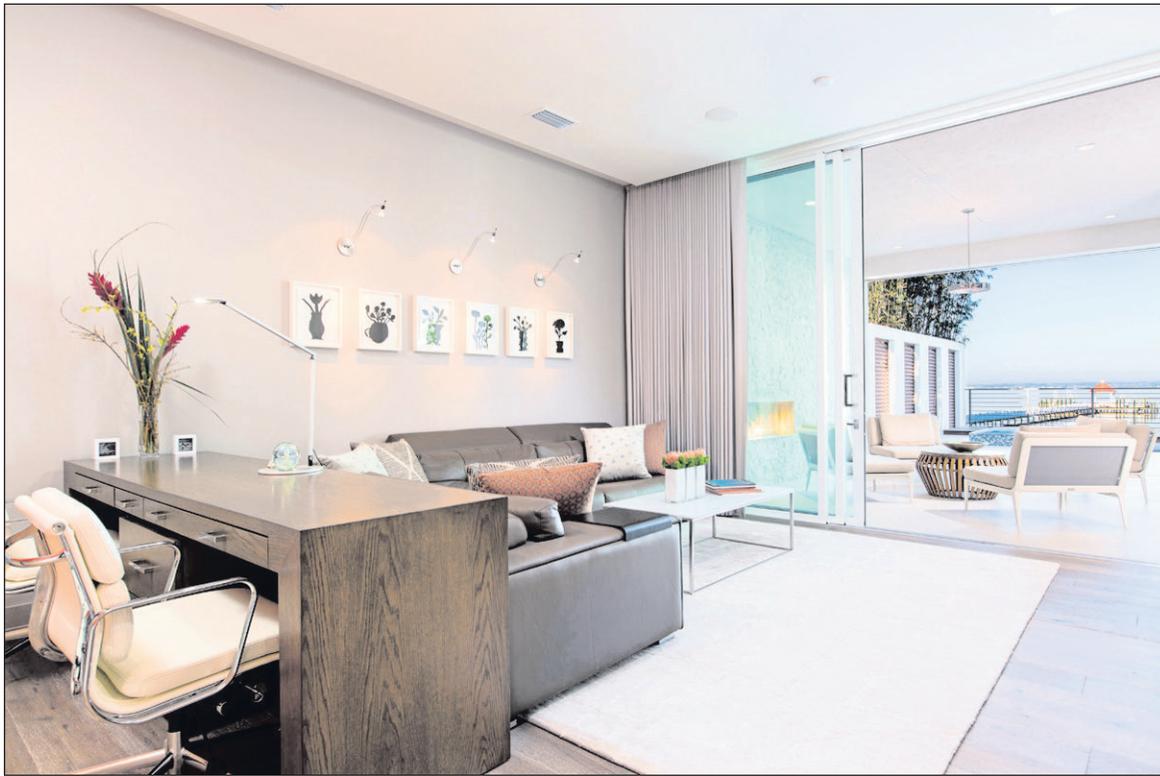


Eight ways the post-pandemic home will change



Making Home Work — Dedicated home office space and outdoor living areas, as shown in this home by architect Phil Kean, are two pandemic-driven trends that will define homes long after the pandemic is over. *UnEEK Image/courtesy Phil Kean Design Group*

FOR ANYONE aspiring to have a lovely home, especially during the pandemic, let me warn you about the two words that will foil your plans every time: “For now.” Over the past year, I have been hearing those two words too often. Heck, I’ve been saying them myself. Tell me if this sounds familiar:

For now, the kitchen table will just have to look like a lawyer’s office after a tornado, until we can go back to our real offices.

For now, we’ll have to put up with the 60 boxes of microwave popcorn and eight crates of toilet paper on the pantry floor, until we can stop hoarding as if planning for Armageddon.

For now, just until the pandemic is over, Grandma will have to sleep in the room with the baby and the NordicTrack.



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And next thing you know, “for now” becomes for always. That is no way to go through life.

If this pandemic hasn’t caused you to reckon with the finiteness of life, you might already be dead. Here’s reality: Now is all we have, so make now beautiful.

Happily, as I look at current home trends, I see that many of you already are making the most of now. And the changes you’re making are defining homes of the future.

See, a year ago, almost no one saw coming a plague that would lock us in and shut the world out. The last pandemic was over 100 years ago, and no one alive can remember. Although the coronavirus took us by surprise, we adapted on the fly, making swift, radical changes to our homes and lifestyles.

Now, we not only know this can happen, but we also know it could happen again. Next time we’ll be ready. Getting caught off guard once is understandable; getting caught off guard twice is stupid.

So I took out my crystal ball to see how, when the pandemic ends

and I pray that is soon our homes will forever change. Here are eight pandemic-inspired home trends fixing to stay:

1. *We’ll seek less life in the big city.* As urban density and mass transportation have become a health risk, making people who live in big cities feel trapped and unsafe, demographic studies show more are moving to less dense areas, where they can get more room for more activities and potentially more relatives.

They are also choosing warmer climates, so are migrating south and west, where they can spend more time outdoors.

2. *We’ll want more house.* The pandemic has spotlighted the importance of a having an elastic home, one that can stretch to accommodate kids home from college, adult children suddenly out of work, and elderly parents eluding nursing homes. Homes also

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Real Estate Advertising Executive
304-348-4852
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