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**A CHARACTER-RICH BOOK IS A PAGE-TURNER. A CHARACTER-RICH HOME TURNS HEADS.**

• Architectural details, from simple crown molding to grand Corinthian columns, can impart a stylish modern edge or Old World charm, and evoke a sense of quality and warmth. • Here are five character-builders that don't require knocking down walls or altering the structure of a room. But remember that added architectural details should flow with the style and scale of your home. • "Don't add character for character sake," said Jim Noble of Noble Interiors. "You have to have a plan and it has to make sense."

INSTANT ARCHITECTURE



**1 Ceiling beams** Ceiling beams dress up the "fifth wall" with texture and contrast. Today's applications are more sophisticated and intricately constructed than the rough-hewn cedar cobweb catchers of the 1980s, said Craig Plekkenpol, owner of Plekkenpol Builders. Simple crisscross or elaborate patterns in a range of materials and finishes can mimic the look of a lodge to a high-rise urban loft.

**2 Interior trim** Install a chair rail or frame a ceiling, doorway or existing built-in with slender or wide molding for high design impact. Crown molding can make a low ceiling appear higher and a vaulted room feel cozier. Available in a range of hardwoods and fabricated stone looks. "It feels more established and settled," said Noble. "Crown molding on a ceiling can make a room feel like a cocoon."

**3 High design wood floors** Wood inlays and medallions turn a humdrum hardwood floor into a work of art. Use inlay borders to define a dining room or around a kitchen center island and introduce different wood tones or metal. Available in a wide range of designs — from French knot to Art Nouveau — and woods — from leopard to Bubinga. On a budget? Try painting a border.

**4 Built-ins** The well-crafted built-in can marry style and function and become an architectural centerpiece. This L-shape bookcase echoes cottage style trim throughout the house. "It adds a richness and layer of detail," said interior designer David Heide of David Heide Design Studio. "A bookcase is also a subtle way to communicate to visitors who you are and what you value."

**5 Columns** You don't have to have a Greek Revival style home to incorporate interior columns, the latest design trend in new construction and remodels. Use columns to define a space, break up an open floor plan or divide rooms with elegance and grace. Available in a huge range of styles, in heavy stone to lightweight fiberglass, and sold even at big-box home improvement stores. □

Wood inlay floor photo, No. 3, provided by Oshkosh Floor Design

**How to install these character-adding details, H6**