

Concepts

SEASONED ARCHITECT JOHN FOREHAND TAKES LEADING ROLE AT ORREN PICKELL BUILDING GROUP



We are extremely pleased to announce that John Forehand, AIA, a successful architect and project manager, has joined the firm as president of the Orren Pickell Design Group. He'll play a leading role in strategizing, designing and building the dream custom homes for which we are known.

"We're delighted to welcome John to our growing and talented team," said Lisa Pickell, our COO. "He brings a set of incredibly valuable management skills, unparalleled dedication, and vast experience that perfectly complements our mission. Pickell is moving in a great direction and we're excited to continue our steady growth with John's support and vast expertise."

Prior to joining Orren Pickell Design Group, John served as project manager and managing partner for Darcy Bonner and Associates where, since 2000, he focused on residential architecture and interior

design. In addition to running the business side of the company, including the handling of all contracts, billing and employee issues, he completed numerous single family home projects under the name John Forehand, Architect in the Oak Park, River Forest and Hinsdale neighborhoods of suburban Chicago. Before the early 2000's, John spent five years as Vice President at Booth Hansen Architects, during which he specialized in single-family homes and multi-family residential projects around the greater Chicagoland area.

"I am very much looking forward to being part of a team that has such a rich tradition and deep footprint in the luxury home building industry," noted Forehand. "This is just the beginning of a very exciting road ahead for Orren Pickell Building Group."

YOU'RE INVITED! HELP US CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH TOYS FOR TOTS

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE THURS., DEC. 3, 2015, 4-8 P.M.

Once again, Orren Pickell Building Group will be partnering with Toys for Tots during the month of December. You can help as well by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to our annual Open House. In addition to contributing to a fabulous and longstanding tradition, you'll have the opportunity to tour our offices, talk with staff members about your dreams for a new home or ways you can improve the one you have, and celebrate the holiday season.



INTRODUCING LUXURY HOME FINISHING SOLUTIONS: CLOSETS AND GARAGES BY CABINETWERKS



We are so proud and excited to announce the addition of our new home finishing products, Closets by CabinetWerks and Garages by CabinetWerks. Adding this flexible closet and garage systems to the CabinetWerks family is one more example of our company's commitment to our signature discerning attention to every element of a custom home.

Everyone at Orren Pickell Building Group understands the importance of creating storage areas that are easily accessible, the right size, and made with high quality materials all of which enrich not just the design but also the quality of life for every person living in the home. Our new closet line offers more than 40 different finish options and 16 unique door styles. The garage systems include options for workshop storage and organization, such as tool racks, bike hooks, overhead storage, and many more.

"Both Closets by CabinetWerks and Garages by CabinetWerks offer pragmatic storage and organizing solutions while but still allow for custom luxury options," said Lisa Pickell, COO of Orren Pickell Building Group. "Adding Closet and Garage Solutions to our CabinetWerks Division enhances our ability to guide clients from beginning to end in the design build process. We always want our clients to experience our design build approach as a collaborative process. That way our team can anticipate and interpret a home's requirements in the most efficient yet exciting and imaginative way possible."

Along with the robust finish options offered by both Closets by CabinetWerks and Garages by CabinetWerks, clients building new custom homes or remodeling their homes have access to additional hardware choices such as Top Knobs and Richelieu. All product samples and selection tools are available for viewing at our Northfield, IL showroom.

"Storage areas in your home should seamlessly integrate with the rest of the home's design aesthetic and functional needs," said Krista Benton, Lead Cabinet Designer. "The systems we've introduced are a great addition to our current full custom closet offerings. This new addition allows us to meet all of our client storage and esthetic needs with a large array of finish options and price points."



ORREN PICKELL BUILDING GROUP LAUNCHES DYNAMIC NEW WEB SITE



We are thrilled to let the world know about our incredibly cool (we're just a little biased), user-friendly, and cutting edge website. The new design and content showcases our work—and our clients' dream homes—with vibrant photography, detailed descriptions of our award-winning projects, comprehensive bios of our highly skilled and talented staff, and other aspects of the company.

"We wanted to create a user experience that gets people excited about all the possibilities that await them," said Lisa Pickell our COO. "Learning more about our homes is as easy as moving the cursor on your screen. It's not only an informative experience, but also one that is fun and exciting."

In addition to our press clippings and contact information, the Orren Pickell Building Group site boasts a project gallery that includes hundreds of professionally photographed home interiors and exteriors, including front and rear elevations, kitchens, bathrooms, living areas/bedrooms, lower levels, before and after shots, porches and other outdoor spaces, and close-up details like custom hardware and doors. The new site also includes up to date information about key staff members, our awards, the Pickell Family Foundation, FAQs, videos, and testimonials. We are especially proud to feature a comprehensive section on our signature "Concept Houses," which were created by the company founder, Orren Pickell, whose mission has always been to inspire the imaginations of future home owners and visitors by designing and building around a particular theme or homeowner's lifestyle.

We hope you'll take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to take a look. We'd love your feedback!

OUR NEWEST CONCEPT HOUSE

Our newest Concept House will be ready in the spring of 2016 and we are so excited about this upcoming release we decided to share some of the amazing features within this new Bull Valley house. Only 35 minutes from Lake Geneva and an hour from the north suburbs of Chicago, this property enjoys views for miles with a state-of-the-art 6,300 square-foot custom home sitting on a spectacular ten-acre site. This dream house features a state-of-the-art scullery kitchen, great room with vaulted ceiling, a see-thru fireplace shared by the library, a walkout basement with family room and wet bar, a wine room, an exercise room, a spa bath and an enchanting Zen garden. As if that wasn't enough to make this place a must-see, the outdoor space completely takes your breath away with a striking pool with integrated spa and waterfall, a 2,000 square-foot multi-level outdoor terrace with a covered lanai, a fireplace, and an outdoor kitchen, perfect for a great party summer party! We are so excited to share this house with you in the spring of 2016! Stay tuned!



TIME TO WINTERIZE! FIVE TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED

It's not too early to begin preparing your home for the winter (and we're sorry to say: it's definitely on its way). Here are five tips to help you begin to winterize so that you can keep your home in tip-top shape and be prepared for any snow, ice, and freezing temps that may lay ahead. For purposes of space we're limiting our list, but don't hesitate to give us a call if you have questions and need more assistance protecting your home from our well-known Chicago winters.

1. Protect the Pipes

Plumbing is particularly vulnerable to freezing during the cold weather, which can cause pipes to burst and potentially result in some very expensive repair costs. Some pipes are more prone to freezing than others, including those that are exposed in unheated areas of the home, pipes along outside walls, and any plumbing on the exterior of the home. A simple tip is to let the faucet drip with warm water during extreme cold weather, which can help prevent a pipe from freezing and possibly bursting. Take a moment to locate your water main just in case you have to shut it off in an emergency.

2. Furnace Inspection

If you haven't already, contact an HVAC professional to inspect the furnace and clean all the ducts. Stock up on furnace filters and commit to changing them each and every month during the winter to keep the furnace running as efficiently as possible. Now is also a good time

to consider investing in a programmable thermostat if you don't already have one. And, very important: remove all flammable material from the area surrounding the furnace.

3. Fireplace Safety

When was the last time you cleaned your fireplace? If it hasn't been scrubbed in a while, contact a chimney sweep to remove all soot and creosote. Inspect the fireplace damper to make sure that it opens and closes properly. Also be sure to check the mortar between the bricks and do some tuck pointing work, if necessary. Stock up on firewood, and be sure to store it in a dry place away from the exterior of your home.

4. Decrease the Draft – Install Storm Doors and Windows

Installing storm doors and windows will seal drafts and reduce airflow into the home, increasing energy efficiency by up to 45 percent. Storm doors also offer greater flexibility for letting light and ventilation enter your home. Replacing entire windows to correct insulation problems can be costly, so consider purchasing energy-efficient blinds instead, to best capture the heat.

5. Check the Foundation and Exterior of the Home

Inspect the exterior of the home for crevice cracks and seal them. When left untreated, cracks can expand and cause significant damage. Use weather stripping around doors, and caulk windows to prevent cold air from entering the home. An easy method to check for leaks is to have someone on the outside blow a hair dryer around each window while you hold a candle or lighter inside. If the flame flickers or goes out, you need to caulk or weather strip around the frame.



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