



LUXURY HOMES



Springtime heralds awards season for the home-building industry—and this year, the Mid-Atlantic region shone with high-quality, award-worthy new construction, from custom estates to stylish condos to trendy townhomes. Featured on our pages: Miller and Smith's GALA award-winning home designs, plus custom builder Visnic Homes' award for Custom Home Builder of the Year and Covell Communities' finalist award for one of its models—both from the National Association of Home Builders. Also in the issue: a notable listing on more than 450 acres in Middleburg (top), a profile of a recently completed project by Great Falls Construction (left), industry news and more.



Attention to Detail

Great Falls Construction emphasizes clients and customization

The custom home-building process is like a marriage,” says Stacey Hoffman, president of Great Falls Construction, which has been building custom homes of all shapes, sizes and styles since 1979. “We work hand-in-hand with clients from start to finish to incorporate all the elements of a project.”

Hoffman, who joined the company nine years ago, feels that it’s this customization that sets her firm apart. “What makes us different is that the homes we build are truly custom homes, whether they come from stock estate plans which we then modify, or the plans of an architect,” she says. “Every detail is scrutinized and evaluated in terms of how the homeowner will live in the house. It’s all based on specific use.”

Great Falls Construction began life as a custom homebuilder, producing three to five new homes a year. With the downturn in the economy, however, business has evolved to include additions and renovations. The company now builds custom homes and works on a variety of remodeling projects.

Stone, stucco and cedar trim clad the exterior of a recently finished house by Great Falls Construction (above). Interiors include a spacious kitchen (opposite, top) and a dining room (opposite, bottom) from which the wide front door and foyer with its marble floor are visible. Crisp millwork frames the doorway (right) leading into the kitchen.





FACTS & STATS

Great Falls Construction has a staff of seven people building two to three new homes a year. The company does not build homes on spec. Most projects are in Virginia, with some spillover into Maryland and Washington, DC.

SPECIALTIES:
Great Falls Construction builds in every style, size and price point.

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LUXURY HOMES | BUILDER PROFILE



Elegant baths were a must for the house, which includes a master bath (above) with white marble floors and countertops and a knee wall in Italian marble mosaic. A bath (below) in soft beige with marble floors offers guests a comfortable retreat.



Typically, a team is assigned to each project: the project manager, who interfaces with the homeowner on budget issues and hires the sub-contractors; and the project superintendent, who manages the day-to-day activity on site and monitors the other workers, controlling the quality of the work. “It’s a testament to who we are and what we do that 60 percent of our clients are repeat customers,” says Hoffman.

Recently, Great Falls Construction completed a home for a builder on the staff that Hoffman feels perfectly represents her company’s innovative work and painstaking attention to detail. “We took the best of what we’d done in the past and incorporated it into the space,” she explains. “It was a house we’d built before but we modified the plans to suit the owner.”

Pictured on these pages, the 5,200-square-foot house is clad in stucco, cedar and stone. During the construction process, the builders tried to think ahead in terms of maintenance and longevity. For example, an extra layer of fiber mesh behind the stucco protects it from cracks and fissures while a drainage system behind the innately porous stone ensures that moisture is kept out. The Aura line of Benjamin Moore paint was used on the exterior because it retains the color against UV rays and prevents fading.

The house, which was designed by architects Mark Sullenberger and Richard Radcliffe of Custom Design Concepts in McLean, Virginia, includes 12 rooms, with 10-foot ceilings on the main level trimmed by wide crown moldings. A grand, two-story open entry boasts Crème Marfil marble floors while the rest of the flooring is four-inch select white oak stained dark. “A lot of thought went into planning the flow,” Hoffman says, referring particularly to the layout of the kitchen and family room. “All the elements—including built-ins, kitchen and bath design and finishes—were done by us.” ❖