

# EXTENDED OPTIONS

9 OF HOUSTON'S PRIME REAL ESTATES EXPERTS SHARE SOME TIPS.

Interviews by Regine Paris | Photography by Wenjing Zhang

**FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD:** My favorite neighborhood in Houston is Rice Military. It is emerging as one of Houston's best addresses and is re-inventing itself from a sleepy borough to a vibrant community filled with activity. On any given day you can meet your neighbors as they jog, walk their dogs, stroll and bike to Memorial Park. There's also the exciting social scene that is the Washington Corridor.

**HOUSTON'S BEST KEPT SECRET:** Houston has an incredible entrepreneurial spirit, great quality of life and many avenues for success.

**FAVORITE HOME DECOR STORE:** Kuhl-Linscomb.

**THREE TIPS YOU'D GIVE TO A HOME BUYER:**

1. Look for quality finishes...this is huge with the advent of so many design shows on televisions...many buyers are more aware of style and fashion than any point in our history.
2. Look for great floor plans. Versatile rooms and outdoor living spaces...rooftop terraces are hot!
3. Look for a trusted friend and adviser to guide you through the process.

**WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN CHANGE THE MOST AND HOW?** The largest change I have seen in the last decade concerning the Houston marketplace is the level of sophistication of the Houston home buyer, from their knowledge of the market and the process of buying to design and construction. The advent of the Internet and popular television shows have helped create a new generation of sophisticated home buyer.

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**FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD:** Any Kickerillo community! Our communities, currently five in the Houston area, are so welcoming to new people and businesses, and we are fortunate that our local economy is diversifying and that new people are coming into the city every year. To these newcomers, Houston's best kept secret is its relative affordability compared to other cities in the country.

**FAVORITE HOME DECOR STORE:** Longoria Collection is my favorite store for home decor in the city! They have everything for the home from amazing furniture and gorgeous linens, to beautiful candles, frames and books.

**THREE TIPS YOU'D GIVE TO A HOME BUYER:**

1. Don't read the headlines. Houston's real estate market is sustaining in these difficult economic times.
2. Look outside the Loop. With the improvements on I-10 and the construction of the fabulous Westpark Tollway, people can live on the west side of Houston and still enjoy entertainment in the inner loop and Downtown and first-class care in the Medical Center.
3. Buy a home that you can see yourself building a life in... don't just make an economic investment, make an investment in your future happiness.

**WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN CHANGE THE MOST AND HOW?** At Kickerillo Companies, we see home building trends change all the time. We have recently seen an emphasis on outdoor living spaces such as outdoor living rooms, kitchens and family areas. There has also been a trend in specialty rooms such as home gyms, top-of-the-line home theaters, meditation dens and even Christmas tree rooms. There has also been a big shift towards green living. Our customers always ask for features that will ensure a green lifestyle, but truthfully, Kickerillo went green a long time ago. We use renewable products such as engineered and new growth wood. Also, Tech Shield roof sheathing is a standard feature in all Kickerillo homes to minimize heat gain in the summer and to minimize heat loss in the winter.

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