

Roof's Color And Texture Provide Greater Flexibility In Exterior Decorating



When it comes time to reroof, there's no reason to settle for less than the utmost in color and texture. These three-dimensional asphalt shingles in a striking earthtone shade offers years of easy-care protection while improving a home's curb appeal.

If color and texture play such a vital role in the exterior appearance of a home, why should the roof remain dull and lifeless? It shouldn't.

Roofing manufacturers have introduced new products in recent years that offer greater flexibility in design. Through the use of color and texture, it's now possible for the homeowner to start exterior decorating right from the top — with the roof.

Just as color and texture can enhance a roof's design, the improper use of color can detract from a home's visual appeal. Before reroofing, the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association offers some helpful advice on the use of color:

- Although siding and trim colors can be changed easily, and with some regularity, you can expect to "live with" your roof for many years — so select its color carefully. Do not use more than three different colors for siding, trim and the roof. If you're prone to changing trim and siding colors often, select a neutral roof color capable of complementing a number of shades.
- Color can be used to alter the perception of the roof.

A light-colored roof, for example, attracts the eye and directs vision upwards. Used on a low house or unusually small roof, a light-colored roof will provide added dimension. A dark colored roof can be used for the opposite effect — making an unusually steep roof seem less towering.

- Another design element in roofing is dimension. Three-dimensional asphalt shingles add depth creating bold shadowlines.

- Instead of using contrasting colors, consider earthtone shades for blending a home with its surroundings.

The muted shades of beiges, buffs, and browns, can also be used to coordinate the roof with masonry walls.

Besides roof color and dimension, ARMA suggests choosing a roofing material that offers added durability as well as excellent protection. Three-dimensional asphalt shingles, are designed to last many years with minimal maintenance. Offering excellent weather resistance, multi-layered asphalt shingles will not only provide your home with an attractive roof, but one which will provide years of protection.

REDWOOD GARDEN ROOM TURNS LIVING INSIDE OUT

Turn your leisure living inside out this year with a redwood garden room that saves on air-conditioning and is easy to maintain.

With rising gasoline and home cooling costs, people increasingly are turning to enjoyable outdoor living and stay-at-home vacations. A redwood garden room can provide the natural setting for casual entertaining, outdoor dining, and relaxed evenings during the long, fair-weather days.

You can build your redwood garden room in stages, as budget, building experience and outdoor living grow. Start with a redwood deck for added outdoor living area. Then, to subdue harsh summer sun, add a simple post and beam structure with overhead trellising. Perhaps you'll want to include removable screens for seasonal insect problems. You can top it off with an optional peaked roof and retractable canvas cover so outdoor plans don't get rained out.

REDWOOD FOR TOP VALUE

Redwood is one of the most time-tested and proven woods for outdoor structures and to get top value for your dollar, specify the right grade of redwood for the right application. Use all heartwood. Construction Heart grade redwood for posts, beams and other applications, in or near the ground. The cinnamon-colored heartwood naturally resists insect attack and decay throughout the wood, sawn ends as well as surfaces.

Construction Common grade redwood contains cream-colored sapwood streaks that, while not decay resistant, provide interesting contrast to the cinnamon-colored heartwood for decking, trellising and above ground applications. All redwood grades resist checking, cupping, warping, and other weathering problems better than most other woods.

Merchantable grade redwood, containing sapwood and larger, more frequent knots, can be recut economically for small projects.

The rugged, knot-textured garden grades are strong, weatherable and comparable in cost to chemically treated woods of comparable grades, and redwood's familiar beauty adds to garden surroundings.

BUILDING YOUR REDWOOD GARDEN ROOM

Your redwood garden room can be adapted to fit individual needs and climate. It can be attached or built close to the house for easy access and pass-through serving windows or it can be part of a total garden retreat with multi-level decks, landscaped gardens. Redwood butcherblock benches, planter boxes and cabinets with double duty serving top, can add the finishing custom touches to your outdoor environment.

You can do all the work yourself or you may wish to work with a contractor, if the construction is extensive or the site difficult. Check

local building codes for necessary guidelines or restrictions. For deck construction details, the California Redwood Association offers a do-it-yourself deck design package, *Redwood Design-a-Deck Plans Kit*, that can provide the deck basis for about any garden room design. The deck can be expanded or shaped to fit any site using Design-a-Deck's modular design.

Nail laminating redwood 2 x 4's is a simple on-site building idea that allows you to create various dimensions from a single lumber size.

For the garden room, you can use nail laminates for benches, cabinets and steps to give the project a unified butcherblock design theme.

Overhead trellising of 2 x 4's placed on edge can provide relief from direct summer sun. For protection from unexpected rain, a retractable canvas cover can be suspended from 1/2-inch pipes affixed to the underside of peaked rafters and operated on a simple rope and pulley system similar to an awning.

THE FINISHING TOUCH

Top-quality, hot-dipped galvanized, stainless steel and aluminum nails and fastenings are recommended for redwood. They cost slightly more but will match the performance of the wood.

An easily-applied water repellent containing mildewicide will slow weathering changes, stabilize redwood's color at a buckskin tan and help retain the natural look.

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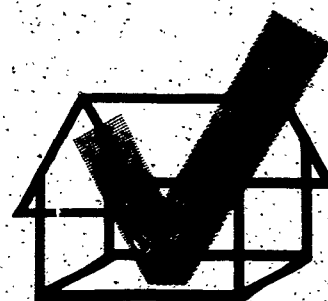
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