

▶ **UTILIZING EVERY SQUARE FOOT**
ORGANIZING A HOME INTO SEPERATE ZONES (UTILITY, PUBLIC, AND PRIVATE) HELPS AVOID THE CREATION REDUNTANT SPACES..... 2

▶ **UTILIZING EVERY SQUARE FOOT**
A HOME'S UNIQUENESS COMES THROUGH WHEN EACH SQUARE FOOT IS CAREFULLY THOUGHT THROUGH..... 3

▶ **APPLIANCE CONVENIENCE**
IF YOUR APPLIANCES NO LONGER MAKE YOUR LIFE CONVENIENT THEN NOW MAY BE A GOOD TIME TO CONSIDER UPGRADING..... 4

Macklin Design DRAWING



**PERSONAL INSIGHT
INTO DESIGNING YOUR
FINE HOME**

interests

Utilizing every square foot you own

We have decided to dedicate our first annual Holiday issue to helping you utilize every square foot you own, both inside and outside.

By walking through the design process of a new residence it will help you identify those underutilized spaces in your existing home.

Far too often, when we are first approached by a potential remodel/addition client, they come with the expectation of adding square footage to a home that doesn't even need it. Poor layout of existing spaces leads to much unrest in our homes, and many times the problems can be solved simply by reworking the interior rather than punching through an exterior wall. Unfortunately, many of our homes have largely unused rooms and circulation areas that we feel we need to hold on to. In this new home we kept circulation and unused rooms to a minimum and, as a result, the homeowners live in and utilize the entire residence.

Efficiency and well-proportioned spaces are key elements in this home. The homeowners brought with them a realistic expectation of a home that would fit the two of them. They did not want to pay the price of designing and building out rooms that would be used only a few times each year. Holidays and dinner parties would simply have to be fit into the spaces that were designed for two. Instead, they opted to invest in quality materials and fine craftsmanship that resulted in beautiful and pleasing spaces.



This photo shows four functions that take place everyday in your own home (eating, food preparation, circulation, and tv viewing) all combined into one shared space.

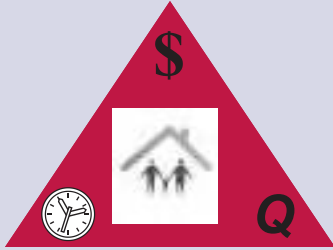
COMING NEXT ISSUE

- *Changing up a room layout, subtle changes make a big impact*
 - *Remodel vs. Addition*
 - *Timing IS everything*

drawing conclusions

editorial by chris macklin

Price, Quality,
Time & People



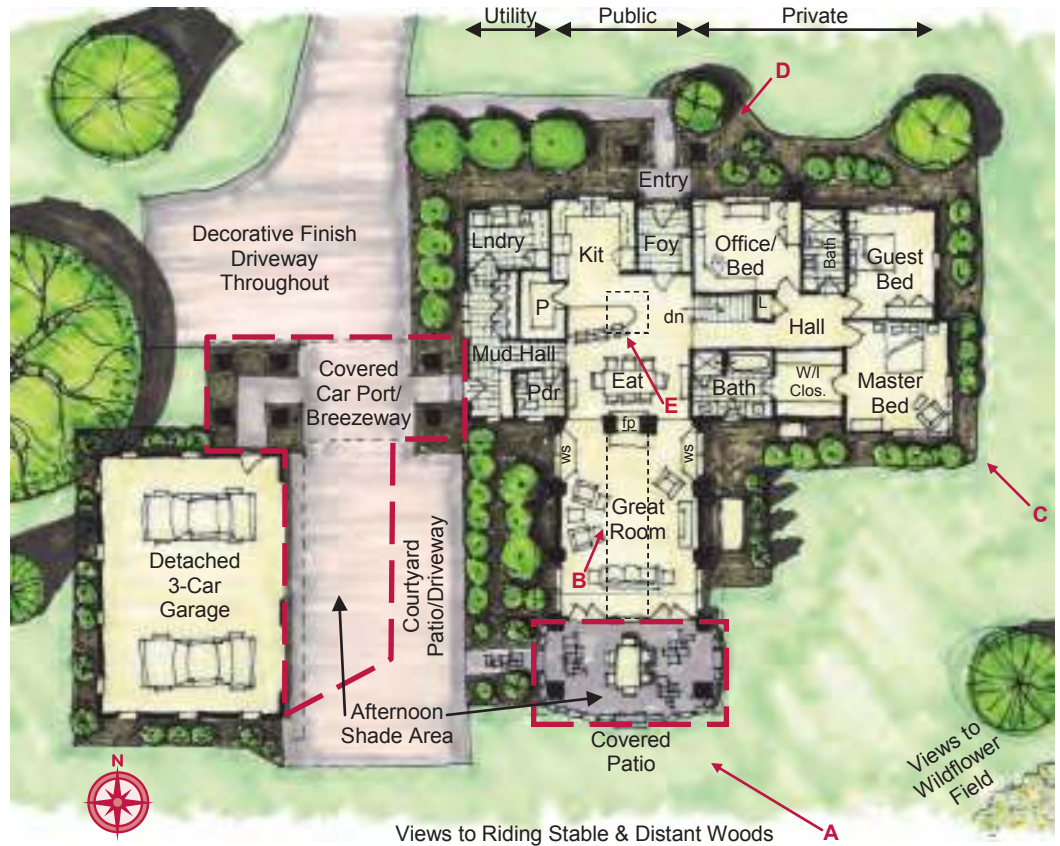
In the last issue we discussed that we need to be *PRICE*-conscious; not only for ourselves, but also for the other people involved. In this issue I will cover the second point, *QUALITY*, which can be confusing because it differs greatly from person to person.

Most of us would agree that we have expensive taste... until we see the price. Then we try to convince ourselves that we aren't really asking for much...only mid-grade. At that point, we either end up with a lower quality product, or we end up frustrated that we paid a price that we feel was too high. Sometimes we just need to be encouraged that it's okay to invest in quality.

In this newsletter's featured home, quality—not quantity—was everything. The homeowners were not looking for a large home, but they wanted beautiful materials applied with superior craftsmanship. They also wanted each space to be meaningful—no room should go unused.

Continued on page 4

Utilizing every square foot



Three distinct zones are found in this fine home—utility, public, and private. As you can see in the illustration above, none of the zones bleeds into the other—each is distinct and is connected to the next logical space. Because of this simple massing, there are no redundant spaces.

In Utility, there is a Mud Hall, Laundry, Storage and Powder Room. The flooring is a durable resilient tile that stands up to the snowiest grandkids' boots. Additionally, the adjacent location of the covered carport makes the detachment of the garage inconsequential. The homeowners use it as a convenient "valet" area that makes carrying in groceries a breeze.

Pulling the garage away from the house not only allowed the house to remain a comfortable scale, but also it provided an outdoor courtyard space that is the homeowner's favorite spot on hot summer days.

It is worth mentioning that the homeowners do not drive large SUVs—if they did, this particular space would not have ended up being as quaint as it is. Human beings like the feeling of being in a proportionately scaled space. We enjoy not being squished and oppressed as much as we enjoy not being overpowered by too large of a surrounding.

In Public, the Kitchen—with attached Pantry—flows easily into the Eating area that is bedecked by the rugged elegance of a double-sided fireplace. The fireplace helps to delineate the Great Room from the Eating area, as well as providing a sound buffer between the rooms. As a daylighting feature, clerestory windows were added to the core of this space to provide indirect lighting and to add more depth of interest to an otherwise flat ceiling (see cover page for a photo of this space).

project sketchbook

In the Great Room, a long clerestory spans the length of the room to provide a dramatic daylighting feature. The vast amount of glass in this space is anchored by the warm tones of Douglas Fir, so that even on the coldest winter day the room feels cozy (see photo B, at right). As you step through the French doors out onto the covered patio, you get a sense that the patio is a true extension of the Great Room with the regularity of the columns, as well as the matching tongue-and-groove Douglas Fir ceiling.

the need for extra circulation space to the bathroom, but also provides a necessary sound buffer for the early riser. Views of the wildflower field are captured through the stair-stepped windows at the corner of the bedroom (see photo C, at right).

Another unique characteristic of this home is the use of large armoires in lieu of built-in closets in the second and third bedrooms. The benefits: it conserves space, it is more economical, and it also provides a wonderful esthetic in the rooms. Additionally, we were able to



B—Great Room



A—Shade Courtyard/Covered Patio



C—Views to Landscape



D—Covered Entry

In keeping with the concept of utilizing every square foot, the Great Room window seats were made into storage benches for the grandchildren's toys, and the decorative pilasters that help order the space visually also house the return air grilles for the HVAC system.

In Private, the ceiling height comes down and the Bedrooms and Office have a very comfortable and restful scale. The master suite features a walk-thru closet that not only deletes

specify each detail of the armoires to flow with the craftsman details that are found throughout the home.

We hope this has inspired you. If you need fresh ideas and help identifying redundant areas, or if you are considering a new home that utilizes some of these concepts, we would love to be part of that process with you.



E—Kitchen

Builder: Patrick Widing Custom Homes—810.750.8855



[HTTP://MACKLINDSIGN.WORDPRESS.COM](http://macklinedesign.wordpress.com)

homeLIFE BLOG



[HTTP://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/PUB/CHRIS-MACKLIN/22/A49/704](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/Chris-Macklin/22/A49/704)



3

Quality, continued...

It's important to remember that our "quality of life" should be a high priority. Wasted spaces in our homes nag at us. They nag at us to clean them, they nag at us to use them, and they nag at us to pay for them to be heated and cooled—even when they aren't being used.

So, what is quality to you? It's going to look different in each of our homes, and in each of our lives. Maybe you value quality materials, or maybe you're a sentimental person, and family heirlooms and precious tokens of memories are of highest importance to you. Maybe you value a quality process—one in which price, quality, time and people are all held in a balanced proportion. It's worth setting aside some time to evaluate your personal priorities before you step into any new project. Then you can confidently, and much more enjoyably, engage in the process.

In the next issue for this segment we will discuss how **TIMING** is truly everything.

Appliance convenience

If your appliances are no longer making your life convenient, then now is a great time to consider upgrading. More efficient technologies, substantial manufacturers rebates, and a local expert can make your decision easier.

When appliances work correctly they can be a wonderful convenience in our lives. However, when they are inefficient and problematic they become a major source of frustration. If your family finds itself in the latter situation then we have good news for you. Currently, most appliance manufacturers are offering substantial rebates on many of their models.

A well respected distributor of many major brands in southeast Michigan is Specialties Showroom. However, they don't just sell the products (although they do that very well at extremely competitive prices to even the big box retailers) but they also use their knowledge and expertise to find out what will best suit your needs. We have teamed with Tim Priest, the sales team leader, on many projects because of his attention to detail and timeliness. So when you need help, contact Tim so he can make the process more enjoyable.



To find out more about the increasingly efficient technologies as well as the latest manufacturers rebates you can go to the Specialties Showroom website at www.specialtiesshowroom.com. You can set up an appointment by calling 248.548.5656 or emailing tim@specialtiesshowroom.com. Their showroom is located at 2800 West Eleven Mile Rd. in Berkley, MI.

In case you didn't get the memo, gas appliances are no longer the **ONLY** best option.

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



Chris Macklin



14165 N. FENTON RD., STE. 203A
FENTON, MI 48430



810.714.0000



MACKLINDESIGN.COM
UNDER CONSTRUCTION



CHRIS@MACKLINDESIGN.COM



4