

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

Home *Guide*



A Toast to Home

Delight in your dwelling.

WRITTEN BY HEIDI BETHEL

Now that the holidays have passed and 2023 is here, area experts have a few suggestions for you to keep in mind, whether you're a current or future homeowner. From offering tips on creating a dedicated space for favored beverages to ways to display those cherished memories, and a lot more, you'll see why our experts are the toast of the town!





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Host with the Most

Mid-century modern houses continue to gain traction as a favorite style of homebuyers. Additionally, folks are embracing the serving etiquette from decades ago with a Rat Pack-era vibe.

"Wet bars and bar carts have made a huge comeback," explains Tayona Tate, global real estate adviser with Compass in Reno. "Having a dedicated area for drinks is a great way to spend time finishing off the season, unwinding while you're taking down the tree and packing away ornaments. People are pairing the old and new together — perhaps a bar cart incorporated with the modern flair of a wine fridge, countertop chiller, or electric corkscrew."



Donna O'Connell, Reno division president of Toll Brothers in Reno, echoes the sentiment, explaining that the welcoming aspect also can be incorporated in more open areas of the home.

"As we celebrate with libations and great food while entertaining, it's nice to have a large kitchen island or casual dining area set up as a self-serve bar with a variety of beverage choices," O'Connell says. "When you're having a party, create a nice self-service bar with mixers, fruit ... and then it's always fun to have the different glasses in various shapes and sizes. Even in a casual dining space, cocktail parties are a lovely way to entertain with little effort because you can present lots of make-your-own drink options and light appetizers."

When it comes to designing something new, Steve Gunderson, project manager with Curtis Bros. Construction Inc. in Reno, tells people to evaluate their needs.

"Specialty appliances can be expensive, so if you don't drink a lot of wine, you don't necessarily need wine storage," he notes. "Ice makers are nice but require a lot of maintenance. If they make sense for your project, they are wonderful to have. If it doesn't make sense, don't include it."

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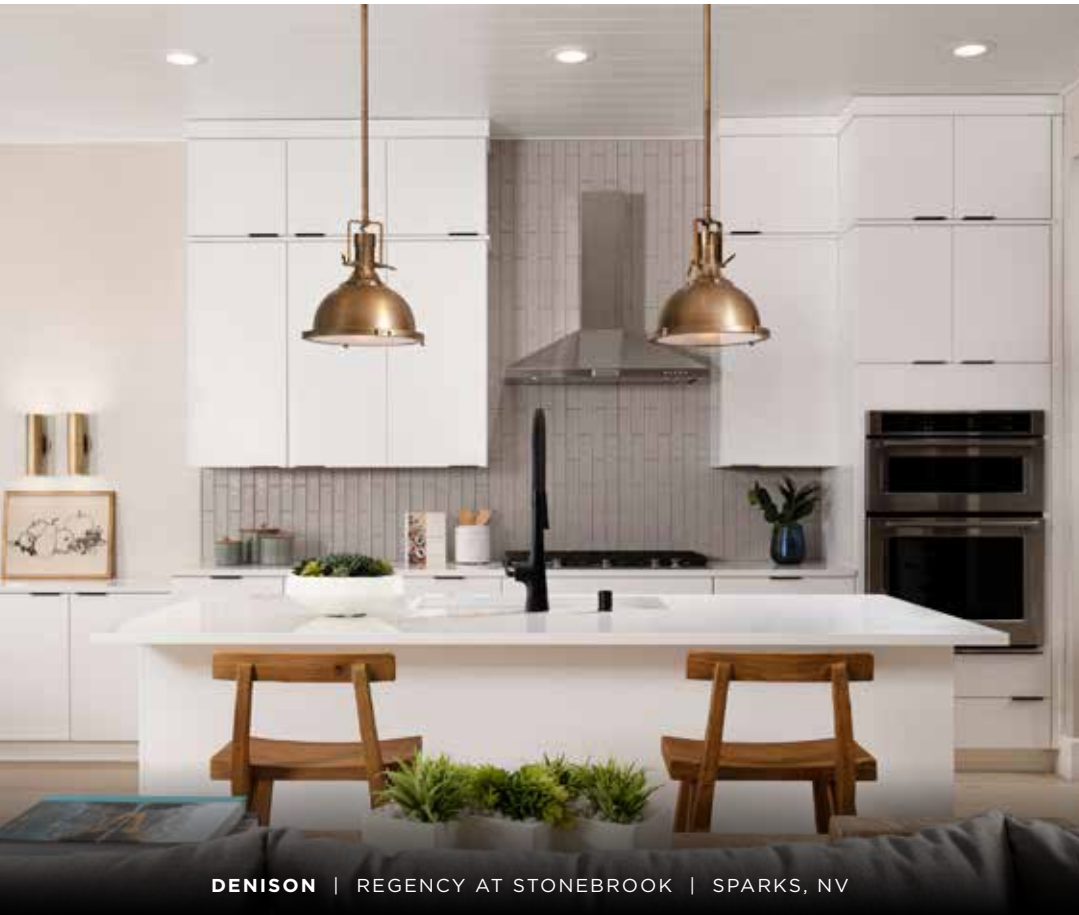


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The Right Light

What makes a good drink even better? The ambience. "Creating the best lighting can set the mood and help create the best drink after a long day or hosting a gathering, from glass, LED-lit shelves to in-cabinet lighting to help you find your favorite whiskey glass," says Anthony Nash, project manager at Evo Electric in Sparks. "I advise using an automated switching source to provide convenience and save on energy consumption. The options for creative design for your bar are as vast as a specialty drink menu. If you can think it, we can help you create it."

Stain Away

After the big celebrations are over and guests have left, if there are lingering stains on the marble countertop, consider these tips from Doug Harris, fabricator at Majestic Marble & Tile in Carson City.

"Stains can happen from cooking grease and oil, or wine," he says. "After the fact, it is possible to come in and use a degreaser and poultice to pull it out, kind of like baking soda [paste] on a bee sting. We penetrate the stain, lift it, and let it dry slowly so it wicks [the stain] out."

Alternatively, Harris suggests sealing natural stone countertops beforehand.

"The seal generally lasts three to five years. A good rule of thumb is, if you splash water on it, the water should bead up like it would on a car that's just been waxed. If it doesn't do that, it's time to reseal."



Market Ready

Karen Walker Hill, residential specialist at Ferrari-Lund Real Estate in Reno, encourages anyone looking to sell to be prepared.

"[I]f you're going to go on the market the first of the year, you need to be ready," she adds. "Clean up [your holiday decorations.] Jan. 1 is the No. 1 date for people setting New Year's resolutions to go online and look for houses to buy."

She also says the 5/1, 10/1, and 15/1 adjustable-rate mortgage loans will continue to be a good option for financing.

"The ARMs are still fabulous and are such good rates in comparison to what's out there," she says. "Oftentimes buyers are looking at a difference of a whole percentage point, which makes a difference [in terms of whether] you're qualifying or not. That's a big savings each month."

Memories in a Box

How many cherished items do you have in your closet or in a box in your attic? Many of us have things that we don't want to throw away, but we don't know what to do with. Michele Larson, owner of The Frame Shop in Reno and Sparks, has a great idea for those pieces.

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"Consider preserving and displaying them in a shadow box," Larson says. "My mother gave me my outfit from my first picture as a baby. I asked her for a copy of the picture and then framed it all. My husband had an old antique desk with his grandfather's engineering tools in it. He framed them. Now we get to enjoy them every day."

As the winter weather wears on, and now that the holiday hustle is firmly in the rearview mirror, take this time to cherish those memories and enjoy a libation or two in the cozy comfort of home. ❖

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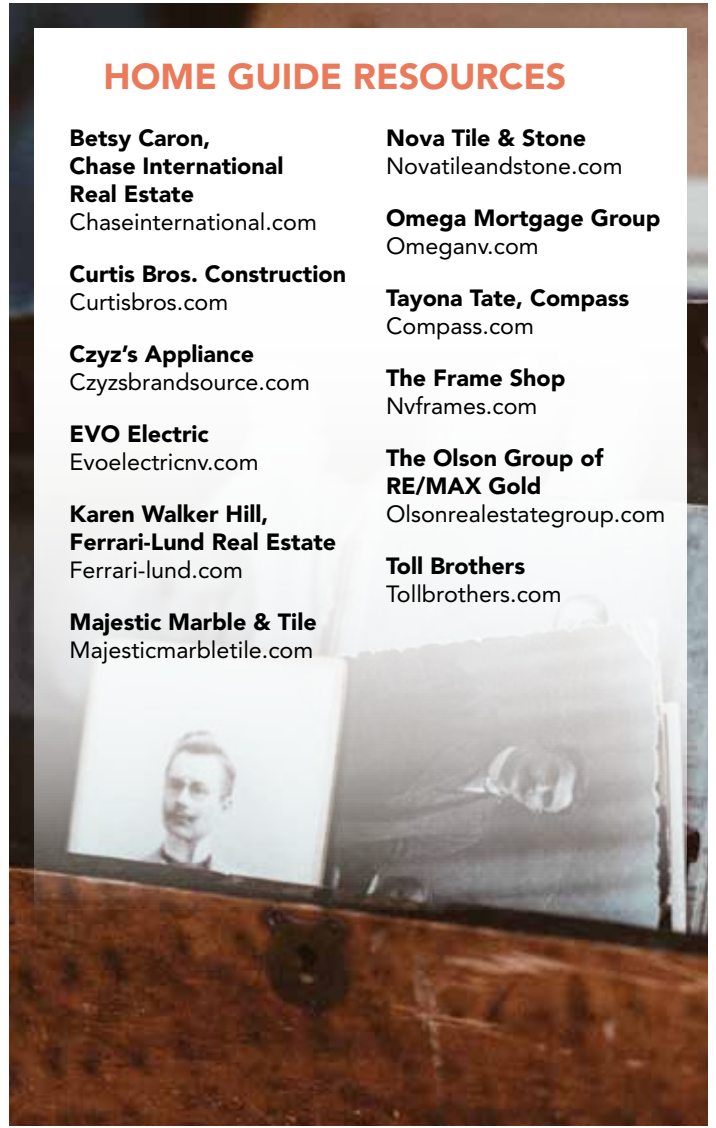
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