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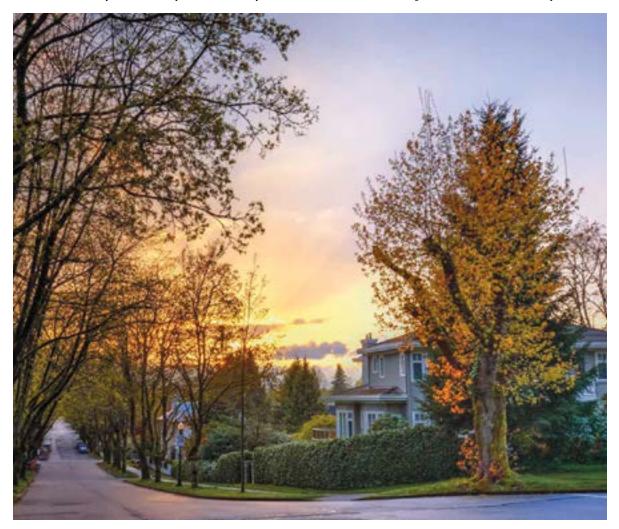
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HOMEWISE | Real Estate Tips and Advice

Saunas, Cold Plunges Trending



Cold plunges and saunas were in-demand items in spas and wellness centers but now people are wanting them in their homes.

From single-family houses to luxury condos, the inclusion of cold plunges and infrared saunas is fast becoming the new standard, providing residents with an opportunity to indulge in wellness and self care within the confines of their own homes.

This trend has gained significant momentum, as highlighted by major media outlets such as USA Today, NPR and Business Insider, all recognizing the breakout popularity of these unique amenities in 2023 and forecast to continue in 2024.

Zillow reported that in 2023, listings mentioning at home cold plunge pools were up 130% compared to 2022.

COLD PLUNGES

Cold plunges, characterized by deep baths designed specifically for ice cold immersions, have emerged as a standout feature in the realm of wellness. The science is still undecided on the exact health bene fits, but research is underway to evaluate the claims that cold plunges help a person's metabolic health,

immune system, inflammation and mental health.

While most take their cold plunges in communal settings such as spas or in lakes and oceans, there is a growing trend to install cold plunge options such as purpose built tubs and prefab options in spa-centered bathrooms, letting homeowners build cold plunges into their regular routine.

Bryan Grandison, the director of lifestyle services at Extell, sheds light on this trend, emphasizing that it's not about replacing traditional amenities but expanding the array of offerings. Extell's One Manhattan Square, a waterfront condo, has responded to the trend by offering such amenities as a sunken tranquility garden, a hammam with a cold plunge, a hot tub, a sauna and a saltwater swimming pool. It is part of a broader trend to incorporate wellness offerings in homes and apartments.

SAUNAS

The installation of home saunas have been rising, according to The Daily Mail. Many of these are installed in the backyard while others are finding room in their homes.

The three most common types of in home saunas are traditional cedar

saunas, steam showers and infrared saunas. Custom Home Group reports that an in home sauna can increase the overall value of your home.

THE PANDEMIC INFLUENCE

Grandison suggests that the surge in demand for amenities like cold plunges and saunas is a result of the collective realization of the importance of self care, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. With an extended time during the pandemic where people reflected and prioritized their health and well being, the desire for in home amenities geared towards self care has seen a considerable uptick.

"People want to feel good about themselves, and these amenities are really geared to help them with that," notes Grandison.

Whether it's a purpose built cold plunge, an infrared sauna or a combination of wellness offerings, the real estate market is responding to the evolving needs of homeowners. If you're looking for a renovation to make your home more attractive to buyers, these are an option to explore. In 2024, the inclusion of these amenities is not just a luxury; it's a testament to the growing importance of selfcare in our daily lives.



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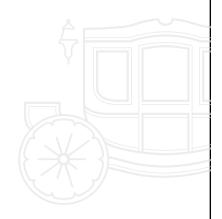
Setauket A 55+ Gated Community. 2 Br, 2.5 Ba. Poquott Model, 1st FI Primary BR. w/Full Bath. Kit w/Granite Counters/ Backsplash. LR w/Gas Fplc. Sliders to deck. Full Basement, Garage, Amenities include Tennis, Putting Green, Pool, Clubhouse and more. ML#3531899 \$729,000



Port Jefferson Sta. Immaculate, 4 BR, 2 Ba, expanded split level. LR With vaulted ceilings, updated kitchen overlooking side yard, renovated bathrooms, renovated den. CAC Additional basement space and garage. ML#3532135 **\$575,000**



Ridge Leisure Village. Customized Oakmont model. 2 BR, 1 Ba. 55+ gated community. Completely renovated. Eat-in Kit/Granite, SS solid wood cabinetry. CAC, 1 Car Garage. Clubhouse, pool and more. ML#3530168 **\$389,000**



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Mt Sinai Turn key residence in Imperial Gardens community, 4 bdrm. 2 bth Colonial. updated baths, EIK w/newer appliances. Central air and a wood stove. Updated windows, siding, and roof, new solar hot water heater. IGS. Large lot. ML#3532595 \$725,000



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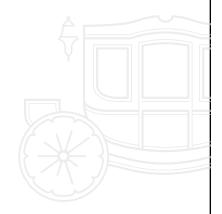
Massapequa Raised Ranch w/Hwd flrs.on the upper level & wood stove downstairs. Property offers tremendous potential for the right buyer. Conveniently situated with easy access to Rt. 135 and close proximity to a park. ML#3532836 \$580,000



Selden Split level home. EIK w/island, vinyl plank flooring FDR, FLR/den, powder room w/ laundry, 3 bdrms. Legal, one bdrm. accessory apartment w/ separate exterior access. One car attached garage, ML#3532540 **\$525,000**



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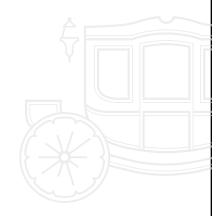
Coram Lovely updated Evans townhouse in desirable Bretton Woods. Pets allowed. Amenities include Community Clubhouse, IGPool, Tennis, Golf and More. ML#3531815. **\$365,000**



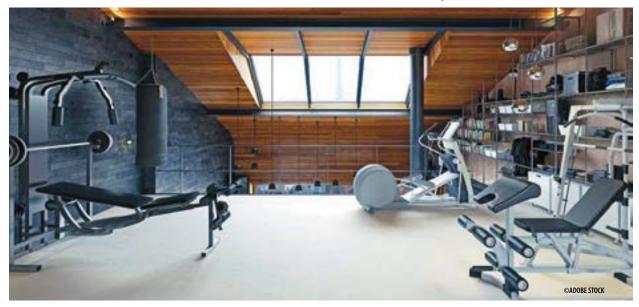
Coram North Isle: Lovely 2nd floor unit with Hard wood floors, New Windows, CAC, Gas cooking and Heat. Great location, Amenities Include: Community Clubhouse, Pool, Tennis, and laundry. ML#3532300 **\$240,000**.



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HOME BUILDING GUIDE | FITNESS



Building a Home Gym

For fitness enthusiasts, the allure of a home gym lies in the convenience, privacy and personalized environment it offers. Creating an effective and motivating home gym involves thoughtful planning and design considerations.

Begin by evaluating the available space for your home gym. Whether it's a dedicated room, a corner of a larger room or even a garage conversion, understanding the dimensions and layout is crucial. Consider factors like ceiling height, natural light and proximity to utilities. Adequate space ensures safe and efficient movement during workouts.

Tailor your home gym equipment to your fitness goals and preferences. Start with essentials like a high quality mat for floor exercises, dumbbells and resistance bands. For cardiovascular workouts, consider a treadmill, stationary bike or elliptical machine. Strength training enthusiasts might opt for a power rack or a multi-functional weight machine. Balance the selection to accommodate a variety of exercises

without overcrowding the space.

Proper ventilation is crucial to maintain a comfortable workout environment. Ensure good air circulation through windows, fans or an air conditioning system. Adequate lighting is equally important for safety and motivation. If possible, incorporate natural light, and complement it with bright, adjustable artificial lighting. mirrors strategically Consider placed to enhance the perception of space and monitor your form during

The right flooring enhances the aesthetic appeal and contributes to safety and functionality. Opt for durable, non-slip flooring that can withstand the impact of weights and provide adequate cushioning for high impact exercises. Rubber flooring, interlocking foam tiles or specialty gym flooring options offer comfort and protection for both you and your equipment.

Keep your home gym organized with efficient storage solutions. Consider racks or shelves for weights, designated spaces for smaller accessories and hooks for towels or resistance bands. A clutter free environment contributes to a focused and enjoyable workout experience.

Maximize the versatility of

your home gym by incorporating multifunctional elements. Wall mounted racks or foldable equipment allow you to optimize space when not in use. Choose adjustable benches or workout platforms that accommodate various exercises.

Infuse your personality into the design to create a motivating atmosphere. Decorate the space with inspiring quotes, vibrant colors or even a feature wall. Consider installing a music system or setting up a screen for virtual workouts to keep yourself motivated during training sessions.

Embrace technology to enhance your home gym experience. Connect to fitness apps, streaming services or virtual trainers to diversify your workouts. Consider a wallmounted screen for virtual classes, workout tracking or following instructional videos.

Keep your home gym safe. Ensure that electrical outlets are placed strategically for equipment, and all cords are safely secured. Invest in sturdy, stable equipment, and arrange it in a way that minimizes tripping hazards. Adequate space around equipment enhances maneuverability and reduces the risk of accidents.

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HOMEWISE | Real Estate Tips and Advice

The Pickleball Craze Comes Home



In recent years, pickleball has emerged as a popular sport, attracting players of all ages.

Some homeowners are taking their passion for the game to the next level by installing pickleball courts in their own backyard.

Pickleball, a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis, has captured the hearts of many due to its simplicity, social nature and accessibility for players of varying skill levels and ages.

Mauricio Umansky, the CEO and founder of The Agency, a global real estate empire, said pickleball courts are a must have in residential developments because of the sport's popularity. NBC News reported that from 2019-2021, it was the country's fastest growing sport.

Meanwhile, Zillow reports that it is becoming a sought after amenity with pickleball mentions — including a home's proximity to public or private courts — in for sale listings up by 64% in 2023 compared to the year before.

"Pickleball courts have become a great selling feature because they appeal to athletes of all ages," said Joy Kim Metalios, a Zillow Premier Agent partner in Fairfield County, Connecticut, to TheMReport. "I've seen homeowners converting their driveways into courts by using portable nets. Players with ultra luxury homes are painting new pickleball lines on their sport courts or tennis courts. Since pickleball is such a social sport, an at home court has become the latest entertaining feature, like an outdoor kitchen or a pizza oven."

There's even a Pickleball Realtor Network, according to TheRealDeal, which advises people on the best places to buy and rent based on the pickleball scene and their proximity to major pickleball tournament venues.

THE EFFECT ON HOME VALUES

Investing in a home pickleball court may contribute to an increase in property values. The addition of such a feature can set a property apart from others. Homebuyers who are pickleball enthusiasts or those looking for distinctive amenities may find a home with its own court particularly attractive.

The rise of pickleball's popularity has created a niche market of players seeking homes with dedicated courts. Realtors and homeowners alike recognize the potential of attracting this specific demographic. A home with a pickleball court can be positioned as an ideal residence for those

who value an active lifestyle and community engagement.

While installing a home pickleball court involves an upfront investment, the potential return on investment can be substantial. In regions where pickleball is especially popular, prospective buyers may be willing to pay a premium for a property with its own court. This added value could more than offset the initial construction costs, making it a financially sound decision for home owners.

However, the sport is a noisy one and there are people who object to having courts nearby. Some real estate experts warn that having a court may actually have a negative effect on property values, though there is currently no evidence to this effect.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

Beyond financial considerations, a home pickleball court fosters a sense of community and social engagement. Homeowners can host friendly matches, tournaments and social events, creating an atmosphere that may appeal to potential buyers seeking not only a home but a lifestyle.

The court becomes a focal point for socializing and bonding, further enhancing the overall appeal of the property.

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