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**NEW LISTINGS!!!**

- **RETAIL SPACE...** 2030 SF, 130 E GRAND AVE. \$5197 PER MONTH.
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- **2007 HOME...** 5 BED, 3.5 BATH, SPANISH, TRAVERTINE, MUST SEE!!! \$1,159,000 (BY APPT.)
- **740 CENTER STREET...** 3 BED, 2 BATH... KITCHEN. ASKING \$659,000...PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT TO SEE!!! MAKE AN OFFER!!!
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# A Great Garage Door: the Lipstick on Your Home's Facade

(ARA) – Smaller is apparently better in the minds of many homebuyers looking for the right deal in the prolonged decline of the housing market.

What's more, it looks like simple is better too, as more homeowners are focusing on simpler exterior elements with an emphasis on durability and sustainability, according to the American Institute of Architects' recent quarterly Home Design Trends Survey.

One thing that hasn't changed, however, is consumers' desire to maintain or create the highest resale value for their homes. Going hand-in-hand with that is the real estate mantra of "curb appeal." So despite an interest in "simpler" exterior furnishings, consumers don't want to diminish the overall attractiveness of their home. It is just as important as ever, if not more so, for your home to look its best.

One aspect of a home's appearance that is often overlooked, but shouldn't be, is the garage door. Take a look at some homes next time you are out and about. You may be surprised to discover that two of the most prominent elements are the garage door (or doors) and the roof.

Homeowners tend to think only about painting the front door or sprucing up the plantings. Why not focus on the elements that take up the most visual real estate on your home? It's like putting on lipstick but forgetting to change out of your gardening clothes for an important interview.

Garage doors are now available in a wide range of styles, colors and materials to complement any home's architectural style. In recent years, garage door companies have increased their selection of steel doors

that are attractive yet durable and are more affordable than wood doors. For example, Amarr Garage Doors offers steel carriage house doors that look like wood carriage house doors but are lighter and require less maintenance.

"We have found that consumers are hungry for affordable 100 percent steel doors that are stylish and attractive. Our steel doors can be custom painted to coordinate with the house color. In addition, we have a wide array of decorative accents such as ornamental wrought iron windows, handles or hinges that can be added to garage doors to create a unique look for each home without breaking the bank," says Vickie Lents of Amarr.

Another trend, according to the AIA Home Design Survey, is toward sustainability and green exterior elements. Currently, there are a limited number of green garage doors available on the market. JELD-WEN is one of a few manufacturers offering garage doors that are earth friendly and extremely durable. The door skins are made using at least 80 percent recycled wood fibers instead of cutting new-growth timber. The inclusion of a polystyrene insulated core between the outer composite wood panels of the garage doors makes JELD-WEN garage doors energy efficient and, as a bonus, offers excellent sound-absorbing qualities.

It's springtime. Go outside and plant flowers, manicure the lawn and put a fresh coat of paint on your front door. However, don't forget about sprucing up your garage door as well. It's an easy and affordable way to upgrade your small or large home, and it can be done in an environmentally friendly way.

Courtesy of ARAcontent •

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