# LEADING INDICATORS

## SEVEN TOP DESIGN TRENDS FROM THE 2016 BEST IN AMERICAN LIVING AWARDS

**By Susan Bady, Senior Editor**

A celebration of accomplished housing design, the NAHB Best in American Living Awards (BALA) are a reliable indication of what's happening in the industry. The seven trends described in this article reflect developments in production homes, but also what we're seeing in one-of-a-kind custom homes, since trends in that sector often trickle down to the production realm. Production home designers have been combining modern architectural elements with other styles for some time, but now we're seeing unique kitchen islands and lavish outdoor rooms being adapted for less expensive housing. And the quest for economical ways to replicate custom details and materials continues.

### 1 ARCHITECTURAL BLENDS

**Becker at Porch Street on Adele (A) mingles modern and Craftsman elements, while the Stanley Blvd. Spec Home (B) offers a modern twist on the farmhouse with powerful details such as strong vertical elements, a square stair turret, and large brackets holding up metal roof elements.**

### BALA Trends at a Glance

1. Architectural blends
2. Innovative islands
3. Private watering holes
4. Artistry with building materials
5. Opulent outdoor spaces
6. Amazing amenities
7. Standout specialty rooms