



Fun design links

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CRAN SYMPOSIUM 2023

The Custom Residential Architects Network—CRAN—hosts an annual symposium that caters to architects who design custom homes. Presentations, home tours, and new product information highlight the four-day event. This year's symposium will be held in Salt Lake City on October 11-14th. Keep an eye on our Instagram page for updates: [@prairieline_sd](#).

ASK THE ARCHITECT:

Q: Which is the better siding to use on my house: wood composite (like LP SmartSide) or cement board (like James Hardie)?

A: This is a fairly common question, and my initial answer is often: Ask your builder what they like to use! The truth is that both products are highly regarded, and often times the pros and cons of using one or the other balance out. Generally, if a builder is trying to keep up-front costs down, they'll often recommend the LP product, since it's lighter weight, easier to handle, and doesn't generate cement dust when cutting. Time is money, and for many builders the LP product allows them to work faster. James Hardie's cement board siding has some other advantages, however, like being more fire and pest resistant. Those advantages might be fairly important to some home owners! Hardie siding is also, in my opinion, visually more like real wood lap siding. As with many material decisions, making a final selection can take some time if you're on the fence about the pros and cons. On custom home projects, the architect will discuss material selections with your builder ahead of time so that you get exactly what you want!

"The floorplan has to work!"

- Glenn H. Mannes

My dad taught me early that in architectural design, the floorplan rules! This mantra has stuck with me for the past twenty-plus years. Compromising your floorplan means compromising how your house or workplace FUNCTIONS, and that's not good design! You can achieve both the floorplan AND the aesthetics you want, it just requires some planning and flexibility!



This master vanity proves it: Contemporary and traditional vibes can live together in harmony!