

Concepts



▲ The Cohen's magnificent "soft contemporary" new home is as exciting on the inside as it is on the outside!

Homes with personality

In the last issue of the newsletter, we talked about variety and the diversity of architectural styles. Particularly in custom home building, each home is very different, as it reflects the unique personalities of the owners. We've had requests that run the gamut from conventional to unusual, but what the customer gets—with a little help from us—is sometimes more than they ever imagined. Terri and Mia Cohen came to us with a vision of their dream home that was like few you'll see on the market today. With its white, contemporary exterior and its warm, sun-filled interior, the house is a magnificent contradiction in itself. "We wanted an expansive house with a sleek look to the outside, but with no unused rooms and a lived-in feel on the inside," said Mia Cohen.

Because the Cohen family also likes curvatures, our architects designed curved shapes in the front and back of the house, resulting in a stunning breakfast room and a magnificent floating staircase on the inside (shown on next page). Large, informal rooms with high ceilings make the interior of the home open and inviting. A full glass wall slides behind hidden doors, creating a magnificent sunroom when closed and an outdoor living space when opened. The house is hot-wired for universal lighting, HVAC, security, and audio/video (including

See **PERSONALITY** page 2



▲ The exquisite, European-influenced Kurzydowski residence is the family's pride and joy.



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inside.

► **Pulling together**
The Orren Pickell team—employees, suppliers, and clients—pull together in the face of building supply shortages.

► **Fall landscaping tips**
Prepare now for spring flowers.



► **Restoration Hardware**
Orren Pickell Designers & Builders teams with one of this country's hottest retailers to vignette and style two upcoming Concept Houses.

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Personality

Personality (from page 1)

theater-like surround sound). Everyone in the family has access to the Crestron touch-panel controls, which are extremely easy to operate.

Another exciting residence, yet completely different, is the home we had the privilege of designing and building for the Kurzydowski family, who moved in this past summer. Frustrated after touring countless homes, they had worked with another designer for over two years before coming to us. “At one point I said ‘I want an Orren Pickell house!’” said Michelle Kurzydowski. “We had seen so many, but I knew from the start it was what we wanted.” After just a few meetings, the Orren Pickell Design Group completed the perfect architectural design.

The Kurzydowski’s triangular site is across from a 22-acre lake, and Michelle specified that she wanted her home built facing the water, not away from it, to enjoy sunsets at the

lakeshore. Their wish list included a distinct European influence, an exquisite, expansive front terrace, and lots of windows to emphasize natural light. The effect is wonderful!

Now, after five months in their residence, the Kurzydowski family is delighted. “I twirl around in my kitchen like Doris Day,” says Michelle. “Every part of it is perfection!”



▲ Limestone columns, a limestone carved fireplace, and a radius-curved opening highlight this graceful room.

By designing curves outside the Cohen’s new home, the Orren Pickell Design Group created this majestic area inside. Master craftsmen on our construction team then completed this dramatic, sweeping staircase.



▲ **Top:** Curved, wainscot walls, double-radius arched openings, and crown moldings define this oval shaped, formal dining area. **Bottom:** Floor-to-ceiling windows allow a glorious outdoor garden to set the scene for a relaxing, refreshing indoor spa.



Exciting touches . . .

Far Left: Architectural splendor! This arched overlook towers above a magnificent two-story foyer.

Left: As practical as it is elegant, this unique kitchen island, created by CabinetWerks using Wood-Mode custom cabinetry, includes a sink, wine cabinet, dishwasher, and cutting board.

Bottom: Expansive kitchen and living areas blend under soft, natural lighting in this inspiring new home.



▲ CabinetWerks combined custom cabinetry, granite, and a spectacular lighting plan to create this exceptional new kitchen.

Pulling together

by Orren Pickell

Shortages of supplies in the construction industry are causing a lot of pain for homebuilders across the country this summer and fall. The industry has run out of cement, bricks, drywall, and most other materials, and this, coupled with the labor shortage, has caused more than a few contractors to tear their hair out.

Our company has not escaped this mess, and faced with the hottest July ever, our team needed to meet tight deadlines and still finish homes on schedule. Staff members from architecture,



construction, maintenance, sales, remodeling, CabinetWerks, selections, and even the technology and accounting departments worked long hours to accommodate each client and to provide our standard of exceptional service.

I'm proud to say that we are managing to overcome this dilemma by working together against incredible odds. While many custom homebuilders are running eight months to one year behind schedule, most of our homes are either on schedule or just 4-8 weeks late. Considering the impeccable detail and character of our homes, this isn't easy. The Pickell team is pulling together to get the job done, regardless of what it takes: working long into the night, weathering record-breaking temperatures and performing above and beyond the normal realm of duty.

You, our customers, are helping us as well with amazing patience and accommodation. One client even showed up at the site of his new home every morning with ice and Gatorade.

Our team is as good as it gets, working together to overcome extraordinary circumstances. I thank them all.



▲ Some of the members of the Pickell Team that helped to pitch in this summer during record-setting heat and building supply shortages.

Clockwise, from top left: Vince Janowski, Darrin Deja, Jim Pimpo, Jim Wood, Kevin Batz, Dennis Ward, Wayne Janowski, Robert Riese, Brian Ries, Brock Millsop, Stephanie Rylatt.

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JEA

Landscaping Tips

As the colors of the landscape change to warm tones of scarlet and gold, our friends at James Martin Associates remind us of a few landscaping issues to keep in mind. Faded annual beds can be rejuvenated with the fresh colors of fall-flowering mums, and in anticipation of the promise of next spring, now is the time to plant spring-flowering bulbs. There is also time to add new trees and shrubs to your landscape before winter, although some bedding plants and evergreens will have to wait until next spring for planting.

A few simple steps should be taken now to prepare your landscape for winter. Protecting your planting beds with a layer of shredded bark mulch and then aerating and overseeding your turf will help ensure that your landscape will be ready for spring. In addition, you can improve the health and appearance of your trees and shrubs with dormant pruning.

If you are just beginning the home building process, Tom Bolas, Vice President of James Martin Associates, maintains that establishing a relationship with a landscape architect early on in the design process will prove invaluable. The final result will be the development of a comprehensive landscape plan that enhances your home, enriches your life, and surpasses all your expectations.



Opening dates set for Concept Houses

Our two newest concept houses, The Transition House and The Turn of the Century House, will open for viewing this winter.

The Transition House, 140 Timber, Glencoe, will open on Friday, December 3, 1999, and will be shown on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays for a limited time. Please call for appointments and holiday hours.

The Turn of the Century House, 224 Sheridan Road, Kenilworth, will be open in late January. Stay tuned for exact dates and times.

If you haven't already heard about these residences, here's a little refresher. The Transition House is designed for families with older children, and eventually, grandchildren. It features rooms that serve a variety of functions, all year long. The dining room can be used formally or informally; the library is a study or an office; the Grateful Abundance room is a place for regeneration—meditation, quiet study, journal writing, art, massage, etc.; the garage has a vaulted ceiling so it can double as an indoor basketball court; the basement has an indoor hockey rink to attract the grandchildren and a comfortable viewing area/wet bar/billiards room for adults. Simply put, you have to see it to believe it.

The Turn of the Century House preserves the past while celebrating the future. Originally built near the turn of the last century, the elegant home, which had fallen into disrepair, has been perfectly restored to its original splendor by the Orren Pickell Remodeling Group. What's more, it has been updated to ride the crest of the wave into the 21st century, with modern technological innovations included. The interior has been completely rebuilt to match the life-style of today's family.

A variety of special events will be held in these homes, including seminars by Restoration Hardware and an art exhibition by the Suburban Fine Arts Center. Join the fun and see these great homes over the next few months!

Pickell teams with Restoration Hardware

One of the nation's hottest retailers, Restoration Hardware, will be vignetting a number of areas at both the Transition House and the Turn-of-the-Century House. In addition to extraordinary pieces of furniture, a variety of lighting elements and signature accessories will be on display. A special seminar will be presented at each of the Houses, including one at the Transition House on Wednesday evening, January 19. Further details will be presented in our next newsletter.



Did you know . . .

- ▶ 33% of all our clients were introduced to us though the real estate community. This ongoing relationship is a great service to all.
- ▶ 100% of our homes have a Phase I landscape design prior to excavation. This saves our clients time and money.
- ▶ All Orren Pickell construction superintendents were promoted within the company from our remarkable carpentry division. These tenured employees are the very backbone of our fine quality, finished homes.