

INSPIRATION

for Home-a-Rama House



DESIGNED BY GARY NANCE

We had a lot of fun with this home because the neighborhood had a certain character that allowed us to create something a little different. Our theme of Georgian Revival is complemented with a luxurious landscape plan and generous balconies that overlook it. From the first glimpse out the beautiful windows at dawn to catching a softly moonlit night, this home has a magical feeling. It's evocative of a wonderful, carefree life in a manor home where time passed slowly and each moment was savored.

But, snap out of it now, because this home has to fit today's family expectations and most of all, a rapid pace. That's why the movement flow is very distinct. The high activity areas — where 80 percent of the waking hours are spent — are all subtly connected. Homework, hobby, media, reading, dinner prep and get-together areas are all on the first floor and very accessible. A simple invitation gets you down to the lowest level (we hesitate to call it a basement) where true delights are in store. The upper level is a very private, intimate arrangement of the bedrooms and master suite with two separate, private balconies and great views from every room.

We set out to have fun with this plan, and like all Shamrock homes, the craftsmen involved — from the carpenters to the paint crews — brought all their talents to the table and had a ball themselves. The results of their work is evident at first glance — they literally outdid themselves. We hope you enjoy your tour of our manor.

Gary E. Nance
Gary Nance

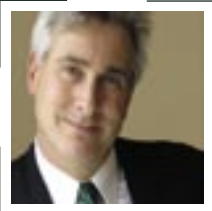


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From the President: Residential

IN MY OWN WORDS



GEORGE GEIGER,
PRESIDENT,
RESIDENTIAL
DIVISION

Reprinted from the
April, 2005 issue

of *Professional Builder Magazine*, a Reed Business Information publication.

George was featured in a two page feature article "IN MY OWN WORDS".

Here's what he had to say:

RE: JOB SITE-FINISHED, HARDWOOD FLOORING

While it adds time and cost, job site-finished hardwood flooring adds the custom touch our clients expect. The consistency of the final finish makes a noticeable difference. Pre-finished flooring looks good when you put it down, but after six months or a year, the boards start to separate. With job-site finished hardwood, we achieve a much smoother and more furniture-like finished look that lasts a long time. It is definitely a much more customized option. Pre-finished hardwood is easier on the

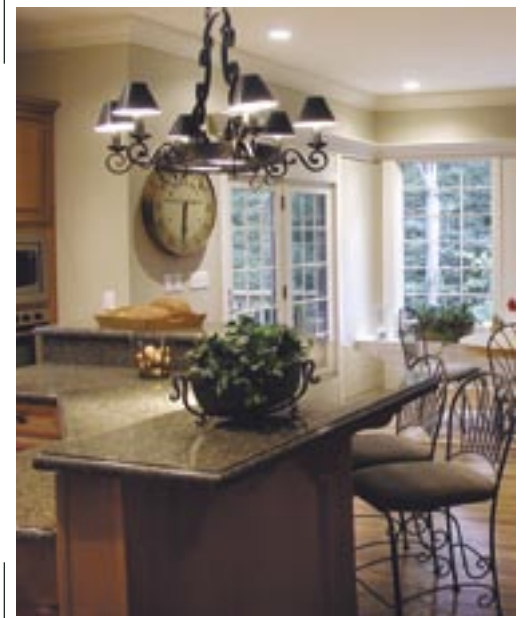
builder, no question about it, but when it comes to the look, you can't beat job-site finishing.

RE: GRANITE KITCHEN COUNTERTOPS

In the last six months, the market has come to expect granite in homes over \$500,000. Solid surface is no longer a luxury. For the cost difference, we have found that granite has a high perceived value. The driving force for us is that customers are asking for it, and it is expected. Clients like a countertop they don't have to worry about, and granite is low-maintenance. The variety of color and edging choices allows granite to create a luxurious look in any kitchen.

RE: ANDERSEN VINYL CLAD LOW E GLASS WINDOWS

We were one of the first custom builders in our market to use Andersen windows exclusively. Wood windows are



not an option for our clients. The Andersen name brings tremendous perceived value, and the quality of the product is obvious. We have found this to be one of our most powerful marketing tools.

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From the President: Commercial



GREG O'HERREN

Shamrock Builders
"Offices that Feel
like Home" philoso-

phy has been a great success with small business owners wanting to lease or purchase.

Since building our own office in 1997, we have now built 27 office buildings ranging from 4,000 to 19,000 square feet. Small business owners wanting an office in an attractive new building, with easy access to the interstate and available parking outside their front door have found them very attractive, especially dentists. (We are cur-

rently building our 19th dental office!)

Our typical product is an attractive residential style building with a steep

pitched roof and limestone accents. We are proud to say our product is known in the commercial brokerage community as a "building like Shamrock builds" when people are describing the "garden office buildings".

Our commercial clients get the same services we offer our custom home clients; including, but not limited to, locating the

ground, doing feasibility studies, architecture, construction, leasing and, most importantly, a "Client for Life" philosophy.

To date we have built five homes for clients who came to us first through a commercial relationship.

We currently have five developments in Fishers and our newest project is

in Castleton at 88th and Allisonville Road.

If you are considering owning or leasing a new office building, please contact Greg O'Herren at 317.590.4713 or 317.558.8750.



SUMMER COFFEE DRINKS

Not just your standard cup of Joe

As the following recipes so temptingly demonstrate, iced coffee is only the beginning of summertime coffee pleasures. Combined with milk or cream, chocolate or other flavorings and poured over ice or whirled into a frosty slush, freshly brewed coffee or espresso are transformed into a wide range of memorable drinks. Use your favorite brand of coffee – or espresso – flavored ice cream in the recipes that call for it.

Mocha Slush

Fill ice-cube trays with half of the brewed coffee and place in the freezer. In a bowl, combine the remaining brewed coffee, the 2/3 cup cocoa powder and milk and stir to dissolve the cocoa. Cover and chill.

When the ice cubes have frozen, transfer them to a kitchen towel and, using a hammer or mallet, crush the cubes.

To serve, fill 4 tall glasses with the crushed ice and divide the coffee-cocoa mixture evenly among them. Dust the top with cocoa powder, if using, and serve.

Serves 4

6 cups double-strength freshly brewed dark roast coffee

2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder, plus additional cocoa powder for garnish

2 cups nonfat milk

Shaken Espresso

In a small pitcher, stir together the espresso, half-and-half and sugar until well blended. Fill 2 tall glasses with crushed ice and divide the espresso mixture evenly between them. Cover and shake well before serving.

Serves 2

2 shots double-strength freshly brewed espresso

1/2 cup half-and-half or heavy cream

2 teaspoons superfine sugar or almond – or hazelnut – flavored syrup

crushed ice

Java Float

In each of two tall glasses, stir together two tablespoons of the chocolate syrup and 1 cup of the club soda. Place two scoops of the ice cream in each glass and serve at once.

Serves 2

4 tablespoons chocolate syrup

2 cups club soda or sparkling water, chilled

4 scoops coffee ice cream

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DETAILS BY DESIGN



WENDY PRATHER

Color Your World

It's that time of the year when home furnishings and fashions transform you and your spaces into a delightful frenzy of new colors. Color is probably the most important element of any design and should be used without fear of what others might think. As a matter of fact, 60 percent of purchases are based on color.

Colors are very inspirational and exude your mood, personality and style whether used in fashion or your home design. The colors for the '05 season are a flashback to the 70's and 80's. I'm sure most of us remember the time of oranges, avocado greens and chocolate browns in what's now called "retro" 70's, as well as the 80's varying shades of pinks, greens or aqua, then called mauve and sea foam green or teal. Well, they are back in a big way.

This season, greens are popping up in all shades of grass, celadon, avocado, lime and spa green. Pink, or strong magenta, is still hot. Green is the new pink! Brown is really big this year, and I like to say that brown is the new black for the season; it goes with everything and comes in any shade! Sunny yellows and golds are also hot. (Research has shown that people who prefer yellow have higher I.Q.s.) Creamy whites are also at the top of the list and provide a very soothing or calming effect to a room. All shades of orange are coming on strong this season as well. Whether deep corals, bright oranges or peach catch your eye, you'll be a hit just like the color. Reds have been around for the last couple of seasons and don't seem to be going anywhere.

We look at color as if it is a permanent fixture in our homes. Many people are afraid to paint a wall spa green or a rich coral or dark chocolate brown, but take a look at nature and the colors popping up all around us. You will see all of the beautiful colors and think of how these colors make you feel. Pick a few for your vase and your walls and wrap yourself in the beauty of coloring your world.

EXTREME LANDSCAPE MAKEOVER



MICHAEL AKIN

Extreme Makeover!!!

Faces, bodies or

entire homes, it's all the rage today. When you come home and look at your landscape, are you thinking extreme thoughts? Do you dream that a TV crew might come in, rip your landscape out and give your home a facelift? Would you like your home to actually welcome you at the end of a long day rather than make you want to scoot in the house before your neighbors see you? If so, it's time to renovate!!

Fact is, if your home is older than 10-12 years and you still have the original landscape, it is probably overgrown by now. Most landscape plantings are only able to last 12-20 years under ideal conditions. Always keep in mind that foundation plantings were meant to hide the foundation and not windows and gutters. Many move into an existing home with a great interior only to find that their new neighbors are hoping they will be the ones who finally do something about the landscaping. Time to renovate!!

If you think you might be selling your home in the next three to five years, it might be prudent to redo the landscape. This will give you some time to enjoy it yourself and show maximum curb appeal when you are ready to sell. Many builders and realtor associations will recommend that your landscape investment should be 5-10% of the home's value. Good landscaping can raise the market value of your home by 15%. Time to renovate!!

Don't be overwhelmed. Re-landscaping doesn't have to be the way you see it on the Home and Garden Channel where crisis management gives shows more appeal.



Most landscape renovations can be done in a day or two with minimal fuss and maximum gain. Of course, there are more extreme makeovers, and major changes can be fun. In any case, the most important thing to make the project go smoothly is

proper planning. This can keep you from feeling like you are on one of those home makeover shows—as a worker!

In your planning process you need to set your goals, and equally important, your budget. Whether you are a traveler, hard worker or parent who just wants an easily maintainable landscape so you can focus on your true passion, you can create it. You can create a place where you can unwind, tell some stories, slow the world down, reconnect with your family or spouse and enjoy that glass of wine that has been waiting for you all day. Your landscape welcomes you home in the front and provides a refuge in the back to help you reconnect with yourself. It is a big part of your life and how people see you, even if you don't realize it yet.

Whatever your choices are, from goal to budget, the end product will be worth it. Time to renovate!!

For more information about landscape makeovers, contact Michael Akin at mike@seasonsgardens.com or visit seasonsgardens.com and sign up for the Seasons Gardens e-newsletter.

SET YOUR GOALS

Front landscape face-lift

- Rip-out over grown plants and remove limbs that are blocking the view of the house.
- Take that funny squiggle out of the front bed and make it in a smoother shape for easier maintenance.
- Add a new sidewalk that welcomes guests rather than challenges their athletic abilities.

Back yard relaxation area

- Expand the patio and create privacy from the nearest neighbor(s).
- Consider a water feature. Ponds and fountains make great destinations.
- Need some shade from that hot afternoon sun? Add a maple or oak.
- A built-in barbecue grill will handle large parties or small family get-togethers.

Setting Flagstones in Soil

Preparing the ground

The stones will rest directly on the excavated surface. Remove all sod and any roots over half an inch thick. Dig deep enough that the stones will be slightly lower than the lawn, so you can run a lawn mower over them. A small amount of rainwater will soak into the joints between stones. To ensure against puddles on the patio during a heavy rain, slope the excavation away from the



house. Scrape, rather than dig, the bottom of the excavation site so you will not loosen the undisturbed soil. Tamp the area with a hand tamper or power tamper, then gently rake to loosen a layer of soil about 1/2 inch thick.

1. Position stones in the excavated area and experiment with different

arrangements. Aim to achieve joints that are fairly consistent in width, between 1/2 inch to one inch.

2. You will probably need to cut at least some corners off some stones. Sandstone will cut easily while limestone will be tough to crack. If you have some very large stones, you may wish to keep them

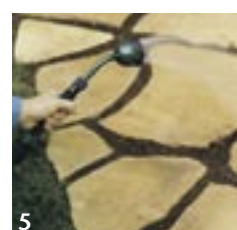
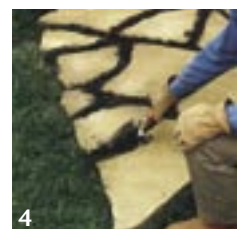
large and space them regularly for a dramatic effect. Or, score each large stone with lines and break apart. The resulting pieces can be laid with neatly matching joints.

3. Once you have arranged about ten square feet of stone, firmly set the stones before moving on to the next section. To set

a stone, stand on it or tap it with a rubber mallet to produce an impression in the soil. Tilt the stone up and use a garden trowel to scrape and fill soil as needed. Lay the stone back down, and test for stability. It will probably take several attempts before the stone is free of wobbles and level with its neighbors.

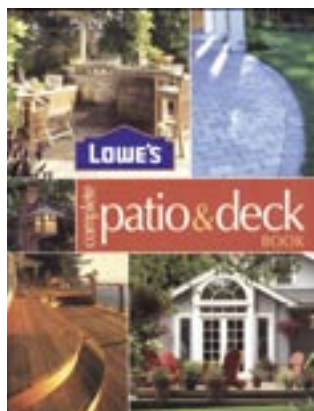
4. Mix some sand with some potting soil to produce a soil that is firm but drains readily. Dampen it slightly, then insert it into the joints using a pointed shovel or a garden trowel. Allow the soil to dry, then gently sweep the stones clean.

5. Set a hose nozzle to produce a fine mist and spray until the joints are soaked. This will compress the soil. Wait for the soil to dry. Add more soil as needed, and spray again. If you would like greenery in the joints, sprinkle seeds or embed crevice plants.



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So now that you have listed your goals, you need to decide how important they are. If you are like me, they are extremely important and budget is of less concern. My enjoyable refuge will actually end up saving what I spend on it. Remember the rule of thumb, the recommended landscape investment gives you at least a starting point to develop your budget.



SUMMER FITNESS

The 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans



AMY MOYER, RD,
HFI, CSCS
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WWW.NIFS.ORG

The food and physical activity choices you make every day can greatly affect your health...today, tomorrow and in the future. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans have been slightly revamped to help you make healthier choices, reduce your risk of many chronic diseases and increase your chances of a longer, healthier life. Implement the following guidelines today to ensure a long and healthy life!

1. MAKE SMART CHOICES FROM EVERY FOOD GROUP

Change your food selections every day by eating a variety of nutrient-packed foods. Emphasize fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat milk and milk products. Include lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs and nuts and consume foods that are low in saturated and trans fats, cholesterol, salt (sodium) and added sugars. Keeping your daily calorie level within your caloric needs will help you to achieve an optimal weight.



2. FIND YOUR BALANCE BETWEEN FOOD AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

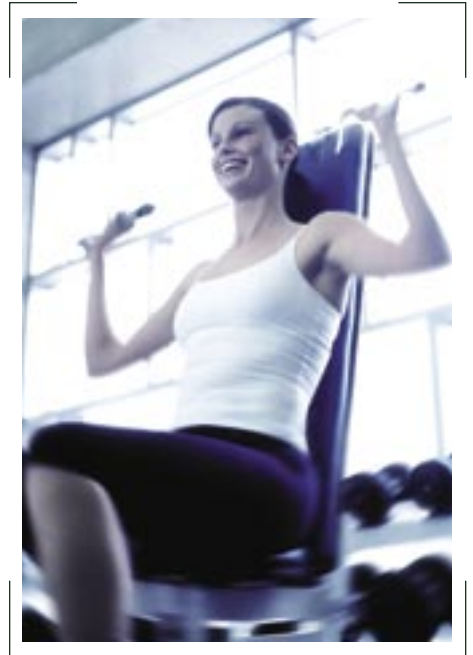
Making time for physical activity is just as important as eating a healthy diet. Plan to be physically active for at least 30 minutes on most days of the week for weight maintenance. If you are under the age of 18 or are an adult who desires to lose weight, strive to achieve 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

3. KNOW THE FACTS AND USE THE FOOD LABEL

Checking the Nutrition Facts label on most packaged foods can help you determine its nutritional value. It is important to recognize that the nutrition facts are based on one serving of the product. Using your measuring cups and spoons will give you a better understanding of exactly how much, and therefore the nutritional value, of what you are consuming.

4. PLAY IT SAFE WITH FOOD

Knowing how to prepare, handle and store foods safely is key in keeping your family safe from food-borne illness. Make sure to wash hands often and follow food preparation instructions. Use clean, separate



cutting boards for raw and cooked foods, and cook dishes to the appropriate temperature before serving.

5. DRINK ALCOHOL IN MODERATION

“Moderate drinking” equates to one drink a day for women and two drinks a day for men. Twelve ounces of regular beer, five ounces of wine, or 1 ½ ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits count as a drink. Remember that alcoholic beverages contain calories, but are very low in nutritional value.

For more information about these new guidelines, visit www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines.



SUMMER ENTERTAINING



...and the Grilling is Easy

ALLAN THAYER

Fish are great on the grill. If you're like most folks, you come to a point in the summer when you've had enough hamburgers, steaks and bar b'qued chicken from your grill. You need a little break and sometimes don't think about fish. While it's true that some fish are delicate and not good prospects for open flame grilling, others are absolutely perfect.

This sauce works well with any of the grilled fish listed.

Mahi-Mahi, Salmon, Halibut and even Shark are all great on the grill (just marinate or season, rub a little oil on the grate and you're in business). But one of my personal favorites is a beautiful, ruby red cut of Ahi Tuna with this special, charred onion "salsa". It makes for a very special evening and couldn't be easier.

So, take the stress out of your next little outdoor soiree. Head straight to the fish market, tell them you want their nicest cut of Ahi and get the drinks on ice. Your guests will be very impressed.

Allan Thayer has been with Bonefish Grill for 2 1/2 years. There are three locations for Bonefish Grill: Castleton, Avon and Greenwood.



Charred Onion Salsa

One cup red onion charred and chopped (quarter inch pieces)
 1 quart small diced mango (drain and chop in quarter inch pieces)
 1/4 cup diced red pepper (1/8" pieces)
 1/2 cup mango puree
 1/4 cup scallions (chopped on bias)
 1/4 cup chopped cilantro

1. Peel and slice red onion in two or three large pieces and lay on hot grill and allow to char
2. Chop the red onion into 1/4 inch pieces
3. Dice mango and red pepper
4. Mix all ingredients together
5. When ready to serve, heat in the microwave or on stove for three minutes. Add salsa, scallions and cilantro over grilled fillet.

I recommend Tuna, but any fish would work well. Fish that are excellent for this recipe include Mahi-Mahi, Swordfish, Wahoo and Grouper.

Side items that work well include island rice or Caesar salad.

If you chose Ahi Tuna, I recommend it served medium rare. You can also season Tuna with cracked black pepper, Kosher salt and chili Garlic sauce.

A recommended wine with this dish could be Cambria Chardonnay (white) or Ravenswood Zinfandel (blush).

Finish with a dessert of citrus Key Lime pie. Add an espresso Martini if you need anymore fun for the evening.



104th Street east of Olio Road

STRONGBOW GATE

meet your neighborhood...
a VILLAGE ATMOSPHERE

The most striking element of Strongbow Gate is the choreographed visual package that creates a rich landscape that goes well beyond the beautiful ornamental grasses and specimen trees.

The rustic stone wall and European lamps create a village mood that is paid off by the cobblestone entry way and unique streetscape. You'll enjoy living in this closely knit community, a community crafted by Shamrock to have an established feel from day one.

SHAMROCK
 CUSTOM HOMES

HIGH GROVE

A few opportunities remain in this Carmel Jewel.

High Grove is one of the most pleasant surprises you'll find in Carmel. It's a nearly finished neighborhood with winding streets



and a nice variety of brick homes, all built by Shamrock. There are a few opportunities waiting for families who are looking for a Carmel address, but would like the privacy of a well-defined, mature neighborhood.

For information, call Pamela Murphy at 558-8750.

IN MY OWN WORDS

Continued from page 2

RE: CUSTOM MADE EXTERIOR SHUTTERS MADE OF AZEK

We use Carter Lee Lumber's high-end millwork facility to custom-make our exterior shutters from Azek, a PVC material. As compared with wood shutters, which may not survive more than two to three years, these shutters are maintenance free, take paint and last forever. Plus, no one will ever know the shutters are not wood.

Pre-made shutters rarely fit the windows properly, and discriminating clients are bothered by this. The quality of construction is in the details. It's critical to demonstrate this in everything you do. Window sizes vary so greatly, we haven't been able to find a selection of ready-made shutters that fit all of them – they are all too skinny. Width is

a big issue with shutters; they should be the same size as the window. When we have them custom-made, we can get them to be the exact size of the window and furnish exactly what the client wants.

RE: SOLID WOOD FRONT ENTRY DOORS

In the past, we have used stained fiberglass doors. Recently, we came to realize this was not what our clients want. Again, quality is in the details: use a quality door, install it properly, and educate your client as to how to take care of it. It comes down to perceived value. Yes, it is true that you have less maintenance with fiberglass or steel doors, but in the custom-home category, buyers feel better about a wood door.

Professional Builder Magazine,
April, 2005



Tell a Friend



PAMELA MURPHY

Every company strives for referrals because

there is truly no better compliment for outstanding service. Shamrock is grateful to those of you who confidently refer a friend or family member to us for their next home. Our way of saying "thank you" is to give the referring party a little note, folded around a check for \$1,000. If you know of someone who might be thinking about building a new home or office building, please contact Pamela Murphy through our main office at 558-8750.