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More reasons to work with a Professional Designer: Products (<http://www.forsburgassociates.com/blog/more-reasons-to-work-with-a-professional-designer-products>)

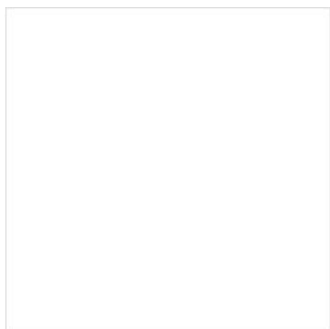
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As I've been in a flurry lately working on projects, selecting products and revising drawings, several products jumped out at me and I thought it might be fun to share. This is one of the best reasons to work with a professional: the products!

A good designer always keeps current on the latest and greatest products, in addition to the tried-and-true ones. Yes, I have "fall-back" products that get used in project after project. These tend to be better quality items than you can get off-the-shelf at the Big Box stores, and they are products I have found to be functional, of good quality and affordable.

But then there are those certain projects that require something a bit more.



([http://www.waterworks.com/products/fittings/shower/exposed-thermostatic/exposed-](http://www.waterworks.com/products/fittings/shower/exposed-thermostatic/exposed-thermostatic-valve-with-metal-wheel-handles/3711)

[thermostatic-valve-with-metal-wheel-handles/3711](http://www.waterworks.com/products/fittings/shower/exposed-thermostatic/exposed-thermostatic-valve-with-metal-wheel-handles/3711))

Waterworks R.W. Atlas Exposed Thermostatic Valve

For example, how about a Master Bath with an very chic, but decidedly Industrial feel. Waterworks (<http://www.waterworks.com>) is a company that has just the thing - an entire line of Industrial bath fittings. These are not for the faint of heart, nor the light of pocket. The beautiful exposed thermostatic control valve, shown here in lacquered brass, lists at \$10,300! The polished copper one is \$3k more. Don't demise though; a few of their other lines are much more affordable but made of the same exceptional quality.

Or what about changing up the exterior of your home from standard siding to something rustic and sustainable, like this great siding from BarkHouse (<http://www.barkhouse.com>)[®] (<http://www.barkhouse.com>)?! Yes, it's REAL BARK - as in from a tree. It's not for everyone, nor for every home, but if you have a cabin in the woods, why not? It weathers very well, and really is not a new concept. A lot of swanky retreats in the 1800's and early 1900's used this, and the siding continues to hold up to this day.

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Maverick Designer,
Developer &
Old House Aficionado!
(Well, maybe not quite yet
on the developer part.)
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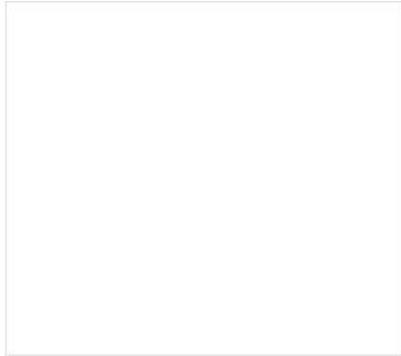
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BarkHouse Siding

(<http://www.barkhouse.com>)

Of course, there's a host more of things out there that you just didn't know you couldn't live without. Things like home automation systems that can be controlled from your Smartphone or IPod, and can open and close even the drapes, as well as turn on and off and adjust the home's temperature.



Stone Manor Exterior Chandelier

(<http://www.stonemanorlighting.com>)

Or, how about lighting? There's tons of lighting fixtures on the market today - some good, some bad. Here's a hanging outdoor chandelier from a company called Stone Manor (<http://www.stonemanor.com>)! Did you know you could get such a thing? Imagine hanging this from a tree in your backyard, and dining underneath. Magical!

The list of unique items available to the customer "Through the Trade" goes on and on, from foundation to roof; from Specially honed stone to copper chimney caps; windows that truly ARE energy efficient with custom colors to specialty paints for a very unique look.

OH! Did I mention Process too?! Many professionals understand special techniques to get a look that is unlike any other. For example, did you know there is a product that can be put on wood prior to painting that will give an amazingly smooth finished look. You see it often in the pages of the glossy magazines, but you'd never know that this was a special process to make a door look more than, well, a door. It's all about POP!

The bottom line is that if you want a truly unique home, a professional has access to products that the general public does not. And keep in mind, a good professional will NOT blow your budget. He or she may offer options, but at the end of the day you call the shots.

Have a wonderful rest of the week dreaming!

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