

SUMMER 2018

CONCEPTS



PICKELL IN 2018: A MOVE TO WILMETTE AND A FOCUS ON THE NEXT GENERATION



Lisa Pickell,
President

It's an exciting time in the Orren Pickell Building Group Offices—we're moving into a larger space at 444 Skokie Boulevard in Wilmette. This will be the first time in

over ten years that the whole firm will be under one roof. That's important for a design-build firm, as one of our greatest strengths is being able to check in with one another to make sure an idea will work or get a quick answer to a client's question.

I'm also proud of the way our efforts at mentoring the next generation of skilled craftspeople and women in construction are gaining steam.

Our VP of construction, Kevin Batz, and I have joined the construction skills and management advisory council at Lake County High Schools' technology campus, and are working closely with

William Fremd and Palatine High Schools as well. We are helping prepare students for internships and permanent positions in the construction industry, conducting tours of the Kelmscott Park development in Lake Forest to introduce new construction technologies, and coordinating meetings with leaders in the industry to discuss opportunities in construction and design.

We're also getting involved with Revolution Workshop, an exciting social enterprise that teaches unemployed and underemployed people new skills. Our team is looking into how we can best support Chicago Architecture Foundation's Girls Build!, an architecture program that's especially close to my heart. And we'll be bringing in our own summer interns to show them the ropes first hand.

We hope you're having a big year, too, and can't wait to see what the next few months will bring.

IN THE NEWS



"BEST CUSTOM BUILDER"

Special thanks to our friends at *Modern Luxury* for the recent press. In the January 2018

issue of *Interiors Chicago*, Orren Pickell was named "Best Custom Builder."

"BEST GENERAL CONTRACTOR" and "BEST KITCHEN CONTRACTOR"

In May 2018 ChicagoArchitect.org included Orren Pickell in their "Best of" lineups for General Contractors and Kitchen Contractors.

"BEST INFLUENCERS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR COMMUNITY"

In May 2018, Lisa Pickell was among the "Dynamic Women of Chicago" profiled by *NS* magazine.



◀ Extensive windows take full advantage of the views of this spectacular 10-acre site in Bull Valley. The basement leads directly out to a vast lower terrace and a cozy, stone-encircled fire pit.

MEET THE SPIEWAKS



Paul and Mary envisioned a seven-car garage with an especially tall door that could accommodate Paul's lifelong dream of owning a vintage fire truck. Ruby, Paul's 1955 Ford F600, is retired from Walker, Minnesota.

“When we decided to have our dream home built, we knew we had to call Orren Pickell. The entire process has been truly wonderful.”

TRADITIONAL STYLE FOR TODAY

This homeowner first reached out to Pickell for advice on choosing a parcel of land. Orren and the team visited the two contenders and shared our views on the pros and cons of each potential lot. Ultimately, they selected a beautiful lot with views of a serene lake through what would become a kitchen window.

Once the lot was selected, we worked with the couple to create their perfect home, incorporating their specific needs and style into the design. They occasionally labeled their requests “quirky,” but we loved being able to incorporate their personalities into such a beautiful house.

The home is rooted in traditional style, but approached in a more modern way.

Clean lines provide a fresh update to the furniture-inspired millwork, yet fit perfectly with the couple's handsomely upholstered furnishings.

By being involved in the design from the beginning, our team was able to ensure that every detail was properly addressed. For example, our kitchen designers worked with the architect to meet all of the owners' requests, even enlarging the kitchen area during the design phase to improve the layout and optimize the placement of appliances.

Now that the home is complete, the owners are thrilled at the way their dream home was transformed from blueprint to final product.



The curves of the dark, oil-rubbed copper hood complement the kitchen's more linear elements. Furniture-inspired features are used sparingly to add warmth without feeling too traditional.



A floating vanity runs the length of the master bath, with dual sinks and a seating area. Windows above the mirror take advantage of the natural light without compromising privacy.



A home office off the kitchen can be concealed with a pocket door. Gray-painted maple Wood-Mode cabinetry complements the kitchen finishes but makes the space unique.

DELUXE CUSTOM CABINETS



Krista Benton, AKBD, CAPS
Lead Cabinet Designer

Our kitchen designers love creating unique spaces that support and enhance our clients' lifestyles. Using impeccable

Wood-Mode and Brookhaven cabinetry, plus our own custom designs ensures that every made-to-order kitchen, bath or even mudroom is crafted to exact specifications.



Left: A bar area reinterprets features from adjacent spaces, combining the kitchen island's cherry stain with glass cabinet door inserts similar to those in the breakfast room.

Top: A custom armoire in the breakfast room echoes the kitchen cabinets' X-shaped mullions.

Above: Distinct workstations, including multiple sinks and cooking areas adds tremendous functionality, especially when the couple cooks together.



ON TOP OF THE WORLD ABOVE CHICAGO

The first thing guests notice about this stunning roof deck is the dramatic view of the Chicago skyline. What they can't see, however, is the tremendous engineering and logistics effort required to make this space possible.

In order to provide structural support across the full span of the building and meet Chicago code requirements, 5,000-pound I-beams were installed beneath the new Nexan aluminum decking. This required use of the largest commercial crane available, as well as shutting down half of Ashland Avenue in order to hoist the beams to the roof.

The Pickell team carefully scheduled the project—down to how materials should be bundled—to minimize the use of expensive cranes and ensure that everything came together beautifully.

The finished deck features Nexan aluminum decking, pergolas and top rails, selected for its clean look and ability to stand up to harsh Midwestern weather. Trex composite deck boards were turned



Rob Oldenburg,
Project Manager

sideways to create walls, dividing areas into outdoor “rooms” and imparting a measure of privacy to the space. In addition, custom glass partitions ensure safety without blocking the dazzling, southern-facing view.

Above: Distinct areas for conversation, dining, cooking and enjoying a cocktail make the large space feel cozy and welcoming. Decking boards were installed as walls to define spaces.

Top Left: Comfortable seating surrounds a modern fire pit in the outdoor living room, while custom glass walls showcase the incredible skyline views.

Bottom Left: A pergola helps provide shade and structure around the outdoor kitchen, complete with a place for guests to perch near the barbecue.

SPECTACULAR BEFORE — EVEN BETTER AFTER

After a fire required gutting of this home's first and second floors, the owners turned to Orren Pickell, who had worked with them to build it in 2009. "Orren was there at seven the morning after the fire," explained the owner. "We made the best of a terrible situation. This gave us a chance to update."

The interiors have become much more bold and contemporary. For example, in the kitchen, a traditional style has given way to a bright red and white palette that opens into a friendly, comfortable family room.

"I loved the process of building the house the first time," shared the homeowner. "When this happened, it felt good to go back to the Orren Pickell team, and all the familiar faces. They had the plans, they knew us, and it helped turn a tragic situation into something great."



Top Right: The family room's configurable sofa adapts to whatever the family is doing. The family room's configurable sofa adapts to whatever the family is doing. A second TV is concealed by a retractable panel in the solid stone wall.

Above: The updated master closet is all open storage in a contemporary gray-painted finish with stainless accents.

Bottom Right: A high-gloss, red-painted finish on the oversized island and the stone-wrapped range hood elevate this bright, contemporary space.



Eric Pickell,
Sales & Marketing Manager

C'EST VRAI! A FRENCH WINE CAVE IN LAKE GENEVA



While considering Lake Geneva homes, a wine cellar was high on this couple's wish list. However, when they finally found the perfect home, a French

Provincial design built by Orren Pickell Building Group in 2007, it turned out that the wine cellar had never been completed.

In a conversation with Eric Pickell, the owners mentioned that they wanted to create a space to hold their growing wine

collection and provide a comfortable area in which to relax. Eric knew exactly what they had in mind, and the Pickell team was immediately on board.

The original mason was brought in to extend the home's intricate stonework into the cellar. Mahogany trim and Brookhaven cabinetry add to the warmth and richness, and a backsplash of reclaimed oak adds a unique touch.

The finished cellar holds upwards of 1,000 bottles and has become a sanctuary for the owners. "In the summer, it stays cool and quiet," offers one of the owners. "We use it all the time—I just like to just sit down there, and my wife will come down and ask if I'm ever coming up."

Above: Custom, mahogany-stained wine storage features a combination of x-bins, roll-out shelves for cases, and racks for individual bottles.

Inset: The same stone used for the home's exterior, laid by the same stonemason, connects the look inside and out. Mahogany door trim is carefully scribed to the stone—a highly visible detail that shows tremendous care and attention.





Schedule a tour and imagine yourself in one of 12 exceptional Kelmscott Park homes or condos. Contact Susan Hamilton at 888-PICKELL.

EXPLORE THE FULLY-FURNISHED MODEL AT KELMSCOTT PARK IN LAKE FOREST



MEET CLIENT HELEN MILGROM



Orren Pickell maintenance technician, Randy Borchert and Helen Milgrom. Helen has been part of the Pickell family since 2005, when she built a lakefront home in New Buffalo. We've also helped her remodel her Chicago home and are now completing her new Lincoln Park loft.

HELEN'S OWN WORDS

"Just wanted to drop a long overdue note about (Pickell maintenance team members) Jenn and Randy. I have been working with them for my home maintenance programs on both homes for around 10 years now. Jenn has worked so hard for me, especially in the past few months when I had a rapid home sale and had to get tradespeople out here ASAP.

Professional, well-organized, and easy to reach and communicate with, Jenn makes stressful repair situations bearable. I don't know how she does it, while maintaining a good attitude at all times. I know I can rely on her assistance for ANY type of repair or issue. My homes would both be a disaster if it were not for Jenn and the Orren Pickell Builders maintenance program."



COMING THIS FALL

Brian & Alysha will welcome guests into their new home this Fall.
Look for our invitation via email later this summer.

