to be because you know after a while sealant tends to deteriorate. We do all this to ensure that the roof stays in good condition, especially during the rainy season.”

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Shed roof. SOURCE: PROHOMEDECORS.COM

Domestic rainwater harvesting is a growing trend – although it’s a long established water conservation measure. By collecting and re-using rainwater in your yard or inside your home, you can reduce your reliance on municipal or mains water and also help conserve energy.

What is rainwater harvesting?

Rainwater harvesting is the process by which rainwater is collected and stored for re-use later on. The water could simply be used for irrigating the backyard. But it’s also possible to use it indoors for processes such as flushing the toilet and doing the laundry, or – in the most sophisticated systems – used all around the house including for drinking.

There are many advantages to rainwater harvesting. It’s a way of reducing reliance on municipal or mains water beyond fitting faucets, showers, toilets and appliances that use less water.

As well as responding to climate change by conserving water, it also has the benefit of reducing the storm water run-off. Storm water run-off can erode the banks of streams, spread pollutants and could cause local flooding.

Although which ever rainwater harvesting system you choose will have associated costs, the rain comes free, resulting in less annual expenditure for your household as well as a more eco-friendly home.

Add a rain barrel to your garden

The most obvious way to collect rainwater for your garden is with a rain barrel or water butt. Simply attached to the end of your house’s drain pipes and they will quickly fill up with rainwater which you can use in the garden.

While we are all familiar with classic green or black plastic rain barrels, you might be surprised to know that these are not the only options. Today, there are myriad designs such as terracotta, galvanised metal and even some with integrated planters, that will seamlessly blend into your garden scheme.

They take up little space so are suitable for backyards of most sizes, making rainwater harvesting available to many.

Wet and dry systems

Like the idea of collecting more water than you can in a rain barrel? You can size up to a larger tank in what’s called a “dry” system. The storage tank is still located beside the house, as



RAINWATER HARVESTING

Rainwater is easy to collect – and it’s free. SOURCE: BLOG.IPLEADERS.IN



Rainwater harvesting. SOURCE: YGRENE.COM

with a rain barrel, but the storage capacity is much larger and it can cope with the volume of precipitation caused by storms.

More sophisticated is a “wet” system. Here, downspouts from gutters around the house are connected to piping through which the water travels to a large tank. A system like this allows the whole collection surface to be used.

Another plus point is that the tank can be located away from the house. It can be positioned above ground, but there’s also the potential to hide it underground.

Tanks sited below ground also keep the stored water at a relatively constant temperature, inhibiting the growth of bacteria.

Rainwater harvesting for use indoors

Inside a home, fixtures such as toilets and clothes washers don’t require potable water – water that’s suitable for drinking. For these needs harvested rainwater is an alternative, and using it instead conserves drinking water for situations when its use is essential. But it’s

also feasible to use harvested rainwater to fulfil potable water needs, provided it is both filtered and disinfected. This therefore requires a more sophisticated whole-house harvesting set-up.

As well as the storage tank and pipes, a whole-house system includes pumps, filters, connectors and a control system.

Rainwater harvesting intended for drinking should be tested so that any necessary filters to make it wholesome can be used in the system. Bacterial disinfection is also required and an ultraviolet filter or other treatment devices take care of

this. The rainwater is also filtered on its way to the tank to remove coarse material like leaves. Bear in mind that regular service and maintenance of the system is very important, and you should budget for this as well as the initial installation when you’re planning to get started with rainwater harvesting.

Install an automatic grey water irrigation system

Consider a grey water irrigation system. This involves a diverter being added into your plumbing system, routing the water straight into the garden rather than down the drain. Ask your plumber to cut in a diverter valve. This enables you to decide which water goes into your garden – such as that from for showering – and which goes down your drain – water that has been used to clean the bath with bleach and chemicals.

Once the device is fitted you can then attach a hosepipe to the outlet value and use a hose gun to water your garden as you normally would. Alternatively use a soaker hose so the water can run through your plants, borders or lawn automatically.

Unlike rainwater, grey water is best used immediately rather than stored, as stored grey water will require treatment. It is also advised that the bath water is not used on anything that you are going to eat later on.

(homeandgardens.com)



In this file photo, workmen build a retaining wall in Mason Hall, Tobago.

DOS AND DON'TS OF BUILDING RETAINING WALLS

Reducing soil erosion, turning steep slopes into terraced backdrops, creating focal points in the landscape – retaining walls serve many purposes. Indeed, they are some of the most common ways to correct problems caused by hilly areas.

Well-built retaining walls transform unworkable inclines into usable outdoor space for the garden.

Despite their simple appearance, though, these walls require a good deal of planning – sometimes professional engineering – to keep their shape. Soil is heavy, especially when soaking wet from a recent rainstorm, so a basic retaining wall (four feet tall and 15 feet long) potentially has to support up to 20 tonnes of soil pressure. With every additional foot of height, the pressure of the soil increases substantially.

Miscalculate your construction plans, and you could end up with a weak wall that risks bulging or, worse, collapsing altogether. For just this reason, retaining walls taller than four feet should be designed and constructed by the pros.

DON'T forget to check with the authorities

A retaining wall's effect on the natural flow of water could impact your neighbours, so some communities require homeowners to obtain a permit before construction commences. You may have to submit plans for your wall and schedule a property inspection to ensure that building a retaining wall won't create drainage problems.

DO choose a material you can easily work with

Retaining walls can be constructed using a variety of materials, from poured concrete and large timbers to natural stones, even bricks. For DIY purposes, opt for manufactured blocks that are designed specifically for building retaining walls.

DO start with a good foundation

Your retaining wall will only be as strong as its support system. For a stacked-block retaining wall that's no higher than four feet, a trench filled with three inches of crushed rock will help keep the wall from shifting and settling. The exact depth of the trench depends on the proposed height of the wall,

but follow this rule of thumb: Dig a trench to be an eighth of the wall plus three inches.

For example, if you want the finished height of your retaining wall to be three feet (36 inches) tall, you'd need to dig the trench eight inches deep to accommodate three inches of crushed rock and about five inches (or an eighth of the visible



In this file photo, workers reinforce a river bank at Manswell Trace, Castara with a caged stone retaining wall.

FILE PHOTO/DAVID REID

retaining wall) to start the wall below grade.

DON'T lay blocks on an uneven surface

The first course (or row of blocks) sets the stage for the rest of the wall, so it's vital that you make it perfectly level. If it isn't, subsequent rows won't be level either, resulting in a retaining wall that's lopsided and unattractive. Use a four-foot carpenter's level to ensure that the gravel layer below the first course of blocks is level before you start setting the blocks. Any discrepancies here will show up higher in the wall.

DO stack blocks at a slight backward slope

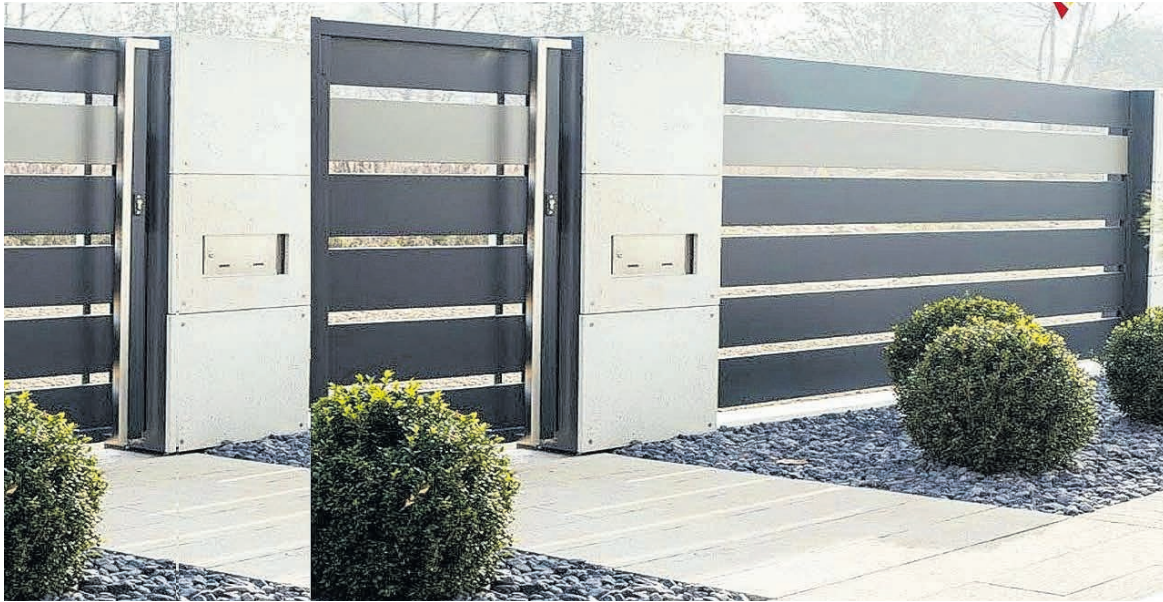
A wall that leans into the soil it retains is less likely to be pushed outward by soil pressure than a plain-old vertical wall. Design and build your retaining wall to slope at a minimum rate of one inch for every one-foot of rise (height). Fortunately, working with retaining wall blocks makes it incredibly easy to achieve this "step-back" construction. The locking flange on the bottom edge of every block guides it to click into position slightly behind the lower block, preventing the top blocks from being pushed outward.

DON'T forget to allow for drainage

Groundwater is the natural enemy of retaining walls. When it saturates clay-type soils, they swell and put excessive pressure on the backside of the wall. To avoid failure, make drainage provisions at the same time as you go about building the retaining wall. Backfilling the space behind the blocks with crushed stone and then installing a flexible perforated drainpipe also called "drain tile," at the base of the wall could create the necessary escape route for groundwater. The perforated pipe will carry groundwater to each end of the wall where it can drain harmlessly away. The ends of the drainpipe should then exit on each end of the wall, and you may cover them with crushed stone to camouflage their appearance.

DO backfill correctly

After your drainpipe is in place, you should backfill the rest of the space behind the blocks with either sand or pea gravel – either will allow water to filter through to the drainpipe at the base of the wall. For the best results, backfill with a few inches of the material after laying each course of blocks, and use a hand tamper to compact the material. By tamping the backfill every six inches or so, you'll ensure that it is packed tightly, which will provide additional support from the pressure of the soil behind the wall. (bobvila.com)



SOURCE: ANCHORFAST.CA

A perimeter wall is an architectural engineering and real estate term that indicates the external boundary walls of a building or a structure. These walls separate the outside elements from the internal environments, providing security and privacy from the intruders.

Many firms adopted modern technologies to develop a comprehensive perimeter wall system that is easy to install and repair, and provides a clear solid look after completion. The builder should ensure the wall has the following features:

Is environment-friendly

Perimeter walls can be produced with eco-friendly minerals, during the production phase, such as minerals, steel, and green cement

BUILDING A PERIMETER WALL

Is fire resistant

If there is a requirement for fire safety, perimeter walls can be produced with materials such as magnesium during the production phase, which is classified as fire-resistant material. Perimeter walls built with magnesium provide an adequate fire protection barrier to ensure the safety of the premises.

Gives waterproof assurance

Perimeter walls produced with new technology are water-resistant and all-weather use. Water sealants are provided and leave no gap open, so the water cannot be leaked. Before the production, concrete wall samples are taken to the laboratory to assure the quality of the product, when the

specifications are passed from the lab, then proceed for mass production of walls.

Serves as a sound barrier

Another feature of perimeter walls is that they are designed and produced to absorb and deflect sound and provide a solid sound barrier to the residents from noise pollution and ensure

privacy. Each panel can be consolidated without any gaps providing a solid surface.

Is mould resistant

Modern technology enables the production of perimeter walls that are designed to resist mould and mildew effects. The environment has its own share of mould and research shows that most of the mould activity inside the wall structure can be caused by external mould presence.

Is termite proof

Precast ready to install concrete walls, perimeter walls, and privacy walls must be termite-proof. Termite proofing can be done before or after the installation of wall elements.

(dailyconstructionguide.com)

BUILDING A DRIVEWAY

When choosing the type of driveway material that is right for you, there are many pros and cons to consider – budget and longevity being top priorities. Here is a quick comparison between the common driveway types.

Gravel driveways

Among all the options, gravel is the most cost effective. Not only are materials easy and affordable to acquire, but any maintenance needed, such as filling in gaps, can be completed with minimal cost, time, and effort. Furthermore, gravel allows for water to drain directly back into the soil, thus making this option the least environmentally disruptive available.

The downsides to gravel mirror some of its benefits. For instance, even though gravel is easy to maintain and fill, it requires this type of care more than any other driveway. Gravel driveways are highly susceptible to weather eroding in addition to settling as

the foundation of the driveway compacts with time and use. This could mean more frequent top offs and a less even surface overall.

Asphalt driveways

Asphalt is a petroleum based substance giving it an interesting set of characteristics to consider. While more expensive per square foot than gravel, asphalt is miles cheaper than either concrete or pavers while being just as durable and having a lifespan of up to 40 years.

Unfortunately, asphalt driveways can be quite problematic for Caribbean climate. Extreme heat will cause the asphalt to crack and require regular maintenance. This is because the heat melts the material the asphalt is made with, causing it to become gummy and pliable, only then to harden in a weaker state than when it began. Furthermore, asphalt will need professional seal coating every two to five years which can become incredibly inconvenient.



Concrete and paver driveways

There are relatively few differences between concrete and paver driveways. Concrete is slightly more variable as its mixture and curing is dependent on both your builder and environment. Pavers, however, are manufactured in controlled environments where they are all

made in the same fashion and given ideal conditions to cure.

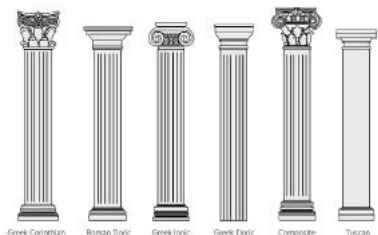
But while they tend to be the strongest driveway option, they are the most expensive. In addition to high material costs, both paver and concrete driveways are expensive to install – requiring many hours of labour.

The common misconception with these types of driveways is

that because one solid material is used over the next, it is believed they are already solid enough to serve their purpose. This might seem logical, but it is not the case. To begin, driveway materials are not actually solid. Because driveways are built up from several layers of aggregate stone and compacted sand, there are actually tiny air pockets all throughout the foundation of the driveway. This is necessary as, without these gaps, there would be no way for the water to drain back into the earth.

When these gaps are closed over time and wear, a “compacted” layer develops. This reduces the number of gaps in the substrate and makes draining water from heavy rains even more difficult. If the drainage gets too poor, water will begin to puddle on or under the driveway, causing a host of problems – from eroding material to a sinking foundation.

The most common reinforcement methods for concrete are rebar and fibres. Concrete reinforcement techniques include: plain, flat bars; wire; mesh; and fibre-reinforced cement paste.



A guide to architectural columns. SOURCE: BLOG.

WORTHINGTONMILLWORK.COM

Columns have been a staple in architecture since ancient Egypt. They act as a structural element that transfers loads from the slab (roof, upper floor) to the foundation and finally to the soil beneath a structure. They are typically vertically oriented. In construction, columns are used in trusses, building frames, and structure support for bridges. Columns support loads from roofs, floors, or bridge decks.

They have a visual effect no matter where they are placed and can add elegance to a home's decor, either inside or out.

One of the features that can help define a home's style right away is to place columns on the front porch. Columns on the porch often elicit a Roman or Greek style and are seen today in many different homes, including those in the craftsman or colonial style. If you are looking for columns in a certain style, it is good to know which ones illicit a style that appeals to you.

Here are the five most common and popular column styles.



Ionic columns.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLUMNS

Doric

These columns are short and heavy and have round capitals.

Ionic

With a large base, scrolled capitals, and slender pillars, these columns make a statement.

Corinthian

These slender columns often have elaborate carvings, complete with a fluted appearance.

Tuscan

The simple design on these columns, with a plain base and unfluted shaft, fits into the style and design of many homes.



Corinthian columns. SOURCE: CHADSWORTHPORTFOLIO.COM

Composite

This column mixes the styles of the Corinthian and Ionic columns.

What style you choose will depend on a number of things – your taste, budget, aesthetic, maintenance. Some homeowners will go with wood porch columns, which are traditional in many home types. There are those who will

prefer PVC for low maintenance reasons. And then there are those who are drawn to the beauty and elegance of natural stone columns. But one of the most important to consider is where the column will be placed. They can be used either inside or outside. For practical reasons, many people use them as porch supports, but they can also be placed inside a home as a support system for a ceiling.

3D FLOOR PLAN RENDERING IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

With the rapid advancement of computer graphics, a vast amount of thinking and imagination that can't be conveyed in words or drawings has been realised now with 3D illustrations.

3D floor plan rendering is one of the technologies that has gotten a lot of attention in the design field. With 3D modelling technology, design principles and concepts that can only be expressed with words can now be visualised by computer software.

Floor plan drawings for a building are an integral and inherent part of a construction project's early design process. This is, however, a highly technical and sophisticated method that necessitates knowledge, expertise, and time.

What is a 3D floor plan rendering?

3D floor plan renderings are an excellent way to visualise spaces, furniture elements, and the stylistic architecture of any proposed

development in natural 3D.

A 3D floor plan is a customised representation of how the house/property is built, providing crucial information about space, utility, and accommodation.

It is essentially a virtual model of the building from a bird's eye view.

In the construction industry, 3D floor plan renderings are a more effective way of communicating architectural plans.

A 3D floor plan rendering is a three-dimensional illustration of a 2D floor plan. It replaces the traditional black-and-white 2D floor plan, making it easier for home buyers to learn, comprehend, and imagine the spaces in 3D before the house is completed.

They make it easier to explain the concept of the home project to clients and prevent misunderstandings. The walls, doors, flooring details, paint colours, and windows of each room for the selected floor, as well as the furniture and decoration, are all included in 3D floor plan renderings.

Top benefits of 3D floor plan rendering

1. High visual impact

A 3D rendering floor plan is more visually appealing than a 2D sketch. A 3D plan can also be animated so that the client can better understand the concept by exploring the platform and visualising the room and space spatially.

2. Accurate and affordable

It is important in today's economy to be able to keep costs down. Floor plan renderings are a rational option in this case. They assist in maximising space utilisation while minimising the quantity of materials needed by preventing errors from occurring early in the development process.

Using 3D floor plan rendering software and visualisation technology to create or change a design saves a lot of time, space, money, and energy.

Architects will save money on



SOURCE: UDR.COM

materials by searching for flaws and glitches early in the design and construction process, as it allows them to see the room and floors from all angles and walk around the space as though they were actually there.

3. Enhances advertising and marketing efforts

Images are useful for displaying the exteriors of the house and the garden area. However, a 3D plan is needed to get a sense of the actual layout of the interiors and space flow. Since it engages potential buyers with immersive floor plans, 3D floor plans can be a sales driver for real estate companies and land developers.

3D floor plan renderings can be easily sent to clients via email or mobile chat apps. The architectural 3D plans can also be shown on third-party websites, road shows, trade shows, and other events. This facilitates easy and effective advertising and marketing of design.

Clients can envision the room accurately and functionally using the 3D floor plan rendering, which allows for the development and adjustment of designs in an amazing manner. Visualisation technology and rendering tools provide cost-effective ways to build effective plans in a short amount of time and with minimal effort.

(indovance.com)



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Are you planning an extension, new kitchen or bathroom, or finally getting round to landscaping the garden? Or maybe you've just moved into a new house and are planning to embark on several renovation projects? Whether you're doing everything yourself or turning to the pros, there's plenty of professional home design software that's readily available, user friendly, affordable, and in many cases, free. Here are a few of the more popular ones on the market.

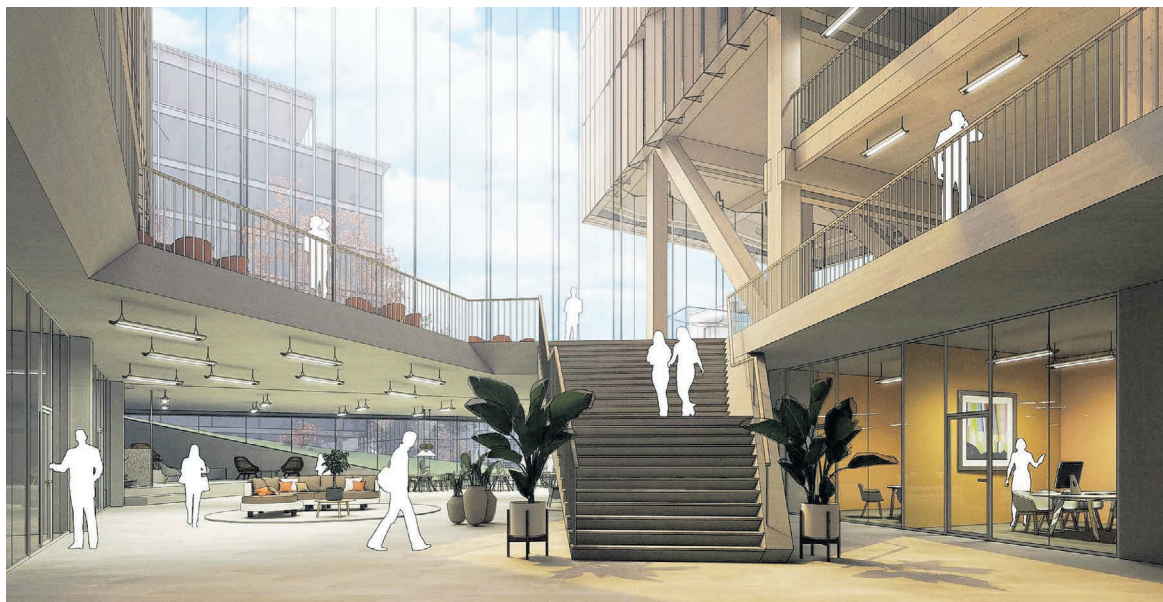
SketchUp

SketchUp is the most comprehensive free 3D design software you'll find on the web. This powerful home design tool is immersive enough to make it seem like you are moving through your future home, while being flexible enough to make it feel as if you're working with pen and paper.

The free version is perfect for hobbyists, while the pro version is more suited to professionals in architecture, construction, engineering and commercial interior design. Whether you're building an extension for your home, a tree house, or conceptualising your debut on Grand Designs, the thoroughness of this software will help you bring every aspect of your design to life.

Floorplanner

Floorplanner lets you design and decorate your space in 2D and 3D, which can be done online and without having to download any software. While its interior decorating function is an excellent feature, the strength of this tool lies in its functionality as a floor planner. Then, once the floor plan is completed, you can switch view and decorate the space in 3D mode. It's simple to use and easy to get the hang of, so if you're



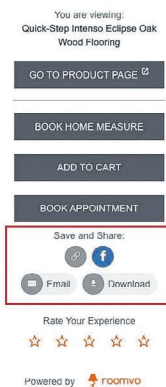
3d modeling on SketchUp. SOURCE: SKETCHUP.COM

FREE HOME AND INTERIOR DESIGN TOOLS, APPS AND SOFTWARE



Carpentry visualiser. SOURCE: CARPETRIGHT.CO.UK

carpetright.



after something that doesn't require a steep learning curve, Floorplanner is a good choice.

SmartDraw

SmartDraw is another powerful tool in the world of floor planning. It's easy enough to learn so no one is excluded from using it, while being advanced enough to facilitate intricate designs for more advanced designers. With a seemingly endless selection of furniture, cars, building materials and thousands of templates and floor plan examples, you'll be able to explore an infinite amount of possible designs and layouts for your new space. The only downside to this tool is that it's only free for the first seven

days, so if you plan on using it for longer or for multiple projects, it may be worth the upgrade.

Planner 5D

Planner 5D is the best-looking home design tool. Like the free version of Sketch Up, this tool is immersive, which means you are able to explore your design with your feet virtually on the ground.

With Planner 5D you'll be able to start from scratch or use a template which is perfect for throwing together a quick floor plan if you don't have the time or don't want to make a complex design. What's especially great about this software is that it works on iOS, which means you can create plans on your phone or iPad while you're on the move.

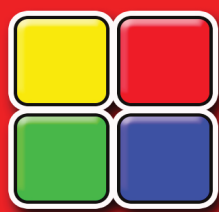
Getting started couldn't be easier. Start by adjusting the floor shape, size, materials and colours. Then add furniture and accessories, switch to 3D and add windows and doors. Add a second floor if you want to, and then the roof. The only downside is that if you want to use the in-app furniture, it can get expensive for anything other than the most basic beds, chairs or sofas.

All aspects of the design can be changed in terms of colour and texture and, when you're ready to share your plans, it can be printed in a photorealistic format.

Carpentry visualiser

If you're thinking about investing in new flooring, Carpetright's flooring visualiser will help you envision what your room will look like with carpet, vinyl, wood or laminate flooring. Simply take a photo of your chosen room (or select a sample room) and upload it onto the visualiser. You'll be able to customise the wall colour and flooring type. From there you can save your rooms and order swatches, bringing you one step closer to your dream room.

(housebeautiful.com)



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