

Home Decor

Burning desires

Today's hot fireplace designs



Fireplace by Napoleon

Written by Jennifer Cox & Christine Laroche

Since the dawn of man, the hearth has been held in the highest of esteem for its coveted role as the family's main gathering place. In fact,

the very word has become synonymous with home. And while fire itself may be prehistoric, today's fireplaces are anything *but*. Convenient, stylish, and even portable, they have evolved to meet the needs of today's modern homeowner.

Traditional fireplace designs still definitely have their place of honour in today's homes. From elegant structures with statuesque marble mantels to charming, rustic styles

with heavy cast iron doors, timeless classics are always *en vogue*.

However, technological innovations and modern aesthetics have had a big impact on the appearance and feel of contemporary fireplaces. "The trend is towards a cleaner, sharper look which means less metal and more viewing area," explains Greg Thomas, sales director at *Napoleon*. According to Thomas, today's style-conscious consumers are requesting unique shapes and fashionable finishes, such as stainless steel or polished brass.

For a look that is both sophisticated and authentic, many gas fireplaces come complete with "logs" that give the appearance and feel of a traditional fire – no wood chopping required. Conversely, for those wishing to make a particularly bold, modernist statement, new designs feature a simple burner for a stunningly streamlined look.

Today's hearth is certainly not confined to its customary space on the living room wall. "I like to tell my clients that the terms 'fire' and 'place' are to be taken literally," says Michael Richard, marketing manager at *Nergiflex*. "The new gas fireplaces are so versatile that you can create your own 'place of fire' anywhere you like." They can be used to divide rooms (providing multiple viewing areas), be placed in the middle of a sprawling space to add visual interest and warmth, or nestled in any cozy corner.

Wherever you place it, whatever your style, perhaps it's time to rediscover the magic of fire that has been entrancing mankind for many a millennia. After all, the mesmerizing dance of the flickering flames never goes out of style.

Home Decor

Keep the home fires burning with these heavenly hearths.



Enjoy the view! The pier design of the P131 gas unit allows you to enjoy warmth and beauty from three sides of the unit.

-Regency, www.regency-fire.com



Not just for livingrooms! The "Mendota" gas fireplaces – pictured here integrated into a kitchen counter – are renowned for their realistic looking flames.

- *Nergiflex*, www.nergiflex.ca



Town & Country's TC36 See-Through fireplace plays host in two rooms at once. Covered with expansive glass on both sides, it allows for optimal viewing of the authentic looking fire.

- *Nergiflex*, www.nergiflex.ca



The EcoSmart™ Fire is an environmentally-friendly, open-concept fireplace. Flueless, it does not require any installation or utility connection for the fuel supply, which makes it ideal for just about any space.

- *EcoSmart* available at *Foyer Universel Mtl. Inc.*, www.foyeruniversel.ca



The "Tureen" gas fireplace has a modern, European appearance. While the fireplace has typically been the man's domain, this fireplace's unique look appeals to women who see the fireplace as a decor accessory.

- *Napoleon*, www.napoleonfireplaces.com



Cornici Creations takes great pride in their magnificent mantels, blending the essential elements of distinction and prestige to create an extravagant look.

- *Cornici Creations*, www.cornici creations.com