

# HOME DESIGN

## Points of Interest



As a new home design professional, I often strive to enhance the livability of rooms and outdoor spaces by adding focal points of visual delight, usually to punctuate the end of a site line. A focal point can be almost anything. In a kitchen, it may be the combination of an elaborate cooktop, exhaust hood and decorative tile backsplash, in a living room - a TV or a window with a view, in a bedroom - a headboard, on the front of your house – the front door. A focal point can be thought of as “light at the end of the tunnel”: a point of delight that draws and attracts attention.

An old out-of-print book entitled “House Plans and Planning” was a guide for new home design from the early 20th Century. It outlines basic principles of home design (with a heavy emphasis on economy) with principles that are just as applicable today as they were back then. Two of the top five principles, “considerations which so materially influence the success of a house,” are related to focal points:

**VISTA OR VIEW FROM ROOM TO ROOM:** *Pleasant or inviting vistas add immensely to the livableness and pleasure of a house;*

**OUTLOOK AND EXPOSURE:** *This has to do with the views from the windows or porches of the house and with the exposure of the various rooms to sun and storm.*



*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. Tony can be reached at [tweremeichik@canin.com](mailto:tweremeichik@canin.com) or visit his company's website at [www.canin.com](http://www.canin.com).*



### PROVIDE A VIEW TERMINUS:

Design rooms intentionally to provide something pleasant to anchor a room or something that your eyes can stop and rest on at the end of a sight line. For instance, the end of a hallway is the end of a site line – so punctuate it with a portrait, artwork, sculpture, a decorative lighting fixture, or whatever else inspires you. In this example, a view from the foyer down a hallway terminates with a decorative mirror and cabinets.



In an indoor or outdoor room, a fireplace can anchor the space and provide a feature for an intimate furniture setting. Windows allow our eyes to see past the walls that enclose us and allow site lines to extend outdoors to vistas. In fact, simply replacing a wall with large sliding or folding glass doors eliminates the barrier between indoor and outdoor spaces, visually tying the two spaces together, while framing a focal point – the view outdoors. If there are no appropriate outdoor views, create your own focal points by using plants or water features.



As a decorating tip, enhance each room of your home with “memory points”, something remarkable that brings delight. It’s hard to forget that one bright red wall, the chandelier above the dining room table, or the waterfall into the pool. Use your imagination and your own taste to enhance the rooms of your home and to create points of interest for your enjoyment.

## about our firm

*Canin Associates believes great ideas and great placemaking merge when connections are made to the regional context, vernacular architecture and the cultural heritage of a region. Our 31-year old interdisciplinary firm of idea-based professionals is committed to creating sustainable resort and mixed-use communities that enrich the quality of life and are wonderful places to live, work or visit.*

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