

**SUNDAY
BREAKFAST**

North Shore resident helps sports fans enjoy the stadium experience. **P.50**



**SOCIAL
SCENE**

More than 700 attend Ravinia Women's Board gala. **P.20**



SPORTS

New Trier's boys golf team stacked with aces **P.36**



LOCAL NEWS AND PERSONALITIES OF WILMETTE, KENILWORTH, WINNETKA, NORTHFIELD, GLENCOE, HIGHLAND PARK, EVANSTON, LAKE FOREST, METTAWA & LAKE BLUFF

THE *North Shore* WEEKEND



Everything under the sun

Kilted skydivers, pony rides and more slated for Bagpipes & Bonfire. **P18**

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New residence possesses Old World charm

The house is nestled on more than two acres in Bannockburn's Tarns of the Moor.



The master suite includes a Zen bath, late-night kitchen and private balcony.



The finished lower level of the home boasts billiards and a family pub..

■ BY SIMON MURRAY

A blueprint is useful for imagining what a project will look like once it's completed. But it can only show so much.

"It's nice to go from so many months of seeing something just on paper to it coming to life," says Andrea Moreland who, along with her husband Ray, had embarked on a maiden voyage four years ago: custom home design.

If you were to look at the property today, nestled on over two acres of woodland, you would have trouble imagining how it looked in 2010. Instead of an immaculate backyard and a European-influenced home, there was nothing but dirt.

"We love the French oak floors, the white kitchen with its marble counter tops, the beams, the outside stone in the interior of the all season room." | Andrea Moreland

Orren Pickell, founder of his eponymous building group, was the builder hired to nurture their vision and bring it to life.

"I'm sure they looked — like many of our clients do — up and down, looking for a good value someplace; a good piece of property and a house on it that suited them, and they just couldn't find it," says Pickell.

Coming from Northbrook, the Morelands noted they went up and down the North Shore, visiting close to 50 homes. Most came down to the design: they couldn't envision living with the homes they viewed for the long-term, especially with two young kids.

"After awhile," explains Ray, "you go through all of these houses and you realize what you do like." It was with a similar thought that inspiration struck — they would build instead of purchase.

The Morelands settled on Pickell's Tarns of the Moor in Bannockburn, a 15-acre enclave of plots. Tarns, which mean "little lakes," is a nod to Pickell's Scottish heritage and the Village of Bannockburn, which was designed to imitate country living in the auld land.

This modern-day nouveau residence contains elements of rustic, Old World charm — such as the barn beams in the kitchen — with a "European style that goes back centuries," says Pickell. While the vision was all the Morelands, the Pickell team offered ideas and touches that could be added to the project.

"We love the French oak floors, the white kitchen with its marble counter tops, the beams, the outside stone in the interior of the all season room," says Andrea. "They let you be creative and have freedom but they're also good about throwing ideas at you."

One such idea was the second-story sleeper porch. A necessity a century ago for the sick or a retreat for the sickly, the Moreland's one merely offers a pleasant space to relax and look out on the front yard.

Pickell — whose company next year will celebrate its 40th year in business — has been through it all: remodeling and building over 800 homes. After weathering the financial downturn and real estate recession, he says he's finally starting to see investment in the home again, at almost three times the pace it was in 2009.

"People are working as hard — or harder — than they ever have," says Pickell. "This is how they reward themselves." ■



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