

FALL 2011

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Macklin Design DRAWING

interests

**PERSONAL INSIGHT
INTO DESIGNING YOUR
FINE HOME**

Our First 10 Years

When we look back on the last 10 years, we see a wide range of experiences. We were blessed with all of our 4 daughters being born within that time. Our business has evolved from a hope and a prayer that we weren't sure would make it's mark, to a decade old business that has been blessed to survive this latest, crazy economic environment.

Our diverse portfolio has been built by projects that range from boat-houses and porch additions to grand estates that sprawl over several acres with multiple buildings. We feel blessed to have served families with a wide range of needs. We have designed for healthy active families, and we have designed for those who are in need of a remodel or addition because of sudden physical and/or mental capability changes in their lives. Each of you has been precious to us, and the privilege of knowing you intimately by design-

ing spaces that meet your exact needs will never be taken for granted. It truly is a privilege to serve you, and we don't take it lightly.

We're still here...and we plan to continue to be here. Through the struggle to stay afloat the past couple of years, an even greater desire has been birthed in us, and our focus and intentions have been refined. We feel like we haven't even scratched the surface of the quality of personal service that we intend to provide in the coming years.

So, what does the next 10 years hold? Well, those little girls in the picture will look a whole lot different and probably 1 or 2 of them will be helping out in the design of your or your children's home. Coming from Janice and myself, design is in their blood and we can



Photo by Julie Melendez

already see a couple of apples that won't fall far from the tree.

The story will continue to be the same in that our service is all we have to give to you...you are the reason that we are still here. From our family to yours—Thank You.

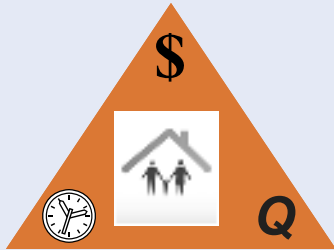
WE'VE MOVED

**Our new location is
12940 Old Farm Court
Hartland, MI 48353**

drawing conclusions

editorial by chris macklin

Price, Quality, Time & People



In the last issue we discussed **QUALITY** and how having a quality process needs to be a high priority because it balances out the pyramid above. In this issue we will cover how crucial **TIMING** is to everything. In the book of Ecclesiastes it talks about how there is a season (time) for every purpose under heaven: a time to tear down and a time to build.

I would like to share with you two stories in our life that illustrate the struggle of being patient for the right timing. The first story took place about 6 years ago when our family was growing out of our house in Fenton. We thought it was a great time for us to build our modest dream home. We even started to scope out different properties to see what would best fit our desires. Before we dove too far into the process, I prayed to God to see if this was the right thing to do. He revealed to me that we could build, but the outcome would be me losing my family for a year because our plan was for me to design and manage the construction project. (cont. pg. 4)

The Changing Landscape

Fall is a great time to landscape. When Spring arrives your yard will be ready to

If you ever attempted to design and install your own landscape, then you probably recognize the importance of having an expert available to help you mentally sort out the details and physically take care of all the (sometimes back-breaking) labor. We met with three local experts, landscape designers Chuck and Johanne Tindall of Creative Scapes and landscape contractor Ryan Payment of Outdoor Living, to identify key reasons how value is added to your property when you enlist the help of professionals.

The benefits of hiring a landscape designer are many. With their expert knowledge of plant material (these people actually know what all those Latin words mean) and their ability to envision the landscape throughout each season and each phase of installation, they help you to avoid expensive “tear outs” and “redos”. So, their fee of approximately 3% of total project cost, is money well spent. Most of us regular folk know exactly what we don’t want.... but few can identify exactly what we do want. The Tindalls know the questions to ask that will help establish the project priorities. They have a keen eye for design and are sensitive to how the selection and placement of materials will accentuate the architecture of your home. From staggering blooms throughout the growing season to selecting shrubs and evergreens that will have winter interest as well, a landscape can be aesthetically pleasing all 12 months of the year...yes, even in Michigan.

Chuck and Johanne will not only design your planting beds, layout of driveways, patios, walkways, pools and exterior lighting, but they will also help you qual-



ify your landscape contractor by inspecting the quality of the projects that they have installed. They will also look for wavy or uneven patio and walkways, cracks in patios, standing or pooling water, health of plant materials and trees, and overall quality of work.

That’s where Ryan Payment comes into the picture. He loves what he does so much that he installs beauty in his own yard. He is very careful to work closely with the designers, homeowners, and install crew to ensure that the design intent is carried out. Many clients come to Ryan with questions about material pricing and process. He says that hardscaping, retaining walls, patios and walkways make up about 50%-75% of the total project cost, with limestone walls (\$50 per faced square foot) being about 2 times the cost of boulder walls (\$25 pfsf). Two more important considerations are drainage (approx. 5% of total cost) and irrigation (approx. 8%-10% of total cost), which is needed for 1 year warranties on plant materials.

By bringing these local experts on board for your next outdoor project, you can just kick back and relax in the hammock, surrounded by your beautiful, new outdoor living space.

See page 4 for experts contact info.



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House Talk

Style doesn't have to be defined when the character is carefully crafted.

Sometimes the design of a beautiful home begins with the ability to spread out over a large piece of property with many options for layout at your fingertips. Sometimes it begins with one strong view that the homeowner wants to see from all main spaces in the house. And sometimes, a truly great home begins with severe site constraints that completely dictate where each square foot of the house can sit on the site. The latter is the story of this fine home.

that with creativity and determination, liabilities can become assets.

The homeowners, Pat & Toni Widing and their kids, Luke & Corina, are creative people who came with a storehouse of great ideas. When I stand in their home, I can stand in one spot for a long period of time and never look at the same thing twice. There are so many beautiful and intriguing ideas that my eye wanders

project sketchbook



Lake Elevation



Photo by Adam Cooke

With a high water table, wetlands, and a limited building envelope, concessions had to be made up front in order to proceed with initial design sketches. The luxury of a walkout basement, or even a finished lower level, had to be abandoned because of the high water table, but the “walkable” crawlspace that resulted has become valuable storage space for the homeowners. The wetlands dictated the placement of the driveway, and the result is an inviting approach to the home that allows visitors to capture a full view of the lake as they park their cars. The limited building envelope led to an exciting design with lots of movement and interest in the floor plan. It is clear to see in this home

around endlessly, trying to take it all in. The Widings' goal was that their home would be a collection of appealing experiences that could not be labeled by one style. Rustic beams and columns that appear to be driftwood that just floated to shore, were hand-distressed by Pat, and on them are hidden messages and images that are precious and meaningful to the family. I find myself constantly entertaining my curiosity by searching for a mark that might have been purposely placed rather than randomly struck by a hammer or a chisel. (continued on page 4)



Dining Room



Daughter's Room



Sun Room



Time continued...

Funny, He didn't say "yes" nor did he say "no" but God gave me the outcome and then let me decide. I also realized that losing them for one year could take 10 years to heal. The cost was too great, so rather than building our dream home, we moved into someone else's dream home. Indeed, it was time to move the family to another home, just not one that we designed and built ourselves. It taught us that just because we can do something doesn't mean we should. Conversely, when we should do it, then we can.

The next story happened about 3 years ago during an unlikely time to build, when the realty and construction market took a very sharp decline. The home we had moved into desperately needed new landscaping but I didn't want to take from our savings to pay for it. Once again, I prayed for direction. It was revealed that the landscaping needed to happen but I was treating my savings too sacredly. I tried to play it financially safe and started to do a lot of the work myself. Everything went wrong with this approach because I missed the point. It was time to do the landscaping but it wasn't for me to do because I needed to pay someone to do it. A couple of issues back we discussed **PRICE** and how making it the most important priority will cloud our vision. We can plan all we want, but only God knows the correct timing and the outcome. In the next issue we will wrap up this series with **PEOPLE**...the reason the whole process begins.

House Talk continued

Set into a cove that is surrounded by this rustic woodwork are beautiful and refined cabinets and furniture pieces—a combination of styles that, in theory, should not work, but in reality is very appealing to my eyes. I'm still standing in the kitchen, and I turn around to see the double islands and magnificent views of the lake, and I can't shake the feeling that I must cook something—now! The scale of the space is so comfortable and inviting that I can envision myself baking and preparing meals tirelessly for hours on end. And yet, I turn to the dining area and living room with their warm tones of wood and comfortable seating (not to mention the impressive stone fireplace), and I know that it's

also easy to relax and unwind in this home.

Outside, with an expertly designed and installed landscape, there are a series of outdoor rooms that continue the theme of, well...no theme! Each space offers a completely different, yet equally enticing, experience. From the covered pergola with plush seating to the sandy beach, and from the grilling patio to the rocky "cliffs" that children love to conquer, endless options for relaxation and entertainment are readily available. When it comes down to the bottom line, it's a family that makes a home. And this family has made this home truly spectacular. by Janice Macklin

Builder & Owner: Patrick Widing Custom Homes—810.750.8855
Landscape Designer: Creative Scapes—810.610.8985
Landscape Contractor: Outdoor Living—248.875.9161



Photo by Pete Reynolds

What we do ...

Founded in 2001, Christopher Macklin Design, 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
- Inclusive 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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