

# CES 2021 Featured New Tech & Designs for Kitchen, Bath and Elsewhere

January's virtual CES 2021 showcased some interesting new products for kitchen, bath and other rooms, which were described in an article by Melissa Dittmann Tracey of Realtor Magazine.

For kitchen appliances, there's a move toward more intelligent and colorful appliances. On Samsung's Bespoke line of 4-door refrigerators, there's a flat screen on the top right door which is connected to the internet through your home's WiFi.

Rita and I have one of these refrigerators, and we like it! You can display a slide show of pictures from a thumb drive, or even mirror your WiFi-connected TV from another room.

Samsung is offering its refrigerators in eight glass or steel colors: gray glass; sky blue glass, navy steel, champagne steel, matte black steel, navy glass, white glass, and rose pink glass.

LG introduced its "Furniture Concept Appliances," which make sense

to me now that open floor plans are commonly combining kitchen, dining room and family room. Their appliances come in several materials and color combos.

Another trend featured in the article was toward a "wellness" design for bathrooms, inspired by the greater amount of time everyone is spending at home because of Covid. Kohler's "Stillness Bath" is an extreme example of this: *"It mixes water, light, fog, and essential oils*

*and features an infinity-style water cascade that falls onto a Hinoki wood moat that then recirculates the water back into the bathtub."* No thanks!

LG also introduced a "Wash Tower" which is nothing more than a stacked washer and dryer in a single unit with controls of both units between the two. I don't like this because Rita and I are completely sold on the new style of high efficiency washing machines which are top loading with a glass top and no agitator, also sold by LG. They are smart units which, among other things, sense the size of your load and only introduce the amount of water needed for that load.

As you'd expect, there were lots of innovations displayed by TV manufacturers. I like the idea of Samsung's The Frame: *"An extra-slim 4K television, attempts to turn*

*the TV into actual artwork that you can hang on your wall like a picture frame."* When you're not watching TV, it can display a painting or picture of your choosing or, presumably, a slide show like you

are used to viewing on the electronic picture frames available for years.

For links to these and other products mentioned in that Realtor Magazine article, look for this column, on our blog, [GoldenREblog.com](http://GoldenREblog.com).

**REAL ESTATE TODAY**



By **JIM SMITH, Realtor®**

## This Climate Change Movie Is a Must-See

Of all the movies I watched during last month's Colorado Environmental Film Festival, "Kiss the Ground" was by far the most impactful. It won the festival's top award, and deservedly so.

You will learn so much, as I did, from this 84-minute documentary about agriculture, farming, carbon sequestration and climate change. Schools can stream a 45-minute version of it free, **including if you are doing home schooling**. Visit [www.KissTheGroundMovie.com](http://www.KissTheGroundMovie.com) to stream it. The rest of us can find the full-length documentary on Netflix.

The central thesis of the movie is that the mass tillage and spraying of farmlands under industrial farming is destroying the soil's natural ability to sequester carbon. By the end of the movie you'll be convinced that "regenerative farming" is the solution of our CO<sub>2</sub> crisis.

The narrator of the movie is Woody Harrelson, who starts out by saying that he had given up on saving the planet from the effects of climate change, until he realized that the solution is "as old as dirt."

A key character in the documentary is Ray Archuleta, a conserva-



tion agronomist with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service created by FDR to deal with the causes of the "Dust Bowl" of the 1930s, when excessive tillage of farmland had caused massive erosion and dust storms.

The goal of NRCS agents like Archuleta is to reduce tillage and the use of chemicals that damage the soil. Achieving that counter-revolution would allow the soil to absorb and sequester enough carbon to solve the climate crisis, the film asserts. It's a powerful argument.

I challenge you to watch the first 10 minutes of this film, and you will want to watch the remaining 74 minutes. You'll get a huge education about the importance of soil health to the future of our planet. There's a trailer on the website.

### Green Home of the Month



Steve Nixon is a project manager at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. He had this home built to his specifications in 2012. It has many passive solar features, solar photovoltaics, and a heat recovery ventilator, which are all explained at [GreenHomeOfTheMonth.com](http://GreenHomeOfTheMonth.com). Outside, it has a buffalo grass lawn requiring no water or mowing, and drip irrigation for its garden.

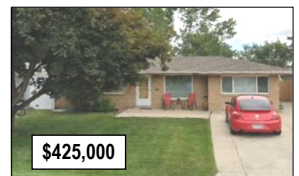
### Price Reduced on Candelas Home

The listing price of David Dlugasch's listing at **17830 W. 94th Drive** is now **\$660,000**. It is a 4-bedroom, 2½-bath two-story home in Arvada's Candelas subdivision. Learn more about it and see interior pictures at [www.CandelasHome.info](http://www.CandelasHome.info).



### Lakewood Ranch Home Just Listed by Ty Scrable

You're going to love this brick ranch-style home at **8170 W. 16th Place** in the neighborhood between Carr Street and Wadsworth Blvd. With three beds and one bath, it is within walking distance of Morse Park and Clements Community Center. The secluded backyard is stunning and includes a covered concrete patio. The large lot offers more room to play in the grass along with multiple storage sheds. Pride of ownership shows in every corner of this well maintained home. See more pictures and take a video tour at [www.LakewoodHome.info](http://www.LakewoodHome.info), then call your agent or Ty Scrable at **720-281-6783** to set a private showing. Don't wait, this one will sell quickly! **Open house this Saturday, 11-1.**



## Big Battery-Electric Trucks Are Coming Soon

Previously I wrote about 2021 being "the year of the electric pickup." Well, this year is also going to see the arrival of multiple box trucks, buses (including school buses), and big rigs with electric drive trains.

Rivian is already delivering on its order of 100,000 electric delivery trucks for Amazon, shown here. Nikola has an order from Republic Services for 5,000 trash trucks using the same platform as their semi tractor. Even Detroit Diesel, despite its



name, is going to be producing a battery-electric semi tractor for its biggest customer, Freightliner.

The Tesla Semi begins production by the end of 2021. Introduced with great fanfare in 2017, it has been field tested, I'm told, delivering trailer loads of Tesla cars to local Tesla stores. One was spotted last year at the Littleton store.

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### Jim Smith

Broker/Owner, 303-525-1851  
[Jim@GoldenRealEstate.com](mailto:Jim@GoldenRealEstate.com)  
17695 S. Golden Rd., Golden 80401

#### Broker Associates:

**JIM SWANSON**, 303-929-2727  
**CHUCK BROWN**, 303-885-7855  
**DAVID DLUGASCH**, 303-908-4835  
**TY SCRABLE**, 720-281-6783  
**ANDREA COX**, 720-446-8674

