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## Homeowner Demand Is Still High for Energy-Efficient Options

▶ Demand for Special Home Features is Declining

**Washington, D.C. – October 6, 2009** – In light of the downturn in the housing market and overall economy, homeowners are still adding energy-efficient options and low maintenance produces, while showing a lessened interest in special features such as home theaters, guest wings and three-car garages. Business conditions at residential architecture firms are stabilizing with the entry-level housing market showing a movement towards recovery. These findings are from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Home Design Trends Survey for the second quarter of 2009 that focused on emerging home features: systems, technologies and function rooms in the home.

"There has been a decrease in popularity for certain energy-efficient products or systems, but overall they continue to be in demand from homeowners," said AIA Chief Economist, Kermit Baker, PhD, Hon. AIA. "And reflecting the current economic conditions, we have also seen a significant drop in the investment in theaters, guest or kid wings, mud rooms and other specialty features."

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