

# Cypress is “in”

**L**UMBER DEALERS are acknowledging that cypress is quickly becoming a go-to building product. The durable, versatile, and beautiful species is being used to enhance curb appeal and outdoor living space at new and renovated homes.

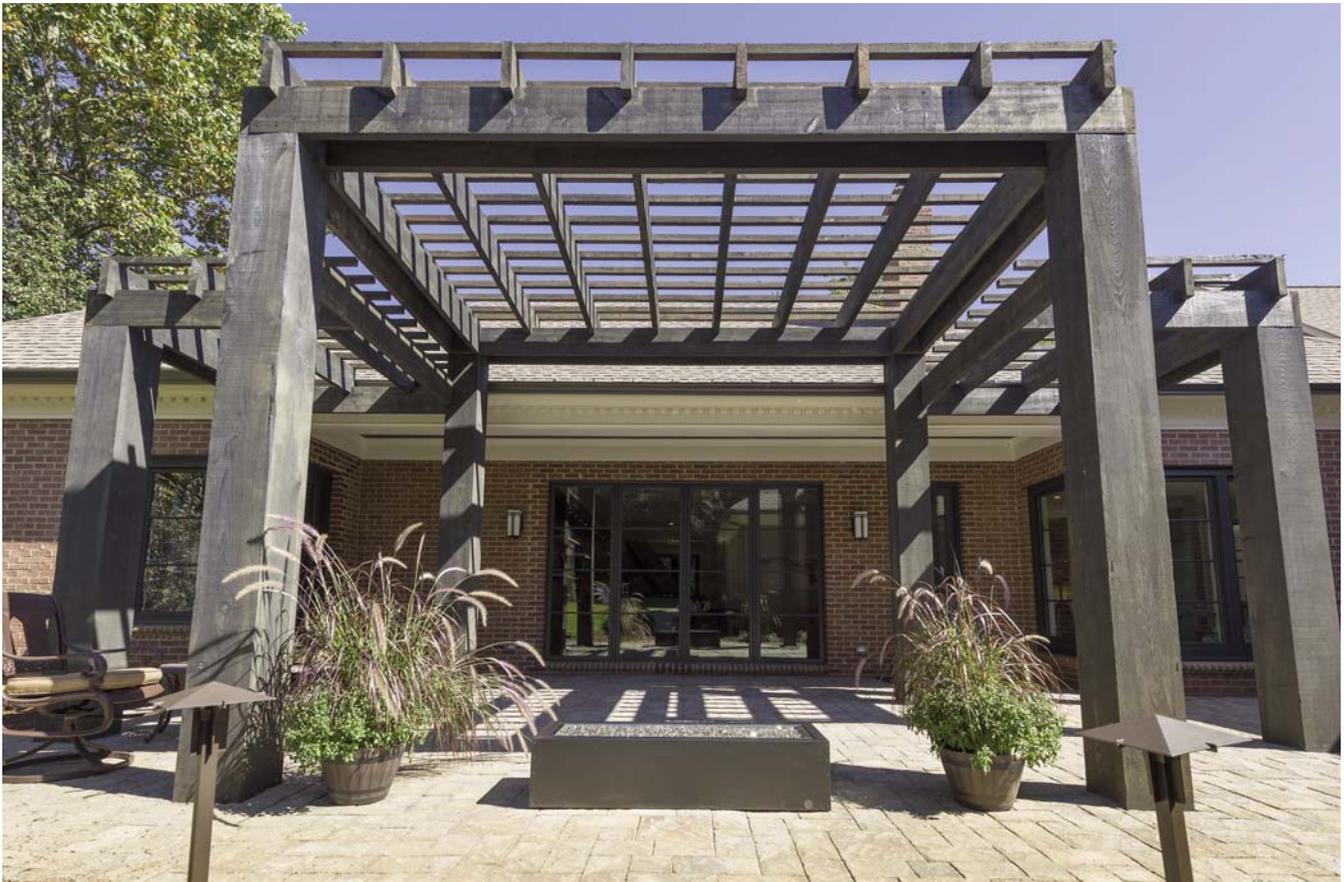
According to Hal Mitchell of Atlanta Hardwood Corp., Mableton, Ga., design professionals and homeowners are excited about all that cypress offers. “Cypress is a unique species in that its versatility makes it

a great material to be used inside and outside the home,” Mitchell said. “Whether as siding or interior architectural details, cypress provides the appearance and durability that are in demand. We expect this trend to continue.”

One high-profile example is the new NextGenHomeTV “First to the Future Home.” The design and construction of the Palm Coast Florida home is being featured in an online video series with well-known host Ty

Pennington. The webisodes, available at [www.nghtv.com](http://www.nghtv.com), highlight the latest products and technologies, as well as traditional building materials. For the Palm Coast project, cypress gets the spotlight.

According to Paul Barnett, president and executive producer of [nghtv.com](http://nghtv.com), the team selected cypress because of its good looks and long-lasting performance. “What sets cypress apart is its rich grain, natural durability, and flexibility with choos-



**LONG-LASTING PERFORMANCE** and extreme durability are among the many reasons why dealers are quickly looking to cypress as a go-to building product—much like this cypress pergola built by Vicki Payne, as she renovated a 30-year-old home in Charlotte, N.C. (Photo courtesy of For Your Home)



**NATURAL BEAUTY** meets stability in NextGenHomeTV's "First to the Future Home." Cypress is one feature that is highlighted many times, as it was selected because of its good looks and long-lasting performance. (Photo courtesy of NGHTV.com.)

ing a finish," he said. "There's something special about the look and feel of wood that makes it appeal to homeowners, probably more so than any other material."

"When we began installing the cypress siding and soffit on the exterior of the home, we were blown away by the natural beauty and color of the wood. We liked it so much that we decided to carry it into the interior of the home," Barnett added.

While cypress has long been regarded as a top choice for wood siding, Linwood Truitt of Beasley Forest Products in Hazlehurst, Ga., says landscape designers are specifying cypress timbers to create functional outdoor living spaces.

"As more people learn about the strength and natural durability of cypress, they are using it to create structures that have predominately been built from cedar, redwood, or pressure-treated species," Truitt said.

In an episode of the popular PBS home-improvement series, For Your Home, hostess and TV personality, Vicki Payne, relied on cypress in the

construction of a magnificent pergola, as she renovated a 30-year old home in Charlotte, N.C. "Outdoor living areas were an important component of the overall look and function of the transformed home," Payne said. "Cypress offered clean lines with strong features that allowed me to design a striking, 10-foot-tall pergola, requiring minimal cross supports and brackets. I love the natural durability of cypress and know this pergola will last a long, long time.

"I continue hearing wonderful comments about the pergola from everyone who visits the home. They especially like to touch the wood and always ask what type it is. I get a kick out of what we were able to create using cypress. It's truly stunning." To see cypress' role in the home's makeover, tune in to your local Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations or log onto [www.foryourhome.com](http://www.foryourhome.com).

— For more information on building with cypress, please visit the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association's website at [www.cypressinfo.org](http://www.cypressinfo.org).

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