

At Home with QMA

SUMMER 2011

Concepts for Your Home

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QMA Wins *Remodeling* Magazine's Big50 Award



QMA Design+Build has been chosen by *Remodeling* magazine as one of the nation's Big50 remodelers. Being a "Big50" doesn't mean QMA is one of America's *biggest* remodeling firms. Instead, it means the remodeling industry has recognized us for our big ideas.

Each year, from among hundreds of companies of all sizes, *Remodeling* magazine recognizes a select 50 who have set the highest standard for professionalism, integrity, excellence and best practices. Awards are given in categories ranging from fine design to teamwork and business savvy. This is the second time a QMA company has received this prestigious award.

While it's rewarding to get recognized by our industry, the real reward is having clients who appreciate excellence and give us the opportunity to do our very best work. Thank you!

For all the details on QMA's Big50 award, please see our website.

Q|M|A
Design+Build

A Better "Brand" of Design Build Remodeling and Custom Home Building

Many of you know the term "design/build." It's the approach that we use here at QMA, but we do it a little differently from other remodelers and new home builders. The difference in our design/build approach is right there in our name: **QMA Design+Build**. The "A" in our firm's name stands for Architects, and we're not simply design/build, but Design *and* Build. Here's why these distinctions make such a difference in helping clients create dream homes here along the Jersey Shore.

For starters, let's look at the traditional design/build approach. Homeowners like this way of working for several reasons. First, they can work with one firm from start to finish instead of having to deal with an architectural firm for the design and then find a remodeling contractor who can build the plans the way the homeowners and architect envision.

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QMA is the winner of numerous regional and national awards including:

2007 Top 500 Remodelers



2006 Master Design AWARDS

Concepts for Your Home



Photos: C. 2010 James F. Wilson / Courtesy BUILDER magazine

For thirteen years, *BUILDER* magazine has presented a Concept Home to attendees of the annual International Builders Show as an educational tool showcasing new ideas and products to remodelers and homebuilders. For 2011, the magazine partnered with KB Home and Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia to create its latest presentation.

This 2,667-square-foot suburban Orlando home is a traditional residence for middle-class buyers, yet at every turn it demonstrates a broad array of resource efficiency and sustainability practices and products. In fact, the home was designed and built to achieve a net-zero energy balance and earned a LEED for Homes Platinum rating, among several other green building certifications.

In almost every case, the green features are simple, common sense ideas using proven and off-the-shelf materials and products that can easily be applied to your remodeling or new home project.

Green Features:

- High efficiency windows, lighting, and lighting controls contribute to energy savings.
- Low VOC interior paint contributes to a healthy indoor environment.

- ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances and WaterSense™ labeled plumbing fixtures conserve valuable resources.
- A compost collector is installed in the counter next to the kitchen sink in preference to a garbage disposal.
- A tubular skylight brings natural daylight into a windowless laundry room.
- Water is heated by rooftop solar panels and distributed from an 80-gallon tank.
- Sink water is collected, filtered and redistributed for outside irrigation.
- An energy recovery ventilator recaptures up to 80% of conditioned temperatures and transfers that energy to the incoming fresh air.
- Foam insulation sprayed on the underside of the roof deck and a cool roof system significantly reduce the home's cooling energy demand.
- An array of roof-mounted photovoltaic tiles generates enough electricity to offset the home's annual consumption.
- A web-based home energy monitoring system lets the owners track their energy consumption and production.
- A bioswale and other landscape features promote natural storm water drainage.
- A modular rainwater storage system reduces potable water demand.

In addition to these green features, the home displays classic good looks and a thoughtful, functional floor plan that flows seamlessly into the outdoor living areas. Flex spaces and a generous amount of storage suits a family's ever-changing needs.



An online virtual tour of the home is available at www.builderconcepthome2011.com



Photo: C. 2010 James F. Wilson / Courtesy BUILDER magazine

The 2011 Concept Home
ERV unit by Broan

Needing to Vent

Our modern, tightly built homes reduce energy costs in part by not permitting heated or conditioned air to escape through windows and doors. Tight homes depend on their ventilation systems to clear the air, but sometimes these are not sufficient. We may resort to opening the windows to get rid of stale air. However, as clean-smelling outdoor air wafts in through our windows, along with it come pollutants and moisture from the outside. Pollutants, such as dust or pollen, can contribute to health problems, as can the mold and mildew caused by



Photos: Courtesy of Blanco
(www.blancoamerica.com)



Salon compost system by Blanco

Trash Talk

Of all the rooms in the home, the kitchen is the space where the typical American family generates the most trash. Vegetable or fruit scraps remain after you prepare a salad. You are left with empty plastic bottles, glass jars, and metal cans when you cook.

With our increased awareness of the advantages of sustainable living, it is good

for all of us to consider how changing our purchasing habits can diminish the amount of trash our cooking generates. The most eco-friendly practice is to avoid pre-packaged food by purchasing fresh food items or even growing your own. If you don't have space for a traditional garden, consider replacing some of the decorative landscaping around your home with edible plants. Install an interior window garden for growing herbs year around.

When a hectic day demands a certain amount of convenience cooking, many people do not have a place near at hand to separate all the empty bottles and cans for recycling. Installing attractive base cabinets with several slide out recycling bins in an easily accessible location in your kitchen lets you immediately separate recyclables from trash. When the process is simple, you and your family members are more likely to do it. Purchase washable dishcloths for cleaning up kitchen surfaces during meal preparation. This will help you cut back on the amount of disposable paper towels filling up your trash can.

Reducing the number of items going into your trash is a win-win situation: fewer trips to take out the trash and less trash in the landfill!



Photos: Courtesy of NatureMill
(www.naturemill.com)

When you do cook with fresh foods, allow leftover organic matter—like egg shells and orange peelings—to decay and return to the soil, rather than tossing it in the trash or grinding it down the disposal. A stainless steel compost container with a tight-fitting lid may be installed in your kitchen countertop next to the sink to hold food scraps until you are ready to take them outside for composting. The NatureMill composter offers even greater convenience. Concealed inside a cabinet, it is designed to turn your food scraps into compost in two weeks—right in your kitchen.



NatureMill automatic indoor composter



Photo: Courtesy of Merillat
(www.merillat.com)

Slide out recycling bins from Merillat

the extra humidity. In addition, our home's heating or cooling energy goes out the window, raising energy costs.

Heat- or energy-recovery ventilators (HRV/ERV) can enhance air quality by exchanging stale indoor air with fresh, filtered outside air. You can enjoy the fresh-air feel of an open window with virtually little or no heat or energy loss.

Here's how it works:

1. One set of ducts collects stale moist air from the bathrooms, kitchen and laundry room. This air passes through the HRV/

ERV unit and is exhausted to the outside.

2. The other ducting system draws in fresh clean air from outdoors through the HRV/ERV unit.

3. There is no mixing of air streams.

- HRV: As the two air streams pass each other within the unit, heat is transferred from the outgoing stale air to the fresh incoming air. The HRV is designed for cooler climates.
- ERV: As the two air streams pass each other within the unit, heat and moisture from the fresh incoming air is transferred to the stale outgoing air. The ERV is designed for warmer climates.

4. Filtered, preconditioned fresh air is delivered to the living areas of your home.

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Better "Brand"

Concepts for Your Home

Trash Talk

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Designed for Living, Built for Life

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www.QMAdesignbuild.com



Member of
The American Institute
of Architects

A Better "Brand" of Design Build Remodeling and Custom Home Building

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Second, design/build avoids the disappointments—and costs—often associated with the design/bid/build process where you can end up paying for designs and falling in love with them only to get a construction bid that turns out to be way over what you want to spend. When that happens, it's back to the drawing board (more expense!) and you begin your remodeling project feeling like you're settling for less.

Unfortunately, unless a design/build remodeler offers architect-quality design, you enjoy better control over cost and the construction process, but can still end up feeling you've settled for less in terms of functionality and "wow" factor.

QMA's brand of design + build gives you the best of both worlds!

Both Jeannette Quon and Todd Miller are registered architects. Todd is also a member of the American Institute of Architects. You don't have to work with a separate architectural firm to get excellent design. By applying architectural expertise, QMA gives you exceptional design creativity and innovation—*plus* the traditional design/build advantage of working with a single remodeling firm, start to finish.

The bottom line is that the "+" in our name makes a difference...

Plus, whether we're remodeling a home or building a brand new one, we present



our designs as computer renderings so realistic it's easy to visualize exactly what the finished project will look like.

The detail of these almost photo-realistic designs also creates opportunities to make good designs even better by allowing QMA clients to perfect their homes during the design phase rather than making costly changes after construction has begun.

Best of all, along with each design we present a cost estimate. From flooring to fixtures to room size, we design for your dreams while using price allowances to estimate costs and keep our recommendations aligned with clients' preferences and budgets. While actual product choices aren't made until later, these allowances give our clients a pretty accurate idea of the costs right at the outset

so we can arrive at designs clients love—ones that won't leave them feeling they're ever "settling for less."

With QMA, you go smoothly from design into construction. The architects who designed your plans work directly with the people who build your project. As you can imagine, architects can be extremely demanding about details and workmanship! That's why only the very best craftsmen and suppliers end up working on our projects.

The bottom line is that the "+" in our name makes a difference. It reflects a brand of design/build remodeling that gives you architectural-caliber design *and* high-quality construction, efficiency *and* innovation, plus a project that meets your dreams and your budget.

If you're thinking about remodeling, let's explore how QMA Design+Build can make a difference in helping you create your own dream home.

Just give us a call at **609-822-4949** or email: info@QMAdesignbuild.com.

