

# home design guide

## home for the holidays

The holidays are a special time year spent with friends and family. Snow-covered cottages and glowing fireplaces are treasured images of the comforts of home. Whether the temperatures are chilly or warm, there is no place like home for the holidays. Big dinners, parties and family gatherings also bring to mind how much we enjoy our homes during this time of year. In the design phases of a new home design or remodeling project, consider these holiday tips to make your home even more special:

### There's No Place to Store for the Holidays

Be sure to consider storage needs in your new or remodeled home. Design in extra storage space for holiday decorations in plastic storage bins. Bins can be stored on 24" deep shelving in the garage or in attic spaces with a plywood decking floor. In new home designs, attic trusses can be specially designed to allow larger open cavities between truss web members for extra storage space.

### Christmas Tree Corner

Are you a fan of featuring your Christmas tree in a front window or at the center of the family room? If so, instruct your designer to keep these facts in mind when designing your family room: the tree placement and how furniture may be temporarily rearranged for the tree.

### Outlets for Lights

If you enjoy decorating with lights outdoors, review your electrical plans to ensure that there are enough exterior outlets and enough amperage to power your display. You may consider extra outlets in your soffits, on your porch or outside your garage.

### Cooks in the Kitchen

If holiday cooking and baking requires more than one cook, design the kitchen for two! Provide a minimum of 42" between

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Photo Credit: Steve Wilson

the cabinets and the island for two cooks to pass as well as enough space to open an oven door. Don't forget to consider how much counter/bar space you will need for food prep and serving.

### Family Gathering

Nothing is more endearing than watching the kids or grandkids open their presents with the family. If you have a large family, design a family room with ample space for seating the children around the tree.

### Fireplaces

An 18" hearth in front of the fireplace provides a place to warm up, and a mantel above the firebox is a perfect place to hang the stockings with care. If a fireplace is on your design wish list, be sure to incorporate these extras to help complete the perfect holiday picture.

### Do you have questions about home design or remodeling?



Contact Tony at [tweremeichik@canin.com](mailto:tweremeichik@canin.com) or visit his company's website at [www.canin.com](http://www.canin.com). Years of research in custom home design, remodeling and home building has led Tony Weremeichik, Principal of Canin Associates' Architectural Design Studio, to be a strong advocate for home buyers and home owners to get the best design and construction value for their money. He leads clients and builders through a well-orchestrated design process that provides his clients with the utmost attention and creative design solutions.