

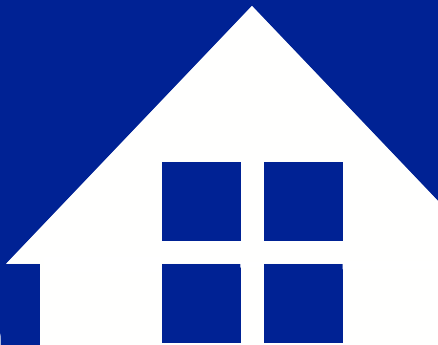


▶ **PREPARING FOR THE COLD**
FEEL WARM AND CONFIDENT BY
PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR THE
LONG HAUL OF WINTER 2

▶ **HOUSE TALK**
TURNING AN UNFINISHED
BASEMENT INTO A LOWER LEVEL
RETREAT & OUTDOOR LIVING
CONNECTION 3

▶ **BEING GREEN ENOUGH?**
SIMPLE AND VERY LOW COST
PRACTICAL WAYS OF SUSTAINING
AND RENEWING YOUR
SURROUNDINGSCONT. ON 4

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2010



Macklin Design DRAWING

**PERSONAL INSIGHT
INTO DESIGNING YOUR
FINE HOME**

interests

Feeling guilty for not being green enough?

Being a better steward of your surroundings starts with removing the load rather than adding to it.

Most everyone now agrees that being “green” is a good idea for the current and future generations. However, many people are motivated by guilt rather than conviction to practice sustainable methods because of the panic that the world will end if they don’t recycle their plastic water bottle. Conviction is a good motivator to freedom, but guilt will only cripple you and stop your progress.

Webster’s dictionary states one of the definitions for guilt as “feelings of culpability especially for imagined offenses or from a sense of inadequacy: SELF-REPROACH.” That is a big word so I wrote it that way. To reproach someone is to dis-approve, dis-credit or dis-grace them. I am not sure about you but I need all the grace I can get in my

life. Alternatively, conviction is defined as “being compelled to admit the truth.” Truth is continually learned throughout life, not revealed all at once. Imagine telling Annabelle (pictured right) every truth in the universe at one time and then expecting her to live perfectly according to that knowledge. That would throw an enormous load on her small frame.

The key to green living is to first deal inward and invoke the ideas of sustainability and renewability within your heart, soul and mind. That truth shall set you free to grow like a tree planted by a water’s edge. However, being motivated by guilt will dry up your inner and outer resources and stop



Annabelle doesn’t need the weight of the world on her shoulders by trying to save it. She should be free to enjoy and take care of her surroundings.

your growth. Yet, we are all created to be fruitful and multiply in this world.

You can follow the rest of this article on page 4 where we discuss simple and low cost practical ways of renewing your surroundings.

COMING NEXT ISSUE

- *Taking advantage of every square foot you own*
- *There is more to quality than meets the eye?*



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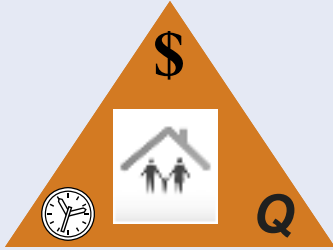


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drawing conclusions

editorial by chris macklin

Price, Quality, Time & People



In the last issue I introduced the overall topic of this editorial but in this issue I will cover the first point, **PRICE** (the one most of us put at the top of the pyramid). By far, most projects start out with PEOPLE as first priority in order to improve their quality of life. However, it very quickly shifts to PRICE because we think that our financial security has an even greater effect on our quality of life. Lets face it, reaching into our wallets is the most uncomfortable daily exercise routine.

Most agree with the belief that it is good stewardship to get as much as you can for as little as you can. Let's look at this at a level our young children can understand. When two children trade toys, each wants to end up with more than the other because he who has the most toys in the end wins. In this example, PRICE consciousness is a game not a fair agreement. To make this even more personal, I'll share with you an example in my life where I put PRICE over PEOPLE. I didn't *feel* the PRICE was fair...to me.
Continued on page 4

Preparing for the Cold

It's that time of year again to prepare our homes for the long haul of winter. We have provided you some tips from professionals so that you can feel warm and confident knowing you have covered some of the basics of winterization.

In the Yard

Lawn care:

Grind up your leaves with the lawn mower and then mix them into your compost pile. Keep most of the leaves in your planting beds because that can be a good insulator for your plants as well as feed them throughout the winter. After you clean out the leaves take one more opportunity to mow your lawn one last time. Then, fertilize to encourage root growth throughout the cold months.

Sprinkler, hoses and plumbing lines:

Clear your irrigation system of water so it won't freeze and damage the pipes. Also, drain your hoses and then coil them up and store them inside. To complete the job, go into the basement and shut off the water to your outdoor spigots then drain the weep valve into a bucket. This will prevent your pipes from freezing and bursting.

Exterior

Roof:

Check your roof for missing shingles and leaks. These are not easy things to fix in the middle of winter when ice and snow build up over the top of them.

Gutters and downspouts:

Remove all debris from your gutters and downspouts and then run water through them to make sure that all the joints are clean and clear. This can prevent major ice damming, which can lead to leaks on the roof, as well as extend the life of your gutters.

Windows and doors:

Remove your screens and store them inside because strong winter winds can rip them right out of the opening. This also gives you a nice



clear view throughout the winter. Add new or replace damaged weather stripping around doors and windows. Add shrink film for added protection to windows that are not important to your views.

Interior

Furnace:

Have your heating system inspected to make sure it is working well. Replace and/or clean the filters. Purchase a backup thermal couple for low efficiency furnaces or a hot surface igniter for high efficiency furnaces. These little pieces only run about \$25 and they seem to break right in the middle winter. If you are mechanically inclined you may even be able to install it yourself.

Attic fans and roof access panels:

Purchase a cover that seals your attic fan from your local building supply store. The fan is great in the summer but is only a hole in your ceiling in the winter. Also, most access panels are just pieces of plywood laying in an opening but do not stop the heat from escaping. Weather stripping the perimeter and adhering several inches of rigid foam insulation to the cold side of the panel will stop the heat loss.

House Talk

By turning an unfinished basement into a lower level retreat and outdoor living connection, a young family's home will be complete for years to come.

We have designed many lower level spaces and the first thing we always hear from the home owners is "What do we do with these ugly posts and how do we cover them up?" Our usual answer is that we use them to help organize the space. Most homes have fairly efficient post layouts so we can usually use what they have and only occasionally have to remove or relocate them.

When this young family approached

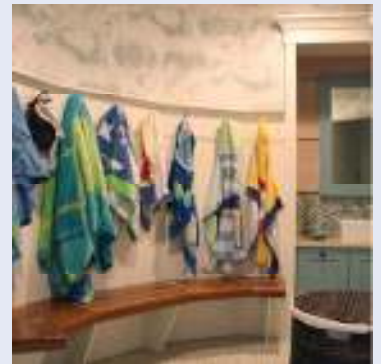
have it's own special identity.

Originally, the home owners thought that having the kitchen adjacent to the stairs would allow for a more open feel upon arrival via the stairs. However, as the design developed we found that placing the kitchen closer to the core would allow for better flow and connections to all the other spaces. We also found through the

project sketchbook



B—Living Room & Kitchen



C—Bath/Changing Room



D—Living Room

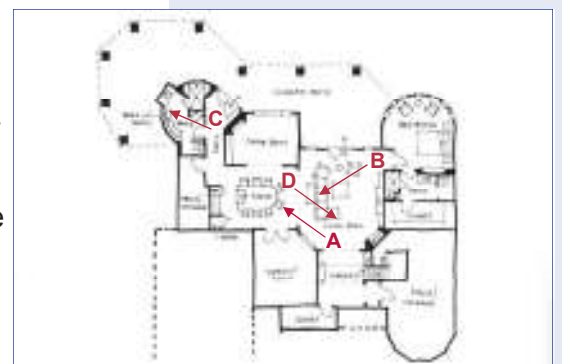


A—Kitchen & Game Room

us to create a space that they could grow into for many years to come, we went to work analyzing and documenting the existing unfinished space including locations of mechanical ducts, plumbing pipes, ceiling heights, steel posts, beams, etc. We then used this information to develop sketches, taking into account what they want and need. Connecting the lower level to the outdoor living spaces, including pool and patio area, was a high priority. They also wanted the space to be able to tie into the existing character of their home, but also allow it to

design process that a large island with plentiful seating would encourage gatherings that the family enjoys, rather than using the space for a full-scale kitchen.

By the way, on this project, we did have to remove two steel posts. However, it was necessary and valuable to achieve the end goal. Now, the elated home owners can't imagine it any other way.



Lower Level Plan Sketch

Builder: Don at Fischhaber Builders—810.516.9688

Furnishings: Lori at Continental Interior Design—810.629.7211

Price continued...

Several years ago we purchased a vehicle for our family. We found a fair priced vehicle and then *haggled* on a PRICE. Normal car buying techniques, right? Nope. About 3 years after we purchased the car I started to feel guilty for what I did. I prayed about it and the Lord told me that I had stolen food off of his (car salesman) table. I tried to brush it off figuring that this is what everyone does because it was only a couple hundred dollars. However, the guilt didn't go away. So I prayed again and the Lord told me to give him more money than I originally haggled over and I reluctantly agreed. I went to deliver the money but the salesman was on vacation at the time so I placed on his desk the money and a letter apologizing for my greed. Immediately, I felt the guilt & anxiety removed. I learned that **I need** to pay a FAIR PRICE, meaning it benefited the both of us. If I don't, then I am stealing from someone and that thing doesn't belong to me.

In the next issue we will jump into **QUALITY**... the most difficult to define because no two people look at it the same.



Chris Macklin

being green enough? continued...

An important thing to keep in mind is that you don't need an extensive list to check off in order to begin your greening process. Start off with very simple techniques that fit within your everyday lives. A good place to start is with the waste created in the kitchen. We all like to eat and spend time there, and because of that much waste is produced from this process. Most of our kitchen byproducts seem like garbage, but with a different perspective it can look more like gold.

One example is to eat your leftovers. Stretching today's dinner into tomorrow's lunch will not only reduce waste, but will also save time and money. We have all had that container of "I don't know what it is" sitting in the back of our refrigerator for weeks. That would have made a perfectly good meal the day after it was made but now it is starting to form a new species of life. In fact, many dishes are actually more flavorful the next day.

Another example are the vegetable and fruit scraps created from meal preparation. Add some grass clippings, leaves, shredded newspaper or coffee grounds to those scraps and you've got yourself sustainable food for your garden or household plants. Don't get too technical about

your compost mixture at first or else you may feel like you need a degree in chemical engineering. Just get the compost pile going and turn it over on occasion. Find a spot in your yard that is fairly accessible from the kitchen or else it will be too inconvenient to get it going. We keep a large bowl in our sink to collect the daily scraps and then we take it to the compost pile after dinner that evening. See the "compost guy.com" link below for further instructions. There are many things in a kitchen that can be composted or recycled rather than thrown into the garbage.

The links below will help you get started in other areas as you grow your green wings. See the "yankodesign.com" link below once you're wings are full grown.

Links for Getting Green
www.thegreenguide.com
www.greenerchoices.org
www.motherearthnews.com
www.compostguy.com
http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/article/0,,20152458,00.html
www.yankodesign.com/2010/02/01/ultra-ponic-superstars/

What we do ...

Founded in 2001, Christopher S. Macklin Design, Incorporated is a residential design firm that specializes in the design of fine new homes, renovations and additions. Our focus is to provide each client with creative and personal solutions for their unique needs. Each client is distinct; therefore each project should reflect this by being one of a kind. Throughout the design process, we work to polish our client's dreams and ambitions to arrive at a functional and aesthetically pleasing home.

Design Services

- New Homes
- Remodels & Additions
- Facade Renovations
- Feasibility Studies
- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Universal & Aging-in-Place Design
- Interior Design
- Renderings (Concept & Character Drawings)

Scope of Services

- Pre-Design & Planning
- Preliminary Design
- Zoning Board Submittals
- Schematic Design w/ Cost Estimate
- Construction Documents
- Bidding & Negotiating
- Construction Observation
- Project Management



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