



Outside
Enhancing curb appeal

Most homeowners realize that painting siding or replacing a roof can enhance a home's curb appeal, but many people do not realize that a professionally landscaped home can provide the single largest boost to a home's value.

Scott Parker, owner of Parker Homescape, a design/build landscape firm that has been cited as one of the top 10 landscape design/build firms in the United States, points out the following research.

A study out of Emory University shows that remodeling a kitchen brought a recovery rate of 75 percent to 125 percent and remodeling a bathroom ranged between 20 percent and 120 percent. The same study showed landscaping ranging between a 100 percent and 200 percent recovery value.

In a 2008 study by the National Association of Realtors, 68 percent of new buyers of homes said that the landscape was a "very important" factor in their decision to buy their house. Trendnomics, a polling company, found that 99 percent of real estate appraisers concurred that landscaping enhances the resale value of a home.

The realization that a well landscaped property can add 15 percent to 25 percent to a home's value has spurred a new market. Appraisal companies now are offering valuations for insurance or tax purposes to the exterior of a home, and the market is growing quickly.

As the housing market continues to weaken, the creation of a beautiful outdoor living

space continues to be a great hedge in a weak economic environment. Additionally, it can provide enjoyment and memories for many years to come.

For information on Parker Homescape, which has been recognized locally by Design NJ and New York Spaces magazines as well as other publications, call (908) 490-0449 or visit www.parkerhomescape.com.

