

DESIGN ∞ BUILD
MAGAZINE

Issue no. 3

Home
for the
Holidays



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Design Build Magazine

Issue 3

Founded by,

Matthew Bowe Design Build

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Note from the Builder

MATTHEW BOWE

It's Holiday Season and many of us are beginning to form our plans for celebration, family gatherings and traditions. If you are like most people I know, the feelings of excitement for the Holiday Season begin stirring in November and continue through the New Year. It is an extended time to purposefully reflect on life's blessings and express a spirit of gratitude and it is a time of joyful anticipation of rare quality time we will share with family and friends. We look forward to the pleasure of enjoying our traditional family meals and desserts and reconnecting as the year comes to a close. And, for many, the height of the season, the "reason for the season," is the recognition of faith traditions that are deeply rooted and celebrated at this time of year.

Although COVID seems to hang over all of this like a dark and foreboding storm, I hope to suggest that (beyond an appropriate acknowledgement and necessary precautions) we should move forward to celebrate the old traditions as fully and wholeheartedly as we can. Do not let this current challenge steal your joy this Holiday Season.

Play the same music, prepare the same food, dress in the same holiday attire, and tend to your faith traditions. For your family and friends who are unable to gather together, make connections, consider a call, text, video chat, or even drive to their house and chat through a window. Just make the connection. Get creative and participate as much as you can in the old traditions and be grateful for that opportunity. This chapter will pass, we will return to normal and we will be able to embrace freely. But for now, there is still so much we can do to maintain normalcy and not give in to the temptation to focus on what we don't have or what we can't do.

It is my hope that we will all live this Holiday Season 2020 as joyfully and as hopefully as we can with gratitude and thankfulness. Suffering and challenges will always be with us and we have the opportunity to choose whether we will give in or persevere. Let us choose to always persevere, together.

I wish you all a joyful and blessed 2020 Holiday Season.

Matt



**Loudoun Habitat for Humanity
partners with people in our
community to help them build and
improve a place they can call home.**





Purpose Building Your Home for both Gathering and Living

By Meghan Wagoner



As we enter the holidays and a changing of the seasons there is also a season of change for home design. The comfortable living and connectedness offered by true open concept floor plans are appealing when you think about gathering, hosting, and entertaining in your home. But what about the rest of the year? How do we incorporate our clients' desire for cozy living spaces, unassuming dining areas for family dinner, and private places for work and school at home while avoiding the dated concept of compartmentalized living? For us, the answer lies in open flow and multipurpose design.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OPEN FLOW AND OPEN CONCEPT?

Open flow allows for movement, sightlines, and communication between areas of the house without complete conglomeration of the rooms. It allows areas of the home to be closed off as needed, for work calls or schoolwork, and opened again as desired for entertaining. Open flow is unlikely to include two story spaces (like Great Rooms and Foyers) in an effort to control noise transfer in the house and to make everything feel a bit cozier and more personal.

A key feature of open flow is that it incorporates multiple entry and exit points from a space as opposed to completely unrestricted ingress and egress. It is also likely to include multipurpose design to increase flexibility of each individual space to keep them from feeling compartmentalized and inefficient.



HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OPEN FLOW?

The success of open flow is heavily dependent on efficient design and thorough contemplation of the multiple potential uses of a space. Moveable walls, pocket doors, and barn doors are all incredibly useful for alternatively dividing and merging spaces for different purposes. These functions are essential so that your home meets your needs on all of the days you are simply living and working in it and not hosting family or friends.

In a traditional Open Concept, a guest may feel adrift in a large space without clear direction as to how to get from Point A to Point B. As a result, party guests may find themselves crisscrossing the room, weaving through furniture, and interrupting the conversation of others in a search for the bathroom. In contrast, Open Flow designs include an intentional circulation pathway through the home. High traffic areas have multiple clear entry and exit points so that no one gets trapped in a corner and guests will move effortlessly through the room in a natural pattern.

A PLAN FOR MULTIPURPOSE LIVING

As we have learned to do more within the limitations of our homes this year, there is no question that multipurpose spaces have been incredibly important. It may be the case for some families that Grandma and Granddad have been living in the guest room for several months, but where does that leave for your sister and her family to stay when they come visit for the holidays this year? If you have a home office with doors that can close, a temporary guest room is easy to achieve! If you normally seat six in your breakfast room, but a set of pocket doors can be opened up to your formal dining room, the tables can be extended or combined to seat the whole family together for Thanksgiving Dinner.

IT'S ALL IN THE DESIGN

Ultimately, the holidays are about togetherness. Whether you will have multiple house guests this year or are simply having a special celebration with your immediate family, your home should be able to accommodate your shifting needs. A few deliberate design choices can vastly improve the versatility of your home so that you will be ready when we are able to open our doors to each other freely once again.

Contact us today to get started!





Side Entrance Enhancements for Every Season

By Meghan Wagoner



When our clients are designing their homes, they are eager to consider how their front entrance will welcome their guests upon their arrival. But one area that is often overlooked and is equally important, if not more so, is the space where the homeowners themselves enter the house.

Most of us lead fast-paced lives with a multitude of stressors and would benefit from a place to lay our burdens down, both literally and metaphorically, as we enter the sanctuary of our homes. In Design Build, we like to refer to that place as the Family Foyer. As compared to the front entry, the Family Foyer is less about formality and more about familiarity. This space, when designed correctly, should embody the ideal marriage of function and beauty. This workhorse area of your home does not need to be void of charm, and character. This entry will serve as a welcoming - and useful - stop for immediate family as well as close friends.

The number one goal of a Family Foyer is organization, but that can mean something different for each family. You may need to organize your laundry, your riding boots, your kid's sport equipment, your pet supplies, your mail, or your family calendar. Any of these can be a major function of this versatile area of the home.



A TRADITIONAL MUDROOM

The most popular use of a Family Foyer is as a mudroom. This is a place to pull off jackets and muddy boots, stash backpacks and soccer cleats, and generally contain the chaos of heavily used family items. In a traditional mudroom you will often find benches, cubbies, and hooks designed for easily stashing and retrieving. Many homeowners are opting for cubbies with doors - more like upscale wooden lockers - so that the contents of the cubbies can be shut away leaving a tidy space for anyone passing through. Mudrooms frequently include storage for cleaning items so that vacuums, brooms, mops, and supplies can be tucked neatly away while staying close at hand.

Many of our clients opt to include a laundry center in their mudroom. It may be their primary laundry, which would likely include a place to fold and sort, but it could also be a small secondary set that is designated for things that frequently come in and out of the mudroom like sports uniforms, riding clothes, socks, and kitchen towels. No more frantically looking for that jersey on the way to the game because it went directly in the wash last week and was stored neatly in your child's designated cubby!

A NEARBY BATHROOM

Many of our clients' homes include a powder room on the first floor, but we also encourage them to consider a full bath in close proximity to the Family Foyer if space allows. This is perfect for quick showers

and bathroom breaks as the family comes in from their activities like gardening, horseback riding, sports, and play. Along with removing dirty clothes and shoes at the door and placing directly in the laundry, an easily accessible shower helps prevent the dirt and grime of the outside world from infiltrating the house.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

One of the next most frequently requested functions of a Family Foyer is as a communication center. Even in this digital world, many of our clients find themselves inundated with paper that follows them into their homes and ends up being set down on the kitchen countertop, or a chair, or just lost completely. Having a designated spot for sorting and filing mail, permission slips, school schedules, and bills is crucial for minimizing the clutter that accumulates on the horizontal surfaces of our homes. This is also a perfect spot to hang a communication board that includes a family calendar, an emergency phone list, and important notes for the whole family to see on the way in and out of the house.

Some families will choose to expand the communication center to include a study center or a mini home office. By adding a printer and a small amount of workspace this can easily become a place for paying bills or for kids to complete schoolwork. With the backpacks hung nearby, everything is within reach and important paperwork never has to leave the room.





THAT CREATIVE SPARK

While a small desk is great for a mini home office or a study center, we have also had clients request a larger workspace for their creative endeavors. With the benefit of a little extra square footage, your design can include a craft zone with plenty of storage and countertop space to pursue hobbies like scrapbooking, sewing, weaving, drawing, painting, and more. A designated space (with a door that closes!) is essential for dedicating time and attention to your inspiration, but the close proximity to the kitchen and the rest of the house allows you to multitask and return to your projects as time permits.

As a bonus, the craft zone is also great for kid's school projects that require a little more room, like that poster for the science fair that they forgot to tell you about until the night before it was due.

OUR FURRY FRIENDS

When designing useful spaces in our clients' homes, we like to consider all of the family members, including the four-legged ones. A Family Foyer is a great place to organize, and perhaps disguise, things like pet supplies, litter boxes, and feeding stations. Some of the custom features we have had requested by clients include dog showers, built in kennels, small refrigerators for farm animal medications, and stylish Dutch doors to keep pets contained in one designated space while owners are away from the house (goodbye baby gates!). All of these are meant to enhance the way our clients live with their pets.

THE BOTTOM LINE?

The Family Foyer is sure to become one of the most significant and personal areas of your home. Thoughtful consideration is imperative to create a room that works for you now and as you move through all the life stages. The important thing to remember is that in the Design Build process, you are not limited to the current layout of your home or to "typical" floor plans and designs. Let us help you review your options and build a space that is uniquely tailored to you.

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Feeling Confined in a Dated Design?

**DITCH THE OLD AND GO BOLD
WITH GAUGED PORCELAIN**

By Conestoga Tile



In a time where travelling and the new way of life may feel limiting, a world of possibilities has opened up right within your own walls. Perhaps the “someday” plans for a home renovation or expansion has accelerated, now that many of us are finding our home environments transforming into teleworking offices or home-schooling classrooms.

With design on your mind, you may want to add gauged porcelain slabs to your wish list. Italian tile innovation has pioneered a technology to craft sleek and large porcelain slabs reaching opulent sizes of up to 60” x 120”. Also known as large panel porcelain slabs or large format porcelain slabs, gauged porcelain is beloved for its beauty, durability, low maintenance, and most of all: its minimal grout joints and continuous pattern throughout the tile.



Pictured Cotto D’Este - Wonderwall

2. FLOORS AND WALLS: Unify and transition spaces elegantly while enjoying a seamless flow on virtually any interior vertical and horizontal plane. Visually open up spaces that feel a bit restrictive and experience a clean and upscale look with minimal grout lines to create harmony between separate spaces.



Pictured: Cotto’Deste - Vanity

This tile option is taking the design industry by storm, creating gorgeous atmospheres for both homes and businesses. Gauged porcelain is not only large and luxurious, it is attainable and incredibly multi-functional with a broad spectrum of applications. It can be used in areas of your home you may never thought porcelain tile could:

1. ARTWORK AND FOCAL POINTS: Unlike other popular building materials, porcelain is not restricted to any specific look, colorway, or pattern. High-definition digital print technology allows for vast design selections ranging from wood, stone, or concrete to pieces that even mimic textures or works of art. You can create a masterpiece to match your personal style.



Pictured: Fiandre - Maximum

3. BACKSPASHES AND COUNTERTOPS: Do you dream of Calcutta marble countertops without the staining and need to seal? These tile slabs are the perfect answer as they are color-consistent, water-repellant, and easy to clean. The gorgeous replications of the most-loved natural stone slabs in the world are now easily within reach for both kitchen or bath.



Home for the Holidays...or longer?

By Meghan Wagoner



For many of us, gathering for the holidays is essential to the magic of the season. With warm spaces, happy embraces, and the spices and scents of the air, holiday celebrations infuse our lives with a dose of joy.

As the end of 2020 approaches, many families have already adjusted their living arrangements to include immediate and extended family members that may not have been living with them at this time last year. Some families may still be expecting out-of-town guests for the holidays, but instead of staying for three days their guests will be settling in through the New Year. With more family members together under one roof for longer periods, it is important to ensure everyone has a space to call their own.

In years past, the holidays may have been the only time of year that the sleeper sofa in the basement was pulled out or the spare bed in the office was freshened up and prepped for company. These dual-purpose spaces were meeting our clients' needs up to this point. But now, between extended-stay houseguests, college students unable to return to campus, and grandparents moving in to help with virtual schooling, these temporary guest arrangements may no longer be enough and many families are turning to multigenerational living spaces to provide some relief.



WHAT IS MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING?

Multigenerational living is when two or more adult generations are sharing the same home. This is most often either adult children who have yet to move out of their parents' home or elderly parents and grandparents moving in with their children for companionship and care.

The appeal of true multi-generational living has grown for countless families as they navigate this unexpected shift in family needs. Today, more than 20% of adult Americans live under the same roof as their parents or adult children and the trend is growing. The benefits include a lower shared cost of living, more time to socialize and celebrate togetherness, and better access to caretakers.

There are many ways to create multigenerational space in your current home or to incorporate it into a new custom design-build and each method has its own benefits and challenges. Your unique family situation, home layout, and budget will help you determine which is right for you.

Working with a team of professionals to plan for multi-generational living ensures that your home and living space truly fits your needs for a lifetime. Contact us today to find out more about how we can help.

A SECOND MASTER SUITE

One of the simplest and most cost-effective and flexible ways to create multigenerational living in a home is to incorporate a second Master Suite into the design. Many clients choose to include two master bedrooms, one on the main level and one on the upper level. This allows a significant amount of flexibility as a family moves through the life stages. When children are young, parents can sleep in the upper level Master for supervision and easy access. This leaves the main level Master Suite available for long term guests or as a cost-effective measure for elderly parents to move in and benefit from full integration into the family unit.

At a different stage of life, when the homeowners themselves are aging and their children are grown, they can easily move into the main level for accessible single-level living and leave the second floor master suite available for their adult children to return home for visits with their own young families.

While perfect for short-term guests or recovery from illness or injury, some families may find that the main level master suite is not enough separation of space for a permanent multigenerational living situation. For those families, there are other options to consider.





ATTACHED SUITE WITH KITCHENETTE

An attached suite with a kitchenette allows your long-term guests or live-in family members a higher degree of comfort and independence. Attached suites with a bedroom, full bath, kitchenette, and living room frequently feature their own entrance and may have a separate laundry center. If attached to the main level, for example as a wing on the house, these are great spaces for aging parents who want to live more independently but desire better access to their grandchildren. They may prep small meals for themselves but share larger meals with the whole family in the main kitchen. Alternatively, some clients choose to include suites like this in their basement or attic which are perfect for young adult children who have not yet fledged.

A DETACHED LIVING SPACE

A detached living space can be called many things: a carriage-house, a guest house, or an in-law cottage to name a few, but they all offer the same benefits: total independence for live-in family while still allowing easy access to one another. These are separate structures from the main house featuring 1-2 bedrooms, a full kitchen, bath, laundry, and living space. The set-up is ideal for family members who prefer living relatively independently for the long-term while still being a few steps away from the main house. While it is the most expensive of the options, due to the sitework and structural needs of an entirely new building, many families find that the substantial benefits of detached multigenerational living are worth the cost. Frequently, our clients will use this opportunity to add additional functions to the new building like a garage or workshop beneath the new living space or an art studio above.

BENEFITS FOR TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FOR YEARS TO COME

Multigenerational living designs allow you the flexibility to meet the constantly evolving needs of your family throughout the years. From short-term guests for the holidays, to extended stays, to adult children at home, to the caretaking of elderly parents, to aging in place for yourself, these spaces are one of the most versatile inclusions when designing a home that works best for you. If adding a multigenerational living space is not a need or a possibility for you at this time, we can also design a home that includes a future plan for additional living spaces and thoughtfully engineered rooflines so that adding on down the road is as straightforward and cost-effective as possible.

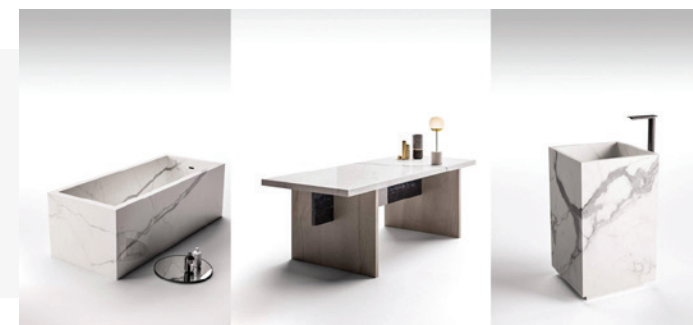
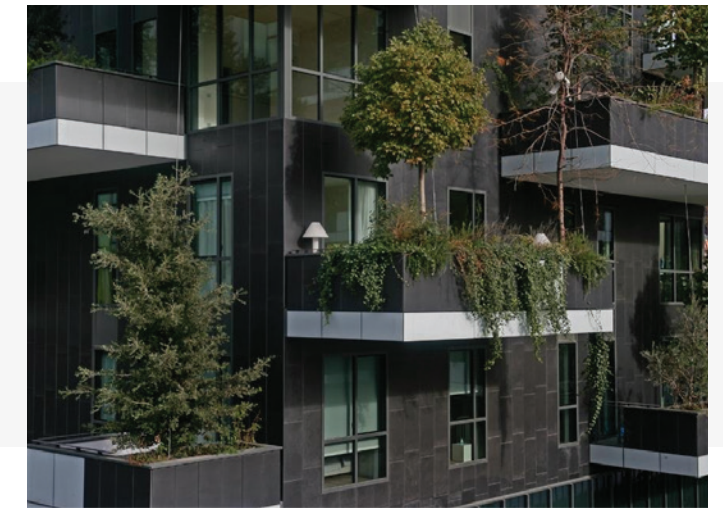
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Pictured: Fiandre - Maximum

4. FIREPLACE SURROUNDS - Do you dream of Calcutta marble countertops without the staining and need to seal? These tile slabs are the perfect answer as they are color-consistent, water-repellant, and easy to clean. The gorgeous replications of the most-loved natural stone slabs in the world are now easily within reach for both kitchen or bath.

5. EXTERIOR CLADDING: Thanks to its style and material strength, gauged porcelain tile is appearing on the exterior cladding of some of today's most prestigious architectural structures. Not only can this product be considered for a façade of a large commercial building, it is a great residential option for a contemporary look.



6. FURNITURE AND BATHROOM: Cutting-edge designers have dared to create show-stopping furnishings such as: tabletops, benches, shelving units, doors, cabinets and more. But why stop at just furniture? Porcelain's impervious and water-resistant nature even caters to fabricating chic tubs or sinks, providing a stunning finishing touch.

In years to come this technology will be commonly found within both residential and commercial spaces. Due to the size and technical skill required, installation of gauged porcelain slabs need to be handled and installed by trained craftsmen who have the unique tools needed to guarantee results that will last a lifetime.



Holiday Décor in the Home

EVERY NOOK DESERVES SOME HOLIDAY CHEER





Home for the Holidays

BOWE'S FAMILY TRADITIONS

By Meghan Wagoner



When Matt and Nan moved from Long Island to Virginia more than 30 years ago with two babies in tow, they did so with a dream for the future. Loudoun County offered beautiful landscapes, great public schools, and an opportunity to build a life for themselves and their children. From a rented split-level in the Sterling Community of Countryside, to a townhouse in Cascades, to a 1920's bungalow in the middle of Purcellville, to a new home build on seven acres outside of Hillsboro, each new home was woven into the collective memory of the Bowe Family.

In 2006, with two of their three children off to college, it was time to right-size for the next stage of their lives. They chose a solidly built brick ranch-style home on 2 wooded acres located between Purcellville and Round Hill. The home was smaller than their previous one, dated, and cut-up with small rooms and a lot of partition walls, but Nan and Matt saw the potential it had for a transformation that would take advantage of its good bones and the idyllic lot. Nan began cultivating flower and vegetable gardens along with a fishpond and waterfall, while Matt completed a bathroom remodel, painting, small alterations, and land clearing. In the meantime, plans were brewing for a total transformation of the home that would completely alter their indoor living environment in a major way.



Finally, the time arrived to start the transformation. The roof was restructured, and half of the house was gutted to the studs. Interior partitions were removed to combine three rooms into one large, vaulted great room and kitchen. The covered side porch was enclosed, vaulted, and incorporated into the open-concept plan becoming a sun-filled dining room that feels suspended among the trees that surround the house. The result is an open, beautiful, and functional family gathering area with a cozy fireplace, custom built-in cabinetry, a kitchen island big enough for the whole family to gather around, and a dining area flooded with natural light. Nan's artistic touches are everywhere, from her oil paintings adorning the walls, to her handmade ceramic tiles on the backsplash behind the stove, to the Fall bouquet of wildflowers picked from around the property.



Nan still finds herself in awe of the space and the fact that it is hers. More important than the beauty of the newly renovated space, is what it has meant for them in terms of how they live in the home. When asked about the biggest change that the new layout has offered, Matt and Nan both express, "We are now able to all gather together, family and friends, in one large open, connected space and move effortlessly from one area to another while remaining connected. This is a big change from the cramped, isolated rooms that the original home offered."

Today, the grandkids are visiting and baking with Nana. They are making Baking Powder Biscuits, a recipe that Nan's own mother, Great-Grandma Nolan, taught her to make as a child. When they finish cutting biscuits, they spill out into the yard under a canopy of beech trees to burn off some energy chasing after the chickens.

Matt shares, "So many people struggle with insufficient housing, housing insecurity or simply an uninspired house that does not meet their needs. Our home is modest in size, for sure, but it suits us so well and we are grateful for it. We are so fortunate to have this home and this property, transformed in a way that speaks to our lives and how our family lives."



"We are so fortunate to have this home and this property, transformed in a way that speaks to our lives and how our family lives."



For Nan and Matt, this renovation wasn't just about having an updated or trendy space (Nan has never been one to follow trends). Rather, it was about creating a space where the life they began together 36 years ago could continue to evolve and thrive. Because in the end, the most important quality of a home is its ability to compliment, enhance and improve the lives of those who dwell inside.



GREAT-GRANDMA NOLAN'S BAKING POWDER BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon sugar

4 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

½ cup shortening

¾ cup milk

Softened butter or jam for serving

1. Preheat oven to 450°F
2. In a large bowl, mix or sift together all dry ingredients - flour sugar, baking powder, and salt.
3. Cut in shortening until crumbly (lumps no bigger than peas).
4. Add milk and stir with fork until dough is soft and sticky and clears sides of bowl.
5. Lightly flour the worktop and roll dough in flour to coat.
6. Knead lightly approximately 10 times.
7. Pat out to ½" thick.
8. Cut out 2-1/2-inch biscuits using a floured biscuit cutter or a small jelly jar. Avoid twisting the cutter.
9. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet about an inch apart
10. Bake for 8-12 minutes until golden and remove from sheet immediately. Serve warm with softened butter or jam.





The Gull Family



The Keith Family

A Journey Home

**LOUDOUN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
GIVES A HAND-UP TO FAMILIES
THROUGH HOMEOWNERSHIP**

By Loudoun Habitat for Humanity



Talk with the volunteers, staff and board of any Habitat for Humanity around the world and you will hear the same thing, dedications are the best part of the work we do. The day when a future homeowner receives the keys to their house, when they cross the threshold as new proud homeowner, well, it doesn't get better than that for those of us involved in the Habitat mission.

Here are the stories of four hard-working families, that with the support of Habitat volunteers and donors, are experiencing the stability and self-reliance that homeownership brings, lasting long after the dedication and for many years yet to come.

THE KEITH FAMILY

When faced with the diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis, Danni knew her life was changing forever. Her greatest worry was how she would take care of her two daughters and herself as this illness progressed. Loudoun Habitat helped Danni with an affordable home that is providing stability and security for her family. The home was newly constructed in 2018 and included design changes so Danni can stay in her home as her disease progresses. Danni and her girls are building a promising future in their new home.

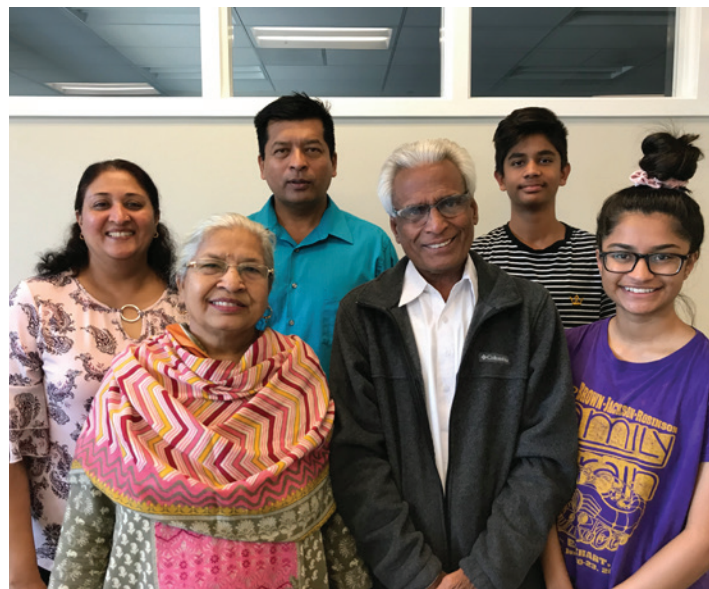
What does my home mean to me? "It means comfort, stability and love. The comfort of knowing we are all together. The stability knowing the floor isn't going to fall out from under us. And, the love that keeps us all together, we're sharing it under one roof. And that's what my house means to me." Danni Keith

THE LEWIS FAMILY

Born and raised in Washington DC, Miki's journey to home ownership was long and challenging. A period of hard times led her to becoming homeless and feeling hopeless. In December of 2015, with her three-week old twins in tow, Miki arrived at a Loudoun County shelter to begin a new life. Through perseverance and hard work, Miki secured a job and began to call the county her home. Introduced to Loudoun Habitat for Humanity through a counselor she was working with at the time, Miki embraced the Habitat program actively participating in the eight-week Home Buyer Club, learning about budgeting, savings, credit management, financing, home maintenance and how to be a good neighbor. She worked alongside volunteers on the rehab that was to become her new home. She shared her story with the community giving hope and inspiration to others. "In my past, I faced a lot of struggles including homelessness. I found myself unable to provide a safe place for my children. Now with my Habitat home, I have fulfilled a dream - to lay a long line foundation for my children." Miki Lewis



The Lewis Family



The Gull Family

THE GULL FAMILY

The impact that Kashif and Robin Gull's safe, stable and affordable home is having on their lives is far reaching. For several years, they have been facing many of the challenges of the typical 'sandwich' generation, balancing the needs of two teenagers and elderly parents. Through his new job, Kashif learned about the Loudoun Habitat for Humanity Homeownership program. While preparing themselves to apply for the program, the family of six lived in a two-bedroom apartment where their son slept on a bed in a small living room. Through the entire process, the family always smiled and proclaimed their faith in God to provide for their family. As homeowners, each family member will have a space to sleep and have privacy. Their home also ensures that the family can keep Kashif's parents safe, and welcome their friends and family into their home celebrating with their community and having hope for tomorrow.

"We participated in the Home Buyers Club classes learning how to manage our credit card and how to become a responsible homeowner. We are grateful to Habitat and we love our home. Our dream came true." Kashif Gull

THE JALLU FAMILY

It was a bit of good news in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in keeping with social distancing guidance, Ayana and Maria were joined by their three children, ranging from four years old to one-month old, during a private dedication ceremony. Several of their new neighbors watched and cheered as Ayana cut the ribbon and opened the door to their new home.

The Jallu family applied to Loudoun Habitat for Humanity's Home Ownership program in May 2019, and one year later, they moved into a new three-bedroom townhome in Sterling. According to Loudoun Habitat, buying the home is 'a hand-up' for the Jallu's, who have been raising their family for the past couple of years in a one-bedroom apartment in the basement of another family's townhome. Their new home will finally give their children the space to play and grow, the privacy of their own bedrooms, and a fenced-in back yard where they can get outside. It will also get the family away from the health and safety concerns that can go with living in a basement.

"We are so thankful for the work and details of Loudoun Habitat construction staff who were able to complete the work on our house during these times. We want everyone to know how much we appreciate the donors and volunteers who helped make it possible for us to purchase this home. Thank you for being a part of our success in becoming homeowners." Ayana and Maria Jallu



The Jallu Family

THERE ARE MORE FAMILIES TO WELCOME HOME

The need for an affordable, safe, stable home in Loudoun County is great. This October, in just one year, Loudoun Habitat saw a 35% increase in applications for Habitat's Homeownership Program. There is more work to do and financial support from our Loudoun community is critical. Homeownership transforms lives and transforms our community. To learn how you can make a difference, visit loudounhabitat.org.



2021

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The Heart of the Holidays

By The HeartPine Company



November is here and the smell of fall, bonfires, and pumpkin spice is everywhere. The leaves are starting to turn magnificent colors of yellow, orange, and burgundy, yet still hold onto to some summer green. The crisp chill of an Autumn morning reminds us that the year is coming to a close and the holidays are right around the corner.

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year...” - and what a year it has been! It’s a time for traditions, making new memories, and celebrating the season with decorations, festive food, and spreading joy and cheer. In the true sense of the word, traditions are customs handed down from generation to generation, and they can be created at any time.



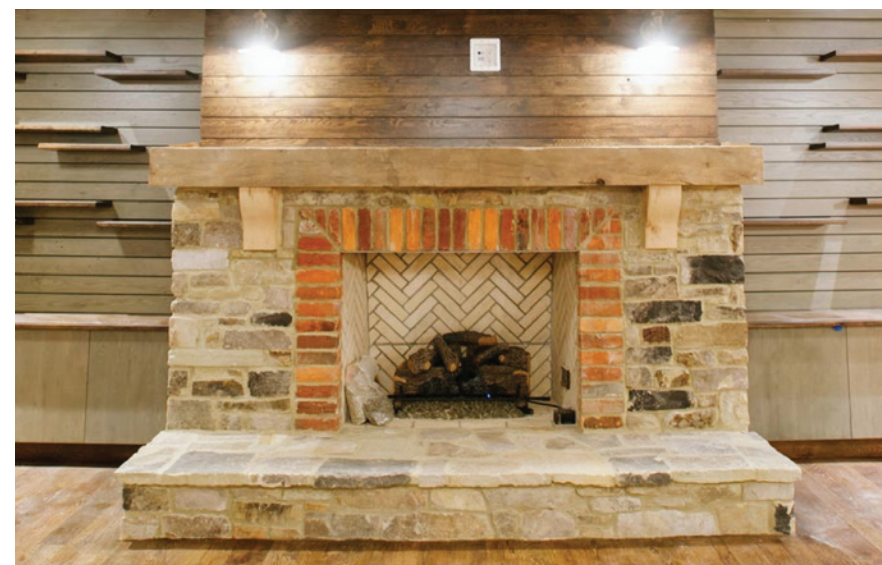
The family room and hearth are often the heart of the home, and even more so during the holidays. There’s something about the warmth and glow of a crackling fire that brings people together. For centuries, families have gathered around fires to make memories and enjoy each other’s company.

Decorating fireplace mantels is a favorite holiday tradition. Each home and each family have creative and unique ideas for making their mantel stand out. As each item appears out of its newspaper-wrapped cove, our minds and hearts are flooded with memories of our past.

At The HeartPine Company, we are fortunate to be part of these family traditions, memories, and daily life stories by partnering with designers, architects and craftsmen everywhere to bring old boards to new life in the places that really matter.

Just like the family recipes, memories, and stories of each treasured moment, our hand-hewn beams, boards, and millwork tell their own story of what the reclaimed wood once was and what it now has become.

Make new memories and enjoy existing ones, from wood that has its’ own story.



CENTURY-OLD HOLIDAY TRADITIONS FROM THE HEART

There’s something comforting about holiday traditions being handed down from generation-to-generation, whether it means having the same candy in your stocking, burning a yule log, or visiting the same amazing holiday light displays.

Here are a few century-old Christmas traditions our family has preserved over time:

Sleeping under the Christmas tree

A Christmas tree makes the house magical. A family tradition passed down generation-to-generation is to spend the first night it’s up and decorated sleeping under its boughs.

St. Nicholas Day

The feast day of St. Nicholas is celebrated on December 6th. The children in our family set out a pair of shoes when they go to bed and when they wake up, their shoes are filled with candy.

Christmas Crackers

On Christmas morning, we take turns popping our Christmas crackers - it’s a two-person job where each pull on one end to reveal the treasures found within.

Burning a Yule Log

We decorate a large block of wood with pinecones, cinnamon sticks, cranberries, and handwritten notes with our wishes for the new year tucked inside. We set the log ablaze and reminisce about the year past and hopes for the future.

Twelfth Night Cake

Twelfth Night is celebrated on January 6th, marking the day the Three Kings visited baby Jesus. To celebrate, we bake a cake and hide three beans inside. When the cake is sliced, whoever find a bean is crowned one of the three kings (or queens) for the evening.



Movable Colors

DECORATING A HOME WITH NEUTRAL WALLS AND COLOR POPS

By Leigh Newport
Owner and Principal Designer,
Staged by Design®



At Staged by Design®, we don't believe that neutral is boring - we think a room full of neutrals can be just as interesting as any colorful space - with the right layers, textures and accents.

The shades we think of as neutral, such as whites, grays, beiges and tans, create a versatile backdrop for a layered, luxurious look. They are calm, soothing and never go out of style. When accompanied with contrasting statement tones, they provide the foundation that is pleasing to the eye.

This decorating tip can easily bring on-trend color pops into your home through pillows, throws, and small accents that can easily be replaced when the color is no longer trending.



We use color, pattern, and texture to create a cohesive style, mood, and feel in the homes we stage and decorate.

The accent colors, patterns, and textures are movable; they are present in art, decor, textiles, and sometimes furniture. We adhere to these simple decorating guidelines to create an inviting space.



PATTERNS. Throw pillows, small accent pieces, and textiles in a mixture of patterns and sizes add personality and make a bold statement in any room.

TEXTURE. Incorporating a variety of visual and tactile texture adds dimension interest to any room and keeps it from feeling cold and sterile.

METAL. Gold, bronze, silver, nickel, and brass accents help bring warmth and regality to neutral spaces.

STATEMENT ART. Large-scale artwork, photography, and colorful prints add personality and create a strong focal point in a room.

Adding “movable” pops of color and texture to a neutral décor make rooms look more interesting and give your eyes something to enjoy.





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