



The unique combination of windows in this coastal retreat maximizes the homeowner's ocean view.

Looking to improve your outlook on the world?

Adding an array of eye-catching windows can dramatically influence the appearance, value and comfort of your home—whether you're building a new house or remodeling an existing residence.

by M. G. Raftery

“W indows create the character of your home,” observes Anjum Razvi, ASID, who has a degree in architecture. “A simple thing like a pop-out bay window changes the feeling of a room and really adds dimension.”

In newer homes, windows have emerged as architectural statements that go beyond the simple, rectangular units of yesteryear. “For high-end homes, one of the biggest trends is dramatic combinations of windows,” says Cameron Snyder of Anderson Windows in Bayport, Minnesota. “People are combining patio doors with sidelights and transoms to open up the space.”

In addition, higher ceilings and voluminous spaces in today's new homes have led to vertical expanses of glass. Options include “stacked windows, layers of windows on the same wall,” Razvi notes. “People aren't just doing one big picture window anymore.”

Tiers of windows may combine con-



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ventional-style windows with unusual shapes, from trapezoids to triangles. A towering wall of glass might be crowned by a sunburst transom or a window with a gothic peak to enhance the effect.

In an older home, adding even a single large window can enhance a home's exterior appearance and create a new view from the interior. "The windows really make or break the look of a house," says Razvi, adding that upgrading windows "definitely" enhances curb appeal when it comes to selling your home.

Fortunately, window shoppers in today's market will find a dazzling array of choices—including a wide variety of styles, materials, colors, hardware and other options. Before you set out on a window-shopping spree, however, here



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Add style, light and warmth to any room in your home by extending the reach of a window or a patio door up to the ceiling.