



**A picture-perfect fire adds the last bit of drama in this exotic and modern living space** photo courtesy of Heat & Glo (facing page) **The architectural appeal of the fireplace blends seamlessly within the cozy sitting area** photo courtesy of Lopi

# Heating Up HOME DÉCOR

BY DEIDRA DARSA



Outside, temperatures drop, but inside, an easy steam slowly rises from a bubbling hot bath, turning a chilly, hectic day into a relaxing moment. In this luxuriously inviting bathroom, the dancing flames of a warm fireplace bring the heat and ambiance necessary to bathe away tension and soothe the weary soul.

Once the mainstay of a traditional living room, fireplaces and heating stoves are appearing in every room of the home, including the bathroom. In her book, *Fireplaces: A Practical Design Guide to Fireplaces and Stoves Indoors and Out*, architect Jane Gitlin says, “You’d be hard-pressed to find someone who doesn’t want a fireplace somewhere in their home.”

In Westport, Connecticut, one of Gitlin’s clients asked for a fireplace in their new

bathroom. “It’s the latest thing,” said Gitlin. “People don’t want giant Jacuzzis anymore. They’ve moved onto the next trend.”

Talk to architects, designers, manufacturers and homeowners and you’ll find that fireplaces and stoves can be found in the living room, dining room, kitchen, family room and bathroom. And, a gas fireplace or stove will heat-up and add ambiance to any master bedroom suite. Just recently, architects and designers began creating a sitting room specifically for a fireplace that adjoins other rooms in their home designs. And, let’s not forget the great outdoors where many homeowners are enjoying a longer backyard season thanks to their outdoor fireplace.

Driving the “outside the living room” thinking is the multitude of magazines, books

and home makeover design television shows that are devoted to the American obsession of tinkering with one’s home décor, says Gitlin. “And manufacturers have responded by offering a fireplace or stove that is easily installed in any room of the house.”

That’s true, says Bret Watson, president of Jøtul North America, Inc. “We feel there literally can be a fireplace for any room in the house. For instance, our contemporary-styled Scan brand fireplace product is something that dealers, particularly on the West Coast, find homeowners place under flat screen televisions in the family or entertainment room.”

While a hearth product can add scale, color and personality to a room, before purchasing a new fireplace or stove for your existing home or designing one into your new home





plans, take time to consider fuel and whether or not the hearth product is to provide heat, ambiance or both. Consider your lifestyle and local restrictions when considering wood or gas fueled appliances. Wood, a renewable fuel, requires more work to tote from outside and a commitment to stay with the fire until it burns out, while gas can be easily turned on and off with a switch. Either way, hearth appliances are becoming a popular secondary source of heat to warm specific rooms or areas in a home while turning down the central furnace.

With the fuel now considered, it's time to select a room or rooms. A raised fireplace

in the kitchen, even one that doubles as an oven or bread warmer, adds ambiance. A well-placed stove will warm a game room, and just about any fireplace will look great in a great room. And, placed just so, a portrait-sized fireplace installed at eye level is a work of art on any wall.

“Many new hearth products are almost wall art,” said Bob Dischner, Lennox Hearth Products. “Exaggerated shapes and new media being used in gas units are very eye-catching. Considered wall art, these new hearth products can go anywhere that you would hang a painting.”

**Stepping away from traditional design, a peninsula fireplace can separate the kitchen and dining room** photo courtesy of Heat & Glo  
**(above) Set in a cozy bedroom, the gas fireplace brings additional warmth to the room** photo courtesy of Avalon



**A portrait-style fireplace with surrounding views further enhances the bathing experience** photo courtesy of Lopi (facing page) **In this contemporary setting, the gas fireplace appears as modern artwork** photo courtesy of Heat & Glo

While the design work on a home addition may come with a new fireplace, an existing fireplace may add new ambiance to a room that was suddenly changed. “With the state of remodeling that’s going on and people switching rooms, sometimes a room that had been used as a living room is now a dining room, and it really works,” said Laura Neuman, interior designer of Dogwood Interiors in Auburn.

Besides adding a hearth product to a library, study or great room, some architects are designing a room around a hearth. Known as the hearth room, this is a new trend that’s becoming popular. “We’re creating an extra hearth room between the kitchen and great room,” said Laurie P. Smith, president, Piconke Smith Design, Naperville, Illinois. “It’s a small three-sided space that connects two larger spaces with a sitting area. In a

different home we created a hearth sitting room off of a guest room and nobody wanted to leave the space. And, instead of adding a sun room, we’ve added a hearth room to another home. It’s a great use of that space.”

Now if you’re looking to get a two-for-one fireplace package, Hearth & Home Technologies makes the see-through Heat & Glo Twilight fireplace so homeowners can enjoy the warmth inside and out. “Our Twilight product is a direct-vent gas fireplace that is designed to be on an exterior wall,” said Dave Miller, Heat & Glow brand manager. “So, it becomes a fireplace on the veranda or patio area as well as a fireplace in the great room. And, it is designed so that windows can be placed beside or on top of the unit.

Traditionalists looking for a wood heater might find masonry heaters a good solution

to heating their homes. According to Doug Hargrove of Mid-Atlantic Masonry Heater, Inc., the distributor for Tulikivi masonry heaters, these heaters will heat up to 3,000 square feet, even in a room with cathedral ceilings. "This is an appliance that stores heat, and because it stores heat, it operates totally differently from a wood stove or most other heating appliances," he said. "It burns very fast and very hot and once the fire is out heat stored in the stone radiates like sunshine and warms all of the surfaces in the room."

No matter what the location, upstairs, downstairs, indoors and out, there's a hearth appliance to add warmth, charm and a soothing glow to any room of the house. AH

*Article and photography courtesy of Deidra Darsa of Hearth, Patio & Barbeque Association, 703.522.0086 or visit [hpba.org](http://hpba.org). For information on Avalon Fireplaces visit **Davco's Warm Sensations**, 1470 Canal Street, Auburn or phone 530.888.1470. For information on Heat & Glo Fireplaces visit **Sierra Timberline**, 324 Idaho-Maryland Road, Grass Valley or phone 530.273.4822.*



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