

President
Alex Dean, CR, CGR

Design Consultant
Jonathan Hodge

Construction Mgrs.
Michael Colman
Steve Mayberry

Architectural Designer
Brian Stone

Carpenter
Joe Norville

Office Manager
Shannon Perry

Members of:
NARI DC Chapter
Montgomery Co. Builders
Association

Recent Awards:
2004 Montgomery
Co. Builders Assoc.

2003 Montgomery
Co. Builders Assoc.

2002 NARI
CotY Awards (2)

2002 Montgomery
Co. Builders Assoc.
Awards (4)

2001 Montgomery
Co. Builders Assoc.
Awards (4)

2001 NARI
CotY Awards (2)

2000 NARI
CotY Awards (4)

2000 Montgomery
Co. Builders Awards (2)

1993 - 1999
Multiple Awards



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See what 1000 square feet can do!

The small house in Northwest was a perfect size when homeowner and attorney Elizabeth Ewert purchased it. When she and David Ervin, also an attorney, married and started their family of five, the home seemed to shrink.

“Our home is a very traditional-looking brick Cape Cod that looked identical to our neighbors,” Elizabeth said. “Instead of going colonial or traditional, we wanted to bring in some fresher, contemporary Craftsman or Mission style details. We were able to do that without clashing with the original part of the house, so there is a stylistic flow, inside and out. For example, we matched the hardwood that existed in the dining room and living room and carried it into the new portion for a seamless transition.”

The Cape Cod now sports an additional 1000 square feet; the smart use of space creates a feeling

of a much larger home. The added space was driven by a need to accommodate the growing family: there was a baby on the way. It was clear that something needed to be done to the kitchen and more bedrooms and baths were needed. A master suite and walk-in closet were added to the wish list.

“As with any home of this age, there were challenges, but that’s why it pays huge dividends to contract with an experienced, licensed contractor,” Alex Dean said. “We maintain a strong working relationship with the professionals who are certified and licensed to handle challenges such as mold or asbestos abatement. These unexpected issues are part and parcel for many remodeling jobs. Fortunately, David and Elizabeth ‘got it’ from the beginning of the process, and we were able to work with them to create a special space that met their needs perfectly.”

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The design solution to achieve the homeowners' goals of improving their home included renovation and expansion to the bedroom, bath, kitchen and living areas. A favorite of David's was a new powder room on the first floor—something he especially appreciated.

“We expected to be done by Christmas,” Elizabeth said, “but a permit delay in DC held up the process for about three months. As a result, we came home with a new baby in January—in the midst of the interior finish work. This could have been a real disaster if we had been dealing with many contractors. However, the personalities of those at The Alexander Group made it work. They are, as a whole, smart, patient, and responsive. Steve or Mike were there almost every day during the early part of my maternity leave and they went out of their way to accommodate me and the baby. The trades whom they brought in were quiet, clean and friendly. I almost missed the painters when they left; they were so pleasant to have in the house.”

Elizabeth added: “Our neighbors were all curious and likely had some trepidation about what they thought was going to be a ‘monster’ addition. They kept driving into the alley behind our house to check out the

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Why build “green”?

The news broadcasts are filled with frightening events: hurricanes and severe weather, wars and political unrest. While these items are frightening in and of themselves, they also have long-reaching economic and environmental effects. The cost of energy is skyrocketing, hitting every single person in the world.

By their very nature, homes and businesses consume an enormous amount of energy. Consider these statistics from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

In the United States, buildings account for:

- 39% of total energy use
- 12% of the total water consumption
- 68% of total electricity consumption
- 38% of the carbon dioxide emissions

In addition, 2000 census figures show that nearly 116 million residential buildings existed in 2000, with more than 1.8 million being built annually.

That’s a lot of energy consumption!

So, as homeowners and builders, how can we, together, affect energy consumption? That’s where building “green” comes in. By adopting green building strategies, ie, making considered choices in processes and products, we can make a difference, one home at a time.

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progress; we were glad that the construction was so clean and well run. Even though we added about 50% more square feet to our house, it absolutely looks like a natural fit. The roof line is offset to create a scaled-down look, the details are homey and people now wander into our backyard and comment repeatedly that it doesn’t even seem like we lost much yard. The quality and appearance of the addition is first-rate. Now I am the one who goes out and stands in the alley in the evening to look in on our cheerfully-lit home and marvel at how inviting it is! We still call Mike, Steve and Alex with questions or comments—and best of all, they still call us right back!”

“Elizabeth and David were great clients,” Alex said. They kept their humor and focus throughout the project. I love it when we are invited to help our clients solve problems and realize their dreams.”

Green construction methods can be integrated into a building at any stage—from new construction to renovation. The EPA has prepared a comprehensive list of practices and products to help homeowners and builders make choices to improve the environment.: epa.gov/greenbuilding. The site examines six categories: energy efficiency and renewable energy; water stewardship; environmentally preferred building materials; waste reduction; indoor environment; and smart growth and sustainable development.

Other links:

- energystar.gov: guide to products, remodeling guide, home energy analysis, and other useful items
- buildinggreen.com: news, topics, resources; some items are by subscription
- emagazine.com: magazine dedicated to environmental issues
- greenbuildermag.com: new magazine launching in 2006 focusing on the building industry

We are interested in learning more about what products our clients are interested in. We have prepared an online survey. To participate, please log onto alexandergroup.net/survey.

“What makes a product green? Many factors come into play... Much of the complexity in examining the environmental and health impacts of materials...can occur at different points in the life cycle of a product... A green product is one whose life-cycle impacts are low. A floor tile made from recycled glass might be considered green because it is made from a waste material. A mineral silicate paint might be green because it is highly durable and won’t require frequent recoating...”

Excerpt from new book: Green Building Products, buildinggreen.com A comprehensive list of 1400 “green” building materials



20+ years later...

The true test of homeowners' satisfaction is long after the project is completed. If a client still thinks well of a remodeling firm after living with the completed renovation for several years, then the job was done properly and met client expectations.

Such is the case of Logan and Pat Dowler who first hired The Alexander Group in the early 80s. Now, 20 plus years later, Mrs. Dowler writes:

"We engaged Alex Dean and his crew in the early 1980s. Our house was a bungalow built in 1908 and a bathroom was added in the late 30s, off a small porch off the kitchen. We bought it in 1977 and wanted to turn the upstairs into bedrooms/bathroom/living space to accommodate our family. We had a rough set of drawings and Alex took those and ran with them.

"As with any older dwelling, we ran into all kinds of unforeseen problems on site: floors were crooked, a gas pipe in the kitchen needed to be moved, horsehair fell out of the ceiling. Alex discovered the structure wasn't strong enough for the second floor addition without strengthening the living room walls. We didn't

have anywhere else to live, so Alex and his crew worked by day and cleaned up (every day).

"(A few years later) we hired an architect to draw up plans...for a master bedroom/bath addition that wrapped around a huge old maple in the backyard...and enlarged our kitchen...with a full basement. We interviewed several contractors, compared their bids, questioned them closely and ended up choosing Alex Dean's company because we had faith that he would do a great job and wouldn't cut corners on the quality of the work. We were not disappointed. We are avid gardeners and had trees that we didn't want hurt by the construction and they were very careful about that too.

"In later years, we had The Alexander Group return: they erected a small, two-storey barn and carport at the back of our lot and redid our back porch room. They stand by their work, clean up before they go home at night and do quality work. In these days of fly-by-night contractors who take your money and don't do what they say they will, they are rare and worth their weight in gold."

■ Visit our Web site: AlexanderGroup.net

■ Excellence in architectural craftsmanship and remodeling