

# At Home with QMA

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## Simple Farmhouse Joys

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### QMA FOUNDERS CELEBRATE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AS DESIGN BUILDERS

This year, Todd Miller, AIA and Jeannette Quon, RA celebrate 20 years of working together to design, build and remodel homes along the Jersey Shore. Starting in 1991 as Quon Miller Associates, Todd and Jeannette continue to enjoy the challenge, creativity and deep satisfaction of using their design talents and construction expertise to reward clients with beautiful living spaces that are the perfect fit for their families, personalities and lifestyles.

During the past two decades, the team has won numerous awards including some of the construction industry's most prestigious honors, such as *Qualified Remodeler* magazine's coveted Janus Award. In addition, **QMA** has received regional Contractor of the Year (CotY) Awards from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) three times. **QMA** has also received recognition as one of the nation's "Top 500" remodeling firms by *Qualified Remodeler*. However, we are most proud of our *Remodeling* magazine "Big50" Award which each year recognizes only 50 firms nationwide for excellence in their industry.

Todd notes that "while we have enjoyed winning awards, the real honor has been in building relationships with our clients. Jeannette and I



### Q|M|A Design+Build

have been privileged to work with people who care deeply about their homes and the shore communities where they vacation and have let us use our skills and creativity to help them realize their dreams."

In marking this milestone anniversary, Jeannette says she and Todd are not only looking back, but looking forward to everything from new state-of-the-art, energy-smart High Performance Construction techniques, to new lifestyle challenges which they can help clients meet. One of the greatest challenges is designing homes and creating living environments that respond to the needs of the three different generations of clients that, in many cases, will occupy these homes.

Todd and Jeannette would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you — friends, families, clients, suppliers, and *everyone* — for making these last 20 years not only possible, but wonderful!

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





Photo: Courtesy of ALNO (www.ALNOusa.com)

## Simple Farmhouse Joys

Although we enjoy being non-stop connected to the world with our cell phones and the internet, sometimes we would like to escape all that. We long for quiet moments just to sit at the breakfast table, look out the window and watch the new day begin. The slower pace of rural life in years gone by seems very appealing.

*"I have a farm and I love it there. There's really nothing to do, but even watching the chickens, it's fun."*

**-Salma Hayek**

As if in answer to these desires, a trend has evolved for designing modern interior spaces that reflect the rustic simplicity of the American farmhouse. These homes

are not fussy and frilly, as is often associated with country-style decorating. Rather, their interiors celebrate natural materials and the honest craftsmanship of early farm families who built their homes with practicality in mind. Each element in the kitchen, for example—from the long wooden plank table to the crockery—had a purpose, and the farm families created much of it by hand. In your updated farmhouse kitchen you can savor the rugged beauty of wood, aged metal, leather, cotton, stone and twigs blended with the convenience of today's latest fixtures and appliances.

Wide plank hardwood floors are one of the hallmarks of an American farmhouse. One way to give your floors a look that is genuine is to install hand-scraped hardwood flooring with a finish created by hand using wood scraping

tools. Distressed hardwoods provide a realistic look that is less pricey because the markings in the wood are done by machine. A very authentic choice would be reclaimed lumber that proudly displays the nicks and gouges gained from years of wear in a barn or factory. Other flooring options could include brick, earthen tile, concrete or stone.

Keep the look uncomplicated for the walls and ceilings as well—a simple plastered surface finished with flat paint is perfect. If you wish, panel the walls with beadboard or create a more rustic appearance with stone or brick veneer. Exposed planks and timbers add interest to ceilings, as does beadboard paneling.

The American farmer handcrafted his own unpretentious cabinets and furniture based on classical styles with which he was familiar, creating a simplified version of the original. Today, the clean lines of Shaker-inspired cabinets and furnishings evoke a similar feeling. Look for unadorned raised-panel cabinet doors, antiqued metal knobs and pulls, and simple turned legs. Include a tall glass-front buffet and hutch in the kitchen or breakfast room to display crockery.

Window treatments should be minimal, with shutters, natural woven shades or solid-color fabric curtains as appropriate choices. When practical, leave the windows uncovered to keep things as open and airy as possible. Simple metal chandeliers and lanterns are well-suited to the farmhouse look. Add warmth and personality with a few primitive paintings and old family photographs, but always remember...keep it simple!



Photo: Courtesy of Graff (www.graff-faucets.com)

*Bali faucet in Bronze finish with the look of an old-fashioned hand water pump.*



Photo: Courtesy of Native Trails (www.nativetrails.com)

*Hand-hammered copper farmhouse sink in the Antique finish.*

## Ideas for Creating the "Rustic" Look

Whether your idea of the perfect home is a charming white-washed cottage or a rugged log cabin, the updated rustic look is one of this year's big style trends. Welcome to our scrapbook of ideas for creating this look in your home.

# WHAT IS GREEN BUILDING? Q&A

When you hear the term “green building” what is the first thing that comes to mind? Do you think of a home with solar panels harnessing energy from the sun? Solar panels can help lower your monthly electric bill, as well as protect our



natural resources, but they are just a small component in the much bigger picture of what is green building.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines green building as “the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building’s life-cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and deconstruction.” (www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/index.htm)

Using this definition, you can see that green building is far more complex than you may have thought. As an example, some of the answers to the following questions may surprise you:

### Q. Must I build a new house if I want my home to be green?

**A.** That depends—it may be a greener choice for you to stay in your existing home. Even though it may take a certain amount of energy and new materials to remodel to green standards, many components of an older home may be reused. Also, older homes in established neighborhoods often have easier access to services like schools and doctors’ offices, thereby lessening the environmental impact of transportation. With a new home, you must also consider the impact to undeveloped land, in addition to all the energy and new materials required to build.

### Q. I think my home is green: it is tightly sealed and well insulated—but the indoor air smells bad. Now what?

**A.** Both energy efficiency and indoor air quality are important tenets of green building. If you utilize tight construction methods, yet you do

not have proper home ventilation—your indoor air can cause health difficulties such as headaches and respiratory problems. Healthy green homes must include an active ventilation system to provide fresh air while exhausting the stale air. It is also important to choose cabinets, flooring, paints, etc. that do not off-gas toxic VOCs.

### Q. I want to save on my water bill, so I installed high-efficiency toilets and low-flow faucets. What else I can do?

**A.** Don’t forget about the exterior of your home. Choose a landscape design that minimizes turf, since lawns require more irrigation than any other vegetation. Planting trees and shrubs instead of grass also helps reduce runoff and soil erosion. When you do plant grass, choose a variety that grows well in this area and is drought resistant and pest resistant. Reducing the amount of fertilizer and pesticides is also good for the environment.

### Q. Is it always the better green choice to use bamboo flooring instead of hardwood?

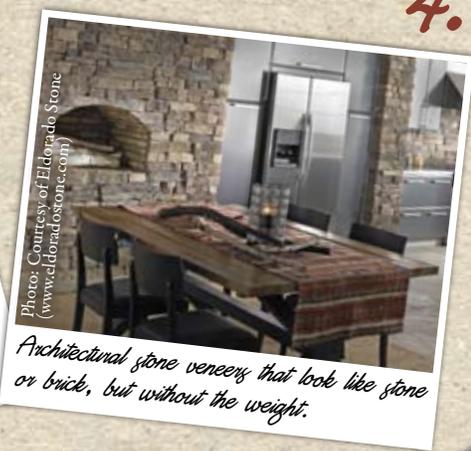
**A.** It is important to consider every aspect of a product—from design to distribution to installation. Bamboo flooring is made from many small pieces or strands of bamboo that are fused together. Before you install bamboo flooring, be sure its adhesive contains no VOCs that could harm your indoor air. Also, consider the amount of energy used to transport the bamboo flooring to this country. Local hardwoods from managed forests may actually be the greener choice.

We’re always happy to answer your questions regarding green building or visit [www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/index.htm) for more information.



3.

Natural woven baskets for storing food items that require air circulation.



4.

Architectural stone veneers that look like stone or brick, but without the weight.



Photo: Courtesy of Troy Lighting (www.troy-lighting.com)

Hand-wrought wrought iron chandelier in the Old Rust finish.

5.



Photo: Courtesy of Ashley Norton (www.ashleynorton.com)

Solid bronze hardware with the Dark Bronze Patina.

6.

QMA Founders Celebrate  
20th Anniversary

Simple Farmhouse Joys

What Is Green Building?

Smart Remodeling Starts  
with the Heart

# QMA

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## Smart Remodeling Starts with the Heart



From energy savings to home value, there are plenty of sound “dollars and cents” reasons to invest in remodeling or building a home at the shore. But some of the smartest reasons to remodel aren’t based on financial ROI. Instead, they’re based on *emotional* ROI.

When clients talk with **QMA Design + Build** about their dreams, they talk about creating a home that lets them enjoy more time together with family and friends. They talk about designing open, relaxed living spaces ... planning kitchens that invite everyone to join in cooking and eating ... and building beautiful decks or porches for enjoying shore breezes and sunsets. But most of all, what our clients talk about building is *memories*.

### Two new Jersey Shore home trends

The beach lifestyle isn’t just for summer anymore! We’re seeing more and more of our beach homes getting year-round use. And it’s no wonder! From the excitement of Atlantic City, to the first-class shops and restaurants in the area, there’s plenty to do. There’s also plenty *not* to do, and we hear from so many of our clients how they just want a home that provides the relaxed, “unplugged” respite they need after busy weeks at work. Plus, many clients find that celebrating holidays at the shore builds rich family traditions.

With beach homes getting so much more use, it’s important not only to address the larger, public gathering spaces and exterior living spaces (front porches, decks and backyards), but to create inviting private spaces — such as spa-like bathrooms — and to factor in energy-efficiency improvements to keep that shore home comfortable year ‘round.

### From vacation home to retirement living

Many clients plan for their shore home to one day become their primary residence. This means today’s remodeling projects should create beautiful, casual, entertainment-friendly gathering spaces, but also incorporate designs and materials that will keep the home safe and, of course, utilizing low-maintenance materials. This way, homeowners enjoy the “dollars and cents” benefits of a smart retirement lifestyle *and* a lifetime of enjoyment that comes from having a shore home that welcomes visits from friends and family.

If you want your own home to be at the center of family gatherings — and memories, **QMA** can help you combine “smart” and “heart” to realize your dream. Just give us a call at 609-822-4949 or email: [info@QMAdesignbuild.com](mailto:info@QMAdesignbuild.com).

