



Afterglow

the Sex Appeal of Winterizing Your Home

BY CHRISTINE SCIOLI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TREVOR HENLEY



WHEN MY GAGGLE OF FABULOUS WOMEN convenes for our monthly catch up, the topic of sex often peppers the stew. (We also practice one upmanship whenever possible.)

Recently we were sitting outside on the back patio sipping wine and enjoying the glow and the autumn air.

Stoking the theme I said, “I read somewhere that warmth is the parent of wantonness. I can attest to that.” Attention grabbed. In my best Isak Dinesen style I continued on.

I heard it first the morning after. A tease perhaps? And then I felt it. It was sublime – warm and thorough – it quickly engulfed me in its seductiveness.

My only thought was why had we waited so long to move to this next, simple level of pleasure?

Why hadn't we installed a new heater with digital controls before this? Why had we waited for the old clunker to completely die before we invested in the sexiness of 21st century warmth? >

How to **WARM** things up around your home



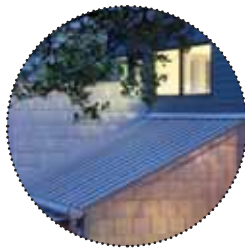
HEATER

The cost of heating your home represents 40-60% of your energy bill. This makes your furnace a prime target for energy reduction. The right furnace can help you enjoy substantial energy savings. Natural gas furnaces are considered by many experts to be the most fuel-efficient and an environmentally friendly alternative to electricity, propane or oil. Your Marin Builders Association (MBA) heating experts can work with you to find the right furnace for your home.



GUTTERS

Water damage is the main reason why there needs to be gutters on a home. No matter what age of the house or building, roof water can cause serious problems. The main advantage of gutters is that they will save you thousands of dollars in home repairs. They will prevent backsplash, washouts, erosion and flooding. Gutters and downspouts come in many colors, so there will be a color that matches your home close to perfectly. Gutters are a professional matter; hiring an MBA professional will save you thousands in costly home and gutter repair.



ROOFING

There are a number of things to consider when selecting a new roof system. Of course, cost and durability head the list, but aesthetics and architectural style are important, too. The right roof system for your home or building is one that balances these considerations. The components of roof systems include roof covering, sheathing, roof structure, flashing and drainage. The Marin Builders Association (MBA) directory includes licensed roofing contractors to help you with your choice.



INSULATION

Most homeowners think of insulation as a thick warm winter jacket for their home – buffering the heated air inside against the cold weather outside. Like a winter jacket, they pack it away in the mental closet when the weather warms up and forget about it until autumn. MBA contractors, however, know that insulation is more like a thermos – it keeps warm things warm, and keeps cool things cool. Improving insulation in a home has a dramatic effect not only on your heating bills in the winter, but also on your air conditioning usage in the summer.



WINDOWS

If you're looking for ways to save money on energy costs, one of the best choices you can make is replacing old single-pane windows with modern double-pane windows. This is a large investment, but you will reap the rewards of lower energy bills, a more comfortable house, increased safety and a higher resale value for your home. Double pane windows may be as much as 50 percent more energy efficient than single pane windows. Our MBA contractors can give you much more information about the benefits of new windows.

> *Afterglow continued*

For years my husband and I crafted a subtle battle of the sexes as to who would leave the bed first and head down the freezing cold staircase to adjust the dial on the thermostat. To leave it high before retiring meant a night of non-stop hot flashes; to turn it down meant the big chill in the morning.

Eventually it became a contest of physical endurance as the person with the weakest bladder succumbed to the bathroom, and since they were already up and cold, it was a considerate

and logical marital next step to crank up the heat.

Frankly, all this wee hour of the morning competition wasn't good for our *bodies* nor our souls. Well, emphasis on bodies.

But now, we were back in the throes of snug bliss.

Jacqui interrupted just as I was getting to the good part, confiding that she shared a similar experience at her home out on Peacock Gap. Jacqui is ferociously single and gorgeous and a total "A type" person.

While hosting a cozy winter dinner for her newest

conquest, oops, I mean, boyfriend, the crooning of Michael Buble was drowned out by the din of *drip, drip, drip*. A quick rush to find the leak meant the candles were snuffed out; the bright lights were turned on. Add to that an old plastic bucket starkly perched next to the Oysters Rockefeller and the Veuve Clicquot, and everything else romantic was snuffed out too.

This did not bode well with her.

Jacqui takes superb care of herself; she prides herself on her appearance and the appearance of her surroundings. She had, however, inadvertently neglected the exterior of her home, which caused real problems inside, especially in the bedroom. Naturally, she took it very personally.

Before the next rain, she not only had a brand new roof but double paned windows throughout. And, new gutters to complete the scene and secure the homestead. Now, she fans the flames of desire regardless of the season, with no thought to another miscue.

The bedroom and Jacqui have never been hotter.

Olivia takes over and tells another tale entirely. Olivia is a reinvention specialist. She molds her business goals with her roles as wife and mother. She currently holds court as a social media maven with an eye toward everything new from Pinterest to meetups. She volunteers in the classroom and in the community and is always on the go and in the know. She lives in one of those stately old Larkspur ladies where the foliage in winter is lush and dripping with citrus and camellias. The house is always full of children and friends who are clients and clients who are friends.

But the old girl was drafty and losing her warmth. Literally.

And Olivia felt she was too. Foreplay in the frost just wasn't her thing, and her husband was feeling left out in the cold. Olivia just wasn't her tantalizing self sporting one of those ugly, oversized "snuggly" things, not a libido booster for the *sine qua non* of sultry let alone a hard working multi-tasker.

So, they insulated the house, which instigated much, much more than draft free living.

Now, when the day is done and the kids are asleep and the last email is answered and all the tech is turned off, Olivia and her husband retire to their cozy bedroom and dance barefoot to the romantic melody of the wind. The fleecy thing she was tripping over has been replaced by an assorted new selection of negligee.

Our drinks are done and our reveries end. We cluck and hug and plan for our next excursion. And then we all head home to our warm abodes to continue the fun in real time. ●



Afterglow featured home: millvalleygreenhome.com
Architect, Geoffrey E. Butler Photographer, Trevor Henley



GEOFFREY E. BUTLER
ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

A Marin County Resident for 25 years, Geoffrey Butler specializes in residential and commercial architecture. By listening carefully to his clients' needs, Geoff strives to integrate their dreams within their budget. Each project ultimately creates an interior and exterior environment that is visually compelling as well as functional.



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