

PARAGON

A Home-Sweet-Home for a couple with five children. Large families have very specific needs and ideas when they set out to build a custom home. Their approach is needs-driven with a sharp focus on the independent life-style needs of each individual and how each of them will use the living spaces provided. It is like a school teacher setting up activity zones throughout a class room, planning for tasks, interests and socialization. A large family sorts it out so that it is convenient, manageable and fun. If a home has ever loved the children that reside inside it, this is the one.

SPOTLIGHT

Driving or boating around our largest body of water in North Carolina, it becomes abundantly clear that families relocating to this area are bringing the architectural styles and preferences from their previous locations with them. The

Lake Norman community is an architectural feast for the eyes. There are a wide diversity of luxury home designs that have been influenced mostly by people moving to Charlotte for corporate positions. When this client moved here, they had a design

aesthetic in mind that would remind them of their roots in New England. Their new residence is 11,501 sq. ft. under roof, of which 7,197 sq. ft. is heated. From the main cupola centered on the

▼ *A bird's-eye view on Lake Norman.*







◀ *Clean lines of shiplap and a barn door provides access to the laundry.*

roof, one can see Grandfather Mountain in Linville over 100 miles away. The front exterior is traditional in its complete symmetry of shapes, details and features that are typical of a northeastern colonial home.

The contrast between the brick-faced double car garages and the main house creates a pleasing visual frame. For the interior, the client took advantage of trending opportunities to be more transitional with a light and airy open-space concept. Rooms flow into one another and are detailed with popular décor.

▲ *Straight-on view of symmetric design and cabinet style swing door (right)*

They accented many walls with shiplap, and applied generous white millwork throughout the more formal living spaces. The kitchen cabinetry conceals a door to the scullery, designed to blend in when shut. The stainless-steel





shroud hood is a custom design that compliments the subway tile beautifully as a contrasting element. There is a home office to the right of the foyer with full glass doors facing a formal dining room.

On the lower level there are functional spaces for the children: A bunk room that sleeps 8, a bathroom featuring an antique-style high back cast iron porcelain bucket sink and a built-in cubby wall for pool towels.

A summer kitchen in the lower level, facing the backyard pool is part of a large recreational space for the entire family to enjoy.

The window above the sink slides open to the pool, showing off an outdoor circular iron staircase that links the covered terrace with the pool, backyard and pier.

▼ *Clockwise from left: bunk room, stairwell, antique bucket sink, built-in cubby, covered terrace with sky lights and summer kitchen with sliding window.*

With all the traditional formality of the exterior, it is an exciting surprise to enter the house and feel a more informal and clean-touch interior with much less, but appropriate detailing. 🌀

THE A-TEAM

Home Design:
Elite Design Group
Hardwood:
The Hardwood Company
Granite Tops:
Surface Products, Inc.
Bath Hardware:
Barefoot & Company
Cabinets:
Rowan Custom Cabinets
Windows & Entrance:
Windows & Door Pro

DESIGNING HIS OWN WAY

DRAWING INTO TO REALITY

Q&A

Q So is it true that you are a self-taught home design genius?

A Ha-ha, well I was always interested in architecture and then just randomly decided later on in life to do just that. I had to learn about it to be successful at it.

Q How do you like to work?

A No day is the same, but the one common practice is to start with four shots of espresso to get my creative juices flowing. I draw mostly in my living room around my kids. It keeps me in the right zone to be productive.

Q Tell me more about your company?

A Elite Design Group was established in 2003. We have built a reputation for providing unique home designs with a classic, timeless elegance. We also have always had a wide range of stock plans for purchase called the EDG Plan Collection. A homeowner can search for plans based on their specific needs on our website. It's pretty cool.

Q What kind of styles have you designed?

A I have always been interested in designing different aesthetics from traditional to modern. Being versatile is one of our strengths and it makes designing more fun. Whether a homeowner wants an English estate or modern prairie design, we're delighted to do it. Even working with Grainda, we have designed and built a wide variety of styles over the years.

Q What was the inspiration behind the Grainda-built project



*JJ. Barta, CEO & Lead Designer
Elite Design Group*

featured in this issue?

A Primarily the style Q's – as I call them – are derived from the homeowner's love from their years in New England. They brought many images to meetings of Northeastern Colonial style.

Q What was the decision behind having the garages in the front elevation clad in brick?

A The concept was to introduce a different veneer or surface so that the main structure stands out. It's kind of like visually framing a portrait.

Q What is the process at your company once you start a custom home project?

A Well I think one thing that differentiates us, is that we do not want to take the initial drawings too far along. And we have to educate homeowners to understand why. Too often, homeowners are presented with drawings that they fall in love with only to learn that they cannot afford to build it. That creates so many

disappointments, problems and delays. I really prefer that my clients understand the cost in great detail. What is the price per sq. ft. to construct this concept?

This is something that Grainda is as focused on as we are. There is nothing worse than a homeowner being crushed by disappointing news during the creative process.

You can be as creative as you want to be, but ultimately price per sq. ft. drives everything.

Q What is the best way to avoid these pitfalls?

A Well I like to say, let's have educational conversations. You know? Ideally, I want people to get educated on pricing before drawing if possible. I always say, "Make sure your vision is real." Ask questions and reach out to people in the industry.

Establishing a budget is probably the most important thing you will spend time on.

Then you can sit back and enjoy the process with a design and build team that knows your goals and will do everything to stick to those thresholds. Even if it is advising you further.

Dreaming of that dream home is best when it is within the confines of reality.

Q What do you like most about working with Grainda?

A This sounds oversimplified, but it is nice to work with pleasant people. This is a good group of men and women, who enjoy and excel at what they do. Being on a team like that is always a plus.

BUNK ROOM FRENZY

SLEEPOVER SOLUTIONS SOAR

TRENDS



There is a break-away trend in custom homes and it is not just for kids anymore. No matter how old we get, we'll always have a soft spot in our hearts for bunk beds, the fun we had in them and who got the top bunk. Designer Casey Gerber muses, "Nothing beats climbing up the ladder, seeing your room from a bird's-eye view, and chatting with your bottom bunk mate until you both fall asleep. And in the words of Will Ferrell's character in Step Brothers: There's so much more room for activities!"

Lately designers have been upping the chic factor, making these space-saving room concepts

◀ *View of a different design option for a bunk room where the lower bunks are full to queen beds.*

beautiful built-ins that create lasting convenience and value in a custom home. Since the quality of the designs are endless, bunk rooms offer the ultimate in versatility.

They allow yours to be the house that easily welcomes elementary school slumber parties, post-prom sleepovers, and weekend reunions hosted by your college-age kids.

Chicago-based architect, Elissa Morgante, recommends furnishing your children's bedrooms with queen beds, so that if adult guests stay overnight, the kids can relocate to the bunk room.

But let's face it. Adults like to bunk too and even Forbes Maga-

zine remarked that bunk rooms offer a smart solution for homeowners who host overnight guests throughout the year whether it is family or friends.

Architectural Digest refers to bunk rooms as a sophisticated version of a sleepover space that can allow a homeowner to efficiently make excellent use of small or oddly-shaped spaces.

Bottom line: bunk rooms are here to stay and it is a new frontier in creative ideation. Parents won't fret anymore about how to handle this question: "Mom, can we have a sleepover...please??"

▼ *Charming rustic, reclaimed wood bunk room for adults, designed with comfort and entertaining in mind.*



JOE'S MAINTENANCE CHECK LIST FOR YOUR HOUSE

Replace furnace filters once a month

Clean gutters to prevent unnecessary roof leaks from leaves and winter ice build up

Check weather stripping around doors/windows and replace if necessary

Close crawlspace vents (if applicable)

A hard freeze could burst pipes. Turn off outdoor spigots prior to first forecasted freeze

Check fireplace chimney for soot build-up and clean professionally if needed

Schedule irrigation winterization (if applicable)