

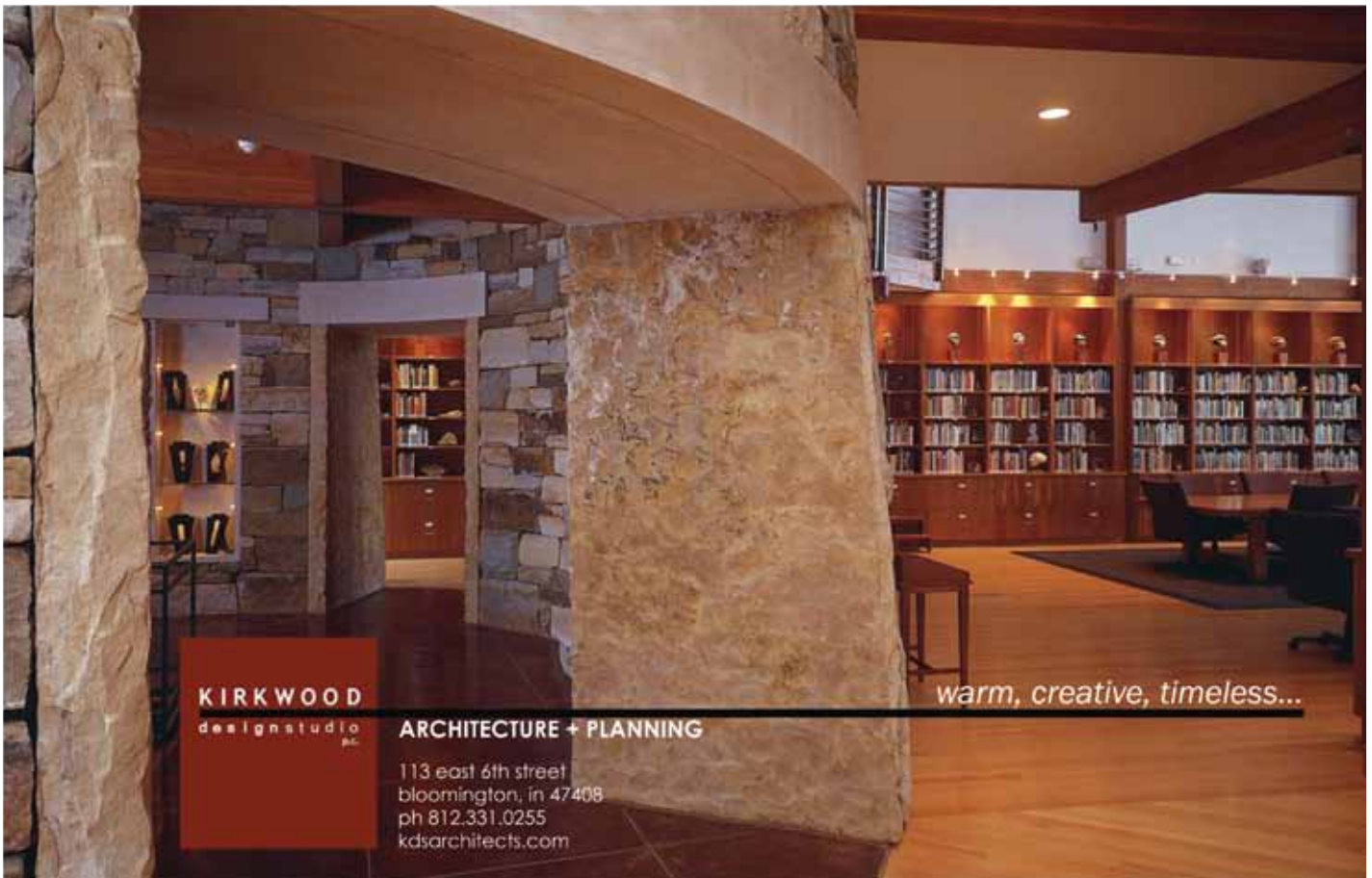
Bloom  
MAGAZINE *presents*

# HOME beautiful

Check out these outstanding local vendors who can help to make (and maintain) your *beautiful home*.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY *Shannon Zahnle*

This special Home Beautiful Guide will be featured on the *Bloom Magazine* website, [magbloom.com](http://magbloom.com), for a full year.



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## LEE SUPPLY IS

# YOUR LOCAL D-I-Y SUPPLIER

**SO** THIS IS WHERE THE COOL STUFF IS," says one faucet-hunting customer. "I've been looking all over town!" And, indeed, behind the mild-mannered façade of Lee Supply Corporation on West 3rd Street are the bath and kitchen fixings of your dreams.

"We'd like people to know that our showroom has much more than they realize, and that our prices are very competitive," says Michele Kelley, plumbing expert. At Lee you will receive personal attention and expert design assistance with cabinetry, countertops, plumbing fixtures, shower doors, hardware, and closets. The 3,500-square-foot showroom contains luxurious tubs, sinks that are works of art, and contemporary and traditional faucets and hardware. Cabinetry is represented by dozens of sample doors in various styles and finishes.

Lee Supply is an Indiana company based in Indianapolis, with nine branches across the state. According to Jennifer Lee, who is fourth generation, it has been family owned since 1949. "It started with plumbing specialties out of the trunk of my great-grandpa's car," she says. "We are open to the public and welcome everyone to shop with us—designers, builders, contractors, homeowners, and do-it-yourselfers. All our customers are members of the family."

Kelley heads the plumbing design team and Steve Berg is in charge of cabinetry. Both are manufacturer-trained, receive regular technical updating, and are on top of current design trends.

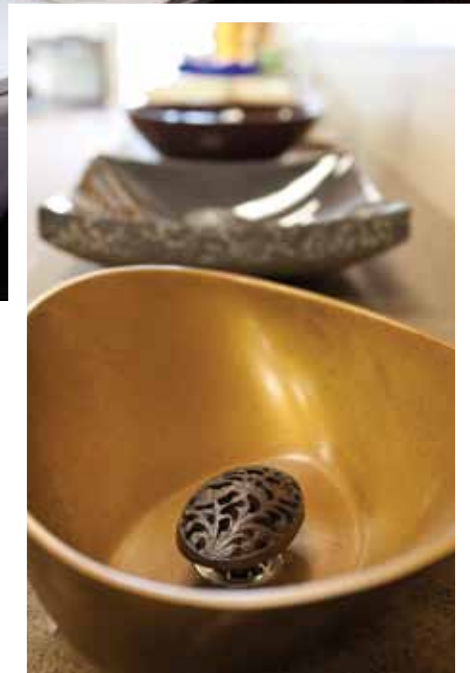
For the bath, Kelley says, "We have wonderful showerheads and shower doors. We love shower doors." She will help you select from a full line of sinks and

faucets by Kohler and others. "We are in sync with Bloomington's green consciousness. We are selling a lot of dual-flush toilets, and Kohler's cast-iron sinks are ninety-percent recycled. We also use as many local goods as possible."

Steve Berg, cabinet guru with 26 years of experience, says that trends in kitchen design are leaning toward contemporary. Two-tone kitchens are big, with one color for the cabinets and another for the island. Plain flat "slab doors" are favorites for cabinets because they are easy to clean. Cherry and maple are the most popular finishes. And it's all about quartz countertops, under-mount sinks, and pullout faucets.

Top-end brands are the staple at Lee. Kohler is a best seller, and so are faucets by Hansgrohe, Delta, Rohl, Brizo, and Graf, among many others. They carry Aquatic tubs, and also Schulte closets. You can buy directly from Lee, or through a contractor.

*Hours: 9 am-5 pm Monday-Friday;  
Saturday by appointment only.  
1821 W. 3rd St., 812-333-4343,  
[www.leesupplycorp.com](http://www.leesupplycorp.com)*



Cabinetry, fixtures, tubs, sinks and more at Lee Supply.





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info.indiana@ledsource.com

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
Friday 9-5 Saturday 9-12 And by appointment

## LED: *A Bright Idea*

Maybe you have a hard-to-reach light fixture—the kind that tends to burn out and stay dark, thanks to its perch overhead. Or you leave the same few bulbs on all the time, replacing them frequently. And you feel a tinge of guilt when you think about all the energy your bulbs consume.

Either way, LED is the way to go. Screw a light-emitting diode (LED) bulb into a living-room lamp, and you won't need to change it for nearly 20 years.

"Our market is primarily commercial because of the quick and sustained payback for businesses," says Hugh Kremer, owner of the local LED Source franchise, one of seven stores in the U.S. of the Florida-based chain. "But we are very happy to help homeowners cut their carbon footprints, reduce energy costs, and avoid landfill waste by converting to 21st-century lighting."

### Some of the benefits of LEDs:

- A nice warm glow—or bright white, depending on your preference—similar to the incandescent bulbs most of us are used to.

- Little to no heat output.

- A lifetime that's about 50 times longer than incandescent bulbs—in private homes, that's about 20 years on average.

- No toxic mercury (unlike squiggly CFLs) and a makeup that's usually 100 percent recyclable.

"While the up-front price is higher, the cost is far lower because they last so long and use so little electricity," says Kremer. "It's just a different way of thinking about buying lighting. It's not a consumable item any more, it's more like an appliance. LED lighting is the next big thing, and is ready for prime time now."

Hours: 9 am-5 pm Friday, 9 am-noon Saturday, or by appointment.  
406 S. Walnut St., 812-822-1747, [www.ledsource.com](http://www.ledsource.com)

## Solar Powerhouse—Our #1 Sun

What comes to mind when we think about energy independence?

"Many Hoosiers don't realize that Indiana utility companies import over a billion dollars worth of coal annually, mostly from western states," says Dave Mann of MPI Solar. "Wouldn't it be great if that coal dependence could be reduced with homegrown, renewable energy?"

Transitioning to clean, locally distributed renewable energy is increasingly more commonplace, and installations continue in earnest in the Bloomington area. Solar photovoltaic (PV) installations are ramping up in numbers in our part of the state, and Indiana just adopted a new statewide policy for system owners wanting to tie into the grid with solar PV.

Amie McCarty, Marketing Director of MPI Solar, thinks that the climate here has never been better for home and business owners wanting to take advantage of the abundance of solar energy beaming down upon us all. "Besides the fact that solar energy systems save their owners money over time in the face of rising energy costs, producing your own electricity from the sun gives people a feeling that they are taking control of their energy generation," McCarty says. "Additionally, the increasing adoption of solar energy systems is a potent creator of jobs locally and statewide, which is so important right now."

MPI Solar offers free site assessments for home and business owners who are seriously considering solar PV or solar hot-water systems. A site visit allows predictions of costs and energy production, and provides answers about system types and benefits.

Call Amie or Dave today to schedule an appointment.

For more information visit [www.mpisolarenergy.com](http://www.mpisolarenergy.com)  
or call 812-334-4003.

# A Beautifully Appointed Destination

Overlooking the sweeping I.M. Pei staircase, Angles Café and Gift Shop at the IU Art Museum is a shopping destination for anyone who loves up-to-the-moment design displayed in a world-class setting. It has been closed for the past few months while the glass roof of the atrium was being replaced, but is reopening for the fall season with a bang.

“Summer closing of the museum gave me a chance to travel to Stockholm, Paris, Barcelona, Rome, Istanbul, and New York City,” says buyer and shop manager Murat Candiler. “Museums, art stores, and special fairs were among the prime points of interest.”

Starting the beginning of September, visitors will find all new items for fall and winter, hand picked by Candiler during his travels. These include ceramic mugs from Barcelona that reflect the triangular design of the museum’s famous architecture. He has purchased the latest scarves, umbrellas, and home decor from Italy, Africa, the Far East, and the U.S. Exciting jewelry by American, French, and Brazilian designers will be irresistible. There will also be special merchandise in honor of the upcoming exhibit of Iranian war posters.

The popular Angles Café will be offering new flavors of tea and coffee, delicious Askinosie chocolates, and Scholars Inn baked goods.

“My philosophy is to keep Angles among the most unique and exciting museum stores not only in the Midwest but in the country,” says Candiler. Customer comment cards from the past year prove the shop is on the right track.



Hand-picked goods at Angles.


“Amazing selection, beautiful pieces. I do often find something to purchase. I also love your children’s collection of books, games, etc. Thank you for being here! This is a true treasure for Bloomington,” wrote an elementary school art teacher.

And from a Norwegian visitor, “The most beautifully appointed museum shop I’ve ever seen. Creative displays of carefully selected items...there are virtually hundreds of ‘views’ to be had as one wanders through the display area...not the Metropolitan Museum nor the Smithsonian nor the Fine Arts Museum in Boston can come close to the truly beautiful shop ‘Angles.’”

*Hours: 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm Saturday, noon-5 pm Sunday. IU Art Museum, 1133 E. 7th St., 812-855-4337*

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Located in the IU Art Museum, 1133 E. 7th St. 812 855-4337 [www.artmuseum.iu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.iu.edu)

**angles**   
 Café & Gift Shop

# Relish

•••the unexpected



**MANY OF THE FINDS AT RELISH** are from sources you've never heard of, and that's just the way owners Brad and Sharon Fugate like it. The urban-modern store, in a loft-like space just off the downtown Square, has always been about the unexpected, a focus that has only intensified the past couple of years.

"Our store has become more and more about the joy of discovery," says Sharon. "We've become a destination, one-of-a-kind marketplace. We strive to be different from what you see online and other places."

That has come to mean a distinctive palette of largely masculine tones and lots of interesting texture. "It's very understated," Sharon says. "We look for good proportion, good design, and unexpected materials." While the Fugates focus their search on North America, and are particularly excited about a few Canadian vendors at the moment, they also keep an eye on the global market, bringing in items from throughout Europe and Asia.

Relish customers often possess a strong sense of personal style. "We offer them a varied, already edited selection of creative merchandise," says Sharon.

"What delights us most is introducing those clients to the pieces that represent their already established sensibility."

You could furnish an entire home at Relish, from beautifully upholstered sofas and chairs, interesting casegoods, and eye-catching art objects, but Sharon is especially pleased by the lighting selection right now. "Lamps with very clean lines contrast those with a steampunk feel of formality and industry—we have a wonderful assortment," she says.

Pillows and textiles are a perennial favorite here, as are the sofas and chairs that host them. All can be totally customized with a wonderful range of fabrics to choose from. "Every order represents a signature piece because of that variety," says Sharon. The same sleek sofa style might be done any number of ways—from super-soft chenille to artfully weathered leather to modern graphics or a crafted combination.

"Our upholstered pieces are always my favorite because they're so important to an environment, and ours are very livable," says Sharon. "We've come to use the phrase 'soft modern' to describe our offerings, as opposed to 'hard modern'—Relish pieces are very approachable, you want to sit in them, you want to live with them."

*Hours: 10 am-6 pm Monday-Saturday,  
noon-5 pm Sunday  
204 N. Morton St., 812-333-2773,  
[www.relishbloomington.com](http://www.relishbloomington.com)*

Soft Modern in loft-like Relish.



# Re:lish

an  
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marketplace

Downtown at the  
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# Hardware with a *Soft Touch*

Ever been to cavernous, concrete big-box spaces that typify the modern hardware store? Where you hunt for somebody in a bright vest to ask for help and get directed 20 aisles away and still can't find what you were looking for? That's not Bloomington Hardware.

A Bloomington fixture since the 1880s, it's been owned by the Temple family since 1928, and passed down from one generation to the next. Customers still stop in and tell the store's current owner, Victoria Temple Davison, about their memories of Great-Grandpa Temple or Pop Temple climbing a ladder and digging in boxes to find just the right gadget or gizmo.

"It was nice back then to be known for solving problems," says Vickie. "It's even better to have that same reputation in this day and age."

Vickie and her staff love hearing about their clients' and friends' woes—drippy faucets, leaky toilets, bug invasions. Seriously. "We genuinely love solving problems," she says. "The very nature of a hardware store is to help people—whether novices or professionals—be successful on their projects. Bloomington Hardware has always listened to the people it serves."

Her personal favorite part of the store is the paint department, where everyone from art students to DIY rehabbers come in for exactly the right shade. "Color is powerful!" says Vickie. "Whether an apartment, a mobile home, a bungalow restoration, or new construction, people want their personality to shine through. Your home is



Vickie Davison in the Bloomington Hardware paint department.

where you want to feel safe, comfortable, and special. Paint colors, inside or outside, can do just that: Show off 'you.' Paint is a cheap way to get a really big change." At the [bloomingtonhardware.com](http://bloomingtonhardware.com) website, you can click "PAINT" and have fun testing paint shades and colors in the store's virtual "paint and play" area.

Whether it's spicing up a kitchen nook with exactly the right shade of paprika on the walls or a more mundane job like stopping a bug infestation or killing garden weeds, Vickie says that what makes her job really fun is "being a part of someone making their home better."

"I love that people have returned to the old-fashioned values of remodeling, refinishing, and fixing up their homes themselves. Repair, reuse, reduce, and recycle!" says Vickie. "It's fun and saves money."

*Hours: 8 am-8 pm Monday-Saturday, 10 am-6 pm Sunday*

*2700 E. Covenanter Dr., 812-339-7575*

*[www.bloomingtonhardware.com](http://www.bloomingtonhardware.com). Free Shipping!*



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4741 E. St. Rd. 46, Bloomington  
812-332-5662 | Hours: M-Sa 10am-6pm

## A Gallery of *Fun* and *Elegance*

There's something about Elegant Options Gallery that is instantly calming. Maybe it's the gracious old two-story house with its wooded lawn. Or the inviting antique furniture and soft lighting. Or owner Jerry Cannon with her charming laugh. For more than 20 years it has been a destination for antique lovers, decorators, and anyone looking for unusual gifts. There is always something for everyone. Cannon says, "The downstairs has the antiques and is more formal, the upstairs is all about fun and enjoying life."

Cannon recently took a buying trip with plans to expand the jewelry collection, widen the selection of linens, and broaden the baby section. These new items should be on the shelves any day now.

It is easy to see what Cannon loves. One corner is filled with really special estate silver, both simple and ornate, from coin silver spoons to Victorian muffineers, soup tureens to sterling punch bowls. A nearby glass case holds assorted Disney collectibles.

Two tall cases contain antique holiday decorations, one has Easter bunnies and colored eggs, and the other has a wonderland of glass Christmas ornaments.

Cannon was inspired by her 11 grandchildren to devote part of the second floor to children's things—toys, books, games, dolls, and fuzzy stuffed animals. The remainder of the floor is just pretty things for grownups—lamps, glass vases, party linens, wreaths, and more.

The annual Holiday Open House is always a highlight of the year, with decorations, refreshments, and special discounts. This year it is on November 6.

*Hours: 10 am-6 pm Monday-Saturday  
4741 E. State Road 46, 812-332-5662*

## Beyond the Surface

Trace your finger across the soapstone, marble, limestone, quartz, or any of 60-some varieties of granite. See the shades of creamy, glittering Kashmir Gold or rustic Vineyard Green up close. Among the hundreds of slabs of stone outside the showroom of Quality Surfaces, Inc., you're guaranteed to find your next kitchen or bathroom countertop, and any other surface that needs to be durable but gorgeous.

The ability to view your options in person sets Quality Surfaces apart, says owner Mike Job. The showroom is just off State Road 43 South, about three miles south of McCormick's Creek State Park. "We have the largest selection of decorative surfaces for countertops in the region," says Job. The vast array of stones can be matched to the Blanco and Kohler sinks and faucets carried onsite.

Can't make it to the showroom? A mobile version will come to you, and the company offers free in-home estimates. Two remnant sales each year, one in the spring and one in the fall, offer extra value.

"We're known for our vast selection, great quality, and superior customer service," says Job. "Quick turn-around times help, too—many jobs can be completed in just five to seven days."


"A lot of people like quartz because it's pretty maintenance-free and there isn't much to worry about," he adds. "People who want more variety, something a little more spectacular, go for the granite." Saratoga soapstone, which is quarried like granite but has a softer feel, is exclusive in the area to Quality Surfaces.

"That's part of the beauty," says Job. "We've got something for everyone."

*Hours: 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday, 9 am-1 pm Saturday*

*2087 Franklin Rd., Spencer, 812-876-5838, www.qualitysurfaces.com*

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Tom White 812.369.8760

RE/MAX

## It Takes *Two*

Tom White and his wife, Mary Willman-White, know what it's like to move to a new town, to start all over in an unfamiliar place. To set out in search of not just a house but a home.

Now that the Bloomington natives are back in their hometown, they relish their job as Realtors®, helping newcomers find the perfect place to settle in. The best part? They work as a team—perhaps the most successful real estate team in southern Indiana. Both have won RE/MAX's President's, Executive, and 100% Club awards several times over, and this year Tom was voted "Preferred Realtor®" for the second time in the Bloomington Herald-Times Readers' Choice poll.

Though the couple works as a team, they keep their sales volumes separate and are both always among the top RE/MAX agents in the state. Clients say that both Realtors® listen carefully to what's desired in a new home, then diligently go out and find it, allowing as much time as necessary to match house and owner. With the slogan "Building relationships one home at a time," Tom and Mary take great pride in the fact that most of their new clients come from referrals of previous clients.

"I think what sets us apart is the attention to detail," says Tom, who also places a high value on great communication skills and knowledge of the local marketplace. "We are thorough, and we are always available to our clients."

Mary Willman-White 812-325-5567; Tom White 812-369-8760;  
[www.bloomingtonhomefinders.com](http://www.bloomingtonhomefinders.com)

## Making Yourself at Home

"Home improvement" has become a national pastime, but after 25 years in the business, Drew Antilla still takes the words seriously.

"I focus on true home improvement—changes that will increase a home's value as well as make the client's life easier and more comfortable," says Antilla, owner of Newhouse Construction. Renovations of kitchens and baths—two of the most high-traffic areas in the typical home, and commonly ranked the smartest places to spend remodeling dollars—have long been a focus of Newhouse. But with his background in restoration, Antilla can handle all kinds of pick-me-ups: Crafting custom cabinetry and bookcases, installing hardwood floors, building home additions, and fixing problems anywhere from foundation to roofing. An experienced ceramic tile installer, he's able to suggest just the right materials for the job.

"I'm interested in meeting with potential clients to discuss their ideas," says Antilla. "Planning is key to a successful project."

Besides remodeling work, Antilla has introduced Bloomington to Solatubes, a ductwork system that directs the sun wherever you want it without the expense of skylight installation. A dome is added to your roof, a tube is run through your home, and sunshine is channeled inside, all in the course of an afternoon. "It's an affordable alternative to traditional skylights," says Antilla.

Whatever the type of work, Antilla considers collaboration key. "I have been very fortunate to work with many wonderful clients through the years," he says. "When you start a project with somebody, you form a relationship and partnership. Everybody has ideas, and it is important to build these into the job."

For more information, call 812-327-3729 or go to [www.newhouseremodeling.com](http://www.newhouseremodeling.com).



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NEWHOUSE  
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[antilla@bluemarble.net](mailto:antilla@bluemarble.net)

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## The *Wonder* of Underwater

One day Ben Caswell, owner of Artistic Aquatics, got a call from a local couple. The husband, a disabled veteran who is bed-bound and terminally ill, loves the magic of sea life as much as Caswell does. "We went to their house and took down their 30-gallon tank and set up a 125-gallon African cichlid tank," says Caswell. "Every time we go to service the tank, they both make sure to let us know how much he enjoys watching the fish."

"That," says Caswell, "makes it all worthwhile."

What began as a boyhood hobby has grown into a licensed and insured aquarium design-and-maintenance company. "I take pride in every detail in setting up or maintaining an aquarium," says Caswell, now in his first year of business.

"Studies have shown that having an aquarium in your home can be beneficial in helping reduce your blood pressure, and a reduction of blood pressure is one way to measure a reduction of stress," says Caswell.

First, he listens to his customers, thinking through their needs and desires. He then comes up with a plan for new or existing equipment, and can provide everything you need right down to the gravel. He can also take care of what you already have.

"You don't have to worry about cleaning the tank or ordering supplies, and you don't have to worry about maintaining critical levels of pH and nitrates," says Caswell. "We offer 24-hour emergency service to our customers."

His results make him proud: "You can enjoy the magic and serenity of the undersea world right in your office or living room."

24-hour service available.

2603 S. Bryan St., 812-929-2729, [www.artistic-aquatics.com](http://www.artistic-aquatics.com)

## Your *Hunting* Grounds for the *Perfect* Piece

Every shopper knows the thrill of the find—that moment you lay eyes on the exact perfect object. Denise Pence gets that adrenaline rush constantly, only it's on behalf of her customers. As co-owner with her husband, Gregory Pence, of Bloomington Antique Mall on West 7th Street and its sister store in Edinburgh, Indiana, Exit 76 Antique Mall, she loves helping shoppers find it, whatever that may be.

Like the Lucite chandeliers that Denise guessed, correctly, an Indianapolis interior designer in the midst of an office re-do would go gaga for. "They were \$600 and she said she expected them to be more like \$5,000." A woman who lives in a Brown County log cabin called up in search of furniture made out of timber. "I knew of a vendor who could probably get them, and within a month we had them."

Dishes fly out the door practically as fast as they come in, says Denise, noting that more brides are browsing antique place settings instead of registering for much pricier off-the-shelf sets at department stores.

"We track this stuff, and we're finding out that we have a younger group than ever," says Denise. "We've found that in this trend of frugality, people are looking for more bang for their buck."

If customers can't find what they're looking for in Bloomington Antique Mall's 24,000-square-foot showroom, Denise rings up the Exit 76 Antique Mall, considered the biggest in the Midwest, and asks employees to scour the 72,000 square feet of space over there. "I always say, if you can't find it here, you can't find it anywhere," she says.

Hours: 10 am-6 pm daily. 311 W. 7th St., 812-323-7676  
[www.bloomingtonantiquemall.com](http://www.bloomingtonantiquemall.com)



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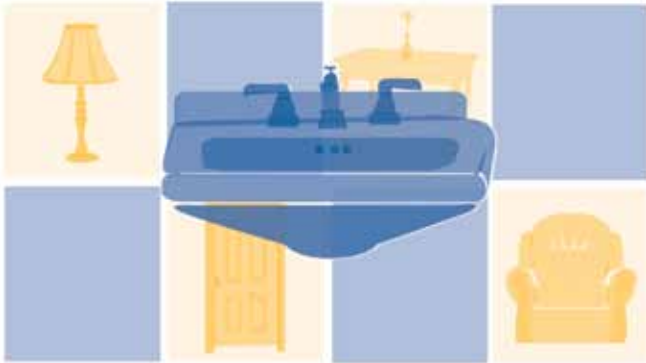
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## Everything you need...



## ...and the kitchen sink too.

Make the Habitat ReStore your one-stop shop for your home improvement projects. 100% of all profits fund homes for Monroe County families.



## Recycling—In Style

At Monroe County Habitat ReStore, old stuff turns people into homeowners, while also getting its own new lease on life. The store serves two equally cool purposes: Donated items are sold for a song, and all the proceeds fund the local Habitat for Humanity.

Furniture, cabinetry, plumbing fixtures, lumber—all kinds of items pour in. “We get a wide variety of interesting architectural styles,” says Larry Pejeau, sales and acquisitions manager. “It’s hard to go to Lowe’s and find a midcentury door. People come through who are looking for a particular style, or just bargains, or artwork.”

After six years in the area, “The quality of donations has increased tremendously,” says Pejeau. But steals are still commonplace. Though ReStore’s volunteers and its few paid staffers want to make as much money as possible for Habitat for Humanity—the store alone funded the construction of two houses in the past year—they can’t thoroughly research every item that comes in the door, says Pejeau. And even with 12,000 square feet of space, merchandise needs to move quickly.

“We try to figure out a fair value,” says Pejeau. “Every 30 days, that price goes down 25 percent. Things rarely last more than 90 days.” A really nice sofa tops out at \$200. A refrigerator is usually gone within a week.

Some customers come through once a day. “A lot of times customers have more knowledge about particular items than we do,” says Pejeau. “To us, it’s just another cabinet pull. People come through and say, ‘You don’t know what you’re selling here, these are really valuable.’ We say, ‘Great,’” he laughs, “you got a good deal!”

Hours: 10:30 am-5:30 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; noon-5:30 pm Wednesday; 8:30 am-3:30 pm Saturday. 301 W. 11th St., 812-331-2660, [www.monroecountyhabitat.org/restore](http://www.monroecountyhabitat.org/restore)

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# Full-Service Landscaping & More

If you've driven through downtown Bloomington or some of its upscale neighborhoods, you've probably seen Designscape's handiwork. The nursery and tree farm, located at the corner of TC Steele Road and State Road 46, has had a hand in creating the greenery that Bloomington is known for.

"It's really rewarding for me," says owner Dan Gluesenkamp, who founded the company with wife Debra in 1986, "because I can walk around downtown and think, 'Those trees came from our farm.'"

Designscape plants several hundred tree species, specializing in natives such as yellowwood, river birch, bald cypress, and dawn redwood, each well adapted to wet, dry, or other areas.

But trees are only a part of what the company does. "We have a broad range of services," says Dan. "We can accomplish everything from the mailbox to the front door. We clean gutters, build decks, crane in huge trees, mow grass, weed gardens, plant vegetables. Anything to do with landscaping and outdoor living—install waterfalls, LED lighting, stone hardscaping, automated irrigation—we can do."

Among their specialties is the application of compost tea, in which hundreds of millions of beneficial bacteria are introduced to the soil. The bacteria are fed molasses and fish oil for vital nutrients. Edibles, lawns, trees, and shrubs all thrive in this nutrient-rich, living soil. "We jump-start an organic process and create a sustainable ecosystem that will eventually thrive on its own," says Gabriel Gluesenkamp, Dan's son. "Plus it gives the peace of mind that children and pets alike can play freely throughout the pesticide-free landscape."



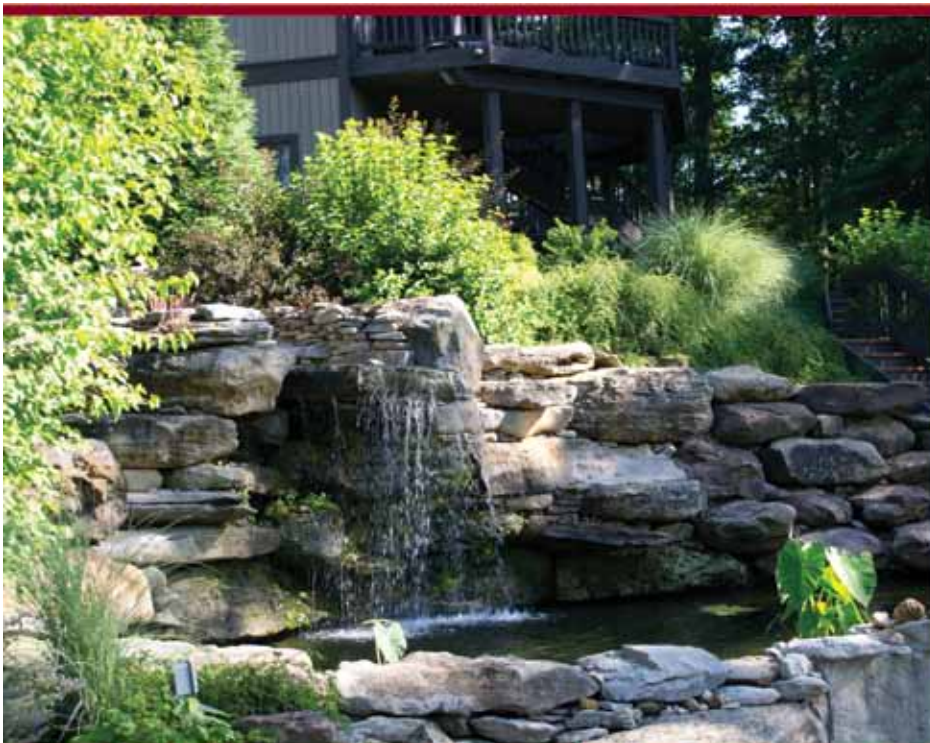
Designscape owner Dan Gluesenkamp and one of his projects.  
Photos by Jeffrey Hammond



"We try to design and install landscapes that are sustainable not just for our generation but for generations to come," he adds. "It's important for the finished project to look good, but we also need to consider what it will look like further down the road."

Designscape's educated and experienced staff, says Dan, makes all the difference. "The majority of our people have been with us for five years, some ten. Just last year my son started working with us full time, and our kids have always helped out during the summer. Our team members are the key."

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## From 'Credit Union' to 'Community'

The IU Credit Union helps make thousands of Hoosiers more at home, often in ways you wouldn't expect.

They're proud to be the source of credit for many first-time homebuyers, working not only to put people in houses but also to ensure their long-term success through responsible lending practices.

IU Credit Union also recently began serving the retirement community of Redbud Hills, making it easy and convenient for residents to conduct their business right from where they live.

And recently they donated \$30,000 to the Community Kitchen to help build a space nearly double the old one, meaning even more residents in need will be able to have food prepared, served, and delivered. It's just one of many ways the IU Credit Union routinely gives back to the areas in which it serves.

"Our commitment to community defines our business," says Bryan Price, President and CEO. "We're passionate about the communities we serve, particularly in the areas of education and financial literacy."

IU Credit Union was founded in 1956 by Indiana University employees who wanted a safe, convenient place to save and borrow money at reasonable rates. "Our founders believed that the not-for-profit business model would best serve



(above) IUCU employees and family members prepare their entry for Bloomington's 4th of July parade. This year the focus was on their new youth account, the M3 money club, where superheroes rule and learning about money is cool.



(left) IU Credit Union's Senior Management Team (from left): Bryan Price, President & CEO; Andy Allard, VP Chief Operating Officer; Julie Ragsdale, VP Chief Administrative Officer; Mark Weigle, VP Information Technology; David Sipes, VP Marketing & Business Development; Chris Hawk, VP Finance.

the unique needs of the community," says Price. "Our continued success validates their belief."

Today, IU Credit Union membership is open to Hoosiers who live or work in more than 50 Indiana counties. The group has grown steadily while continuing to focus on meeting the unique financial needs of nearly 64,000 members.

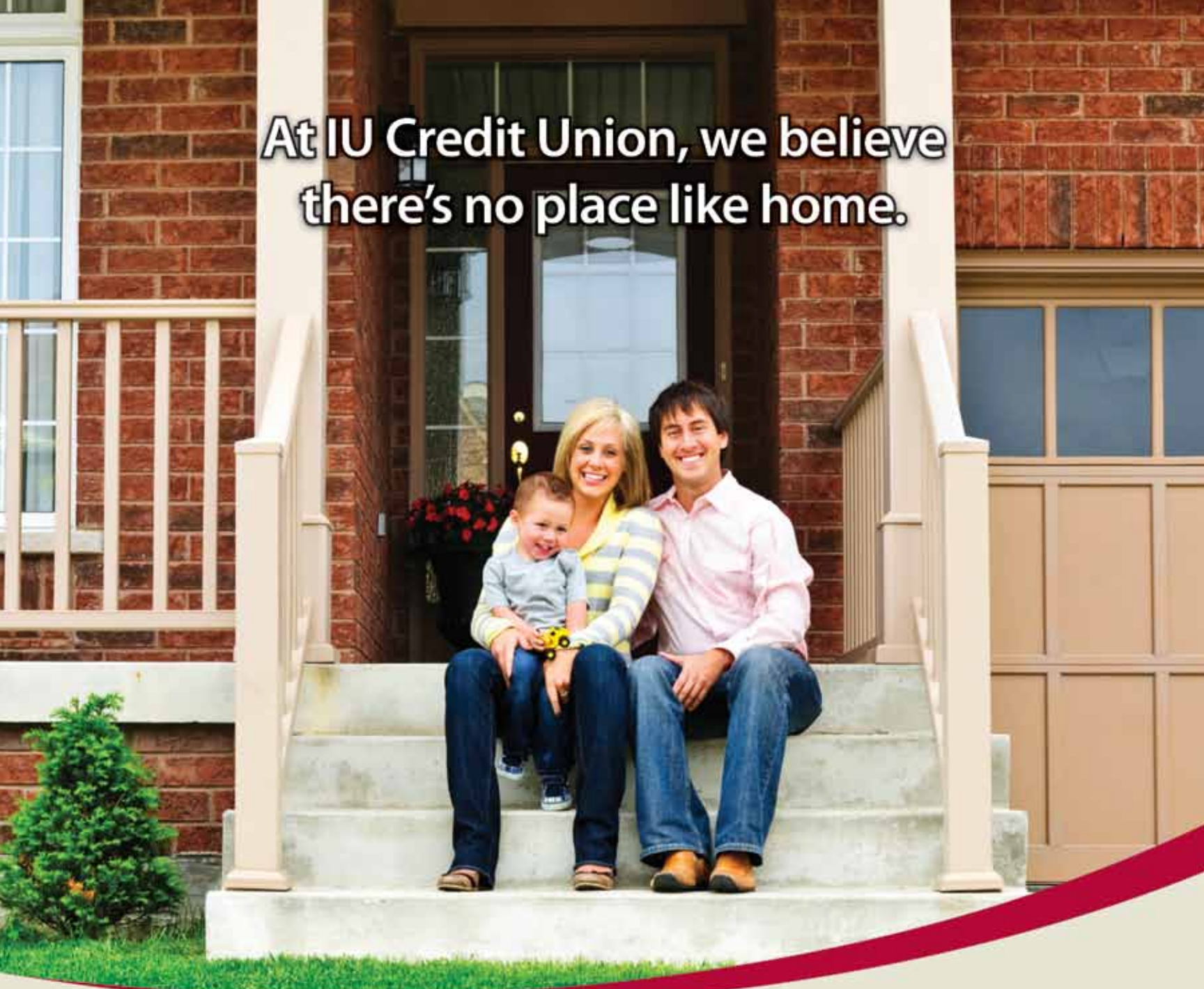
With assets totaling more than \$668 million, IU Credit Union ranks among the largest credit unions in Indiana. "We believe our growth has been achieved by continually giving members more value

and by staying true to the vision of our founders who believed that a financial institution owned by its members would act in the best interest of its members," says Price.

A big part of that interest is putting people into homes of their own, complete with a yard and white picket fence, in a way that's sustainable and sensible. "We believe in the American dream of home ownership," says David Sipes, Vice President, Marketing & Business Development. "Our leadership in affordable home financing options and investment in financial education is helping build strong Indiana communities."

As IUCU's slogan goes, notes Sipes, "We started a credit union and created a community."

Several locations, 812-855-7823,  
[www.iucu.org](http://www.iucu.org)



**At IU Credit Union, we believe  
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**We can help make the home of your dreams a reality.**

Our mortgage specialists are ready to assist you with your first mortgage. Pre-qualifying for a loan allows you to know how much home you can afford and gives you confidence for purchasing the home of your dreams. You may view rates, calculate payments and apply for a loan anytime online at [iucu.org](http://iucu.org). IU Credit Union is open to residents in more than 50 Indiana counties—open your account today!

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Photo by Elena Ivanova, Photographer of Art

In the summer of 2004, a former local bookseller started painting houses. His name is Rick\* Rick faced what many booksellers have faced: national chains. Because of that, Rick couldn't sell books anymore, but he wanted to stay true to his town. So instead of moving away to sell books somewhere else, he chose to reinvent himself, and entered the building trades. He started this transformation by painting houses, dragging along his 15 year old son Grif with him. Great times for Rick – he got to work with his son: any parent's dream. The father and son team are still hitting it, and Rick has even drug in the wife, Donna (kicking and screaming) to run the office. It's a family affair.

[www.morgensternhomeservices.com](http://www.morgensternhomeservices.com)

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In time Rick's customers started asking if the company did more than what he advertised.

Apparently the painting work was up to snuff, so the business evolved into home repair work

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and then remodeling work, and now into just about anything that has to do with enhancing a home. Today we are comprised of several craftsmen who have a complete repertoire of building and home improvement skills, and project management systems that can handle small, medium or large jobs.

We're competitive and versatile in the residential remodeling and renovations arena. We hire and put in the field craftsmen who are good both with their trade and with serving people professionally. We also bring a strong business management background to our operation. That's important, because in this business each new project is somewhat like the creation of a piece of art: each one is unique with its own set of challenges, and results must bring order out of chaos. Surprises are often not good news. When it comes to handing over hard earned


dollars, surprises are not what our customers want to hear; it takes professional systems and management to minimize them. When you hire us, you get both craftsmanship and professional project management. We haven't figured out a way yet to improve houses and sell books at the same time, but we're working on it. We'll let you know.

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## A Vision in Detail

Attention to detail is the name of the game for Loren Wood Builders. “Our number one focus is on quality, not volume,” says owner Loren Wood. Regardless of the size or scope of the project, the firm dedicates itself to delivering personal attention and top-notch execution. For Loren and his wife Lindsay, it starts and ends with the details.

For example: “We just took a job to mount a pair of antique doors on sliding hardware and install them over a crawlspace access,” Loren says. “It’s a small job, but it’s as exciting to me as a big project.”

But big jobs are also the company’s domain. Recent projects include a custom modern home in Blue Ridge Estates, winner of the People’s Choice award in the 2011 Parade of Homes, and a whole-home renovation in the Prairie style near the IU campus.

“We got into this business because it lets us pursue something we both love—houses, design, and construction,” Lindsay says, “and at the same time make a positive contribution to our community.” Loren adds, “We feel lucky to be able to build and preserve homes in Bloomington.”

He and Lindsay both study the latest design journals, staying on top of architecture and construction trends. “It’s our goal to help the homeowners realize the homeowner’s vision of the project,” Loren emphasizes.

Working with each individual’s goals, priorities, and budget, “We help people find a way to make their ideas buildable.” Through communication, research, problem-solving, and hands-on building, Loren says, his clients’ dreams can come true.

*By appointment, 812-345-3801, [loren@lorenwoodbuilders.com](mailto:loren@lorenwoodbuilders.com)*

## Your Secret Garden

Whether you live in a spacious home or cozy bungalow, you can have a getaway of your very own. Nature’s Way specializes in showing you exactly how.

“It’s a place that serves as a feast for the senses,” says Jeremiah Young of the sanctuaries he creates for clients. “A place that invites us, at the end of a long day, to take a moment, take a deep breath, and retreat from the commotion of the day.”

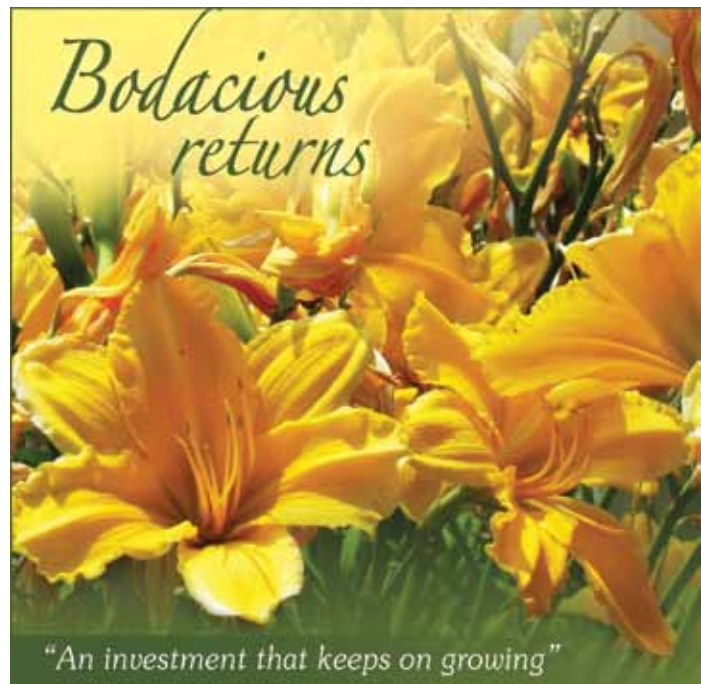
The starting point is often creating pathways that artfully curve along—no straight lines. “At each bend, there should be something that catches the eye, that promotes thought.”

Appealing to all the senses is key, says Young—the flutter of butterfly wings against your skin, the sway of ornamental grasses in the breeze, the sound of water splashing over stones, the fragrance of lilies or hydrangeas. One of his techniques is planting herbs between stepping stones so that as you tread upon them, a delicious scent is released.

Water is a key element that the Nature’s Way staff carefully calibrates in designs for each client. “Some people would like more of a falls effect, where another might simply want to hear a trickle of water meandering through some well-placed stones,” says Young.


“During the creative process we work with our clients by starting with a questionnaire. Then we propose, we listen, we create, and by finished design something truly magical has happened. The transformation from backyard to nature’s haven; a place to call home.”

*By appointment, 7330 N. Wayport Rd., 812-876-7888,  
[www.naturesway.net](http://www.naturesway.net), [facebook.com/naturesway.net](https://www.facebook.com/naturesway.net)*

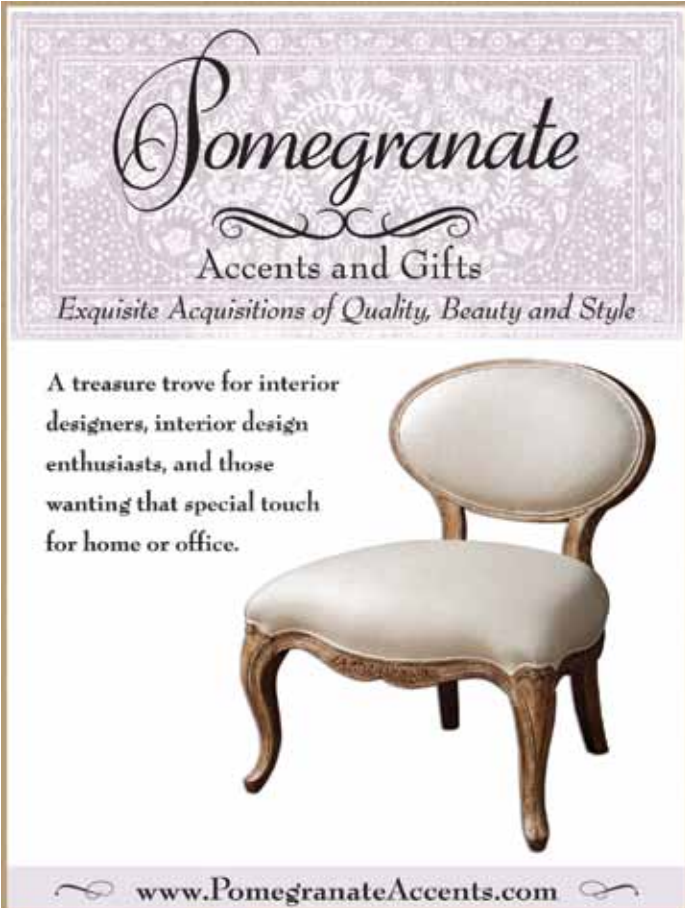


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## A Treasure Trove of Sweet Surprises

Pomegranate Accents and Gifts is like that friend with the great eye for style—the one you're always asking, "Where did you find that?" The online-only shop, [www.pomegranateaccents.com](http://www.pomegranateaccents.com), is run by two such women: Donna Harbstreit, who founded it in 2008, and her daughter-in-law, Danna Harbstreit. Together, they've made Pomegranate a way to share all the gorgeous goods they find around the globe and can't wait to tell people about.

The two Harbstreits have a background in beautiful things—Donna in retail and antiques, Danna in art photography, both in decorating and design. They've built their online shop around a simple premise: If they love an item, their customers will, too. So you'll find anything from a graceful topiary wrapped in pheasant feathers, to a glass-topped tangle of driftwood, to a richly upholstered pet sofa that would be at home in an English country estate.

The Harbstreits' love of the hunt for hidden treasures led to their favorite (and most eclectic) section: Fabulous Finds. "It could be just about anything," says Danna. "Maybe brand new, but often it's unique pieces found in markets around the globe, locally, or even in a dusty barn." Recent finds have included old but on-trend pieces such as sweetly retro cupcake stands.

"The beauty of Pomegranate is that you can shop at any hour without leaving your home," says Danna, and you can always call or e-mail the ladies of Pomegranate for advice. The selection is constantly changing—and growing. "On a recent European trip, we located a wonderful source that will make an appearance on the site in the near future," says Danna. "Keep watching!"

Shop at [www.pomegranateaccents.com](http://www.pomegranateaccents.com)  
or call 812-327-8268 for more information.

## More Than a Cleaning Service

When Lia Vandeventer took over her son's cleaning company this May, she wanted to try something new, something more her style. With the introduction of design work into Genesis Cleaning, that's exactly what she did.

Originally focused on the cleaning and sanitation of commercial medical facilities, the three-year-old company has now branched into cleaning private residences and incorporating design work into the conventional tidying. "It's what I'm good at," Vandeventer says, who has been dabbling in art and decorating her friends' homes for years. "It's what I always come back to."

While Genesis still prides itself on providing professional cleaning services of the highest caliber—purifying and rejuvenating a space with every visit—Vandeventer says her focus is to make a client's experience as personal and as encompassing as possible. "Whatever they want, I can adapt," she says.

Vandeventer has been experimenting with new techniques and design in homes as well as in the offices, apartment complexes, and medical buildings that Genesis has always worked with.

At one of the hospitals, she spruced up the nurses' stations, adding greenery and new décor to make the space look and feel more like a cozy café. Of course, she also brought in Genesis' top-of-the-line purifying unit to remove dust and staleness from the air—a process nearly all of her clients request. "My goal is to make it more of a home for them," Vandeventer says: clean but also comfortable.

It's this type of customized service that makes Genesis more than just a cleaning company. "When people like what I've done—something they wouldn't have thought to do themselves—I enjoy that."

Visit [www.btowncleaners.com](http://www.btowncleaners.com) for an appointment.



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## Sterling Advice from a Pro

Trish Sterling is an independent Realtor® with years of experience. “Buying or selling a home,” she says, “whether it’s your first or last, is an important financial and emotional life decision.” She has advice for both buyers and sellers.

### If you are buying a home...

- Do not make major purchases on credit or let credit card balances grow. Keep your credit score high to ensure that you qualify for the best loan at the best terms.
- Think beyond your first impression. Paint colors are a quick and inexpensive fix; the seller’s possessions and style are transitory. Pay attention to the floor plan, flow, and structure.
- Consider the age and condition of the roof and heating and cooling systems; items like these are expensive to replace.
- Consider the quality and value of the seller’s improvements.
- Note the position of the home on the lot. Consider drainage, light, and privacy.

### If you are selling a home, Sterling can...

- Set the right asking price with recent sales and competition in mind.
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For more information call 812-333-1966 or go to [www.trishsterling.com](http://www.trishsterling.com).

## Designing Woman

Most of us have at least an idea of what we want our home to look like—perhaps serene, hip, classic, and functional. But without any kind of training or experience in pulling a room together, that designer look can be frustratingly elusive.

That’s where Becky Gavin comes in.

“My clients have great ideas and vision for what they want in their homes or offices,” says the owner of Gavin Design. “Their own efforts are often nice but can fall short of what they really want,” which is how a trained interior designer like Becky Gavin can help. Whether it’s space-planning for large projects and additions, kitchen and bath design, or a simple color consultation, Gavin listens carefully to her client’s ideas—then layers on her design expertise. Calling upon her creativity, knowledge of materials and finishes, and special access to design resources, she helps her clients end up where they really want to be.

“I like to work within a client’s own individual style and budget and come up with solutions they may have never thought of,” says Gavin. She considers her style truly collaborative, working closely with homeowners to determine what will make them happiest and then giving them the rationale behind all of her suggestions. She’s also experienced in working with contractors chosen by homeowners, or she can manage “turn-key” projects by bringing in professionals from the Gavin team.

Gavin’s philosophy is “build it and they will come”—that if you make a space functional and beautiful, it will be used and loved. As she urges her clients, “Make your space come true!”

Contact Becky Gavin at 812-336-1929 or [www.gavindesigns.com](http://www.gavindesigns.com).

See more projects at [www.asidindiana.org](http://www.asidindiana.org) (click “Find a Designer” and search for “Becky Gavin”).

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## Versatile, Decorative Concrete

Pavers, bricks, stone—and Bomanite?

The flooring you've probably never heard of, a durable and decorative concrete that can be tinted and textured to look like brick or terrazzo, Bomanite has actually been around since the '50s. It's becoming better known in the Bloomington area thanks to Steve and Kathleen Harriman, who founded Harriman's Bomanite 15 years ago.


Steve liked the versatile concrete product, which can be used in décor schemes both indoors and out. He also liked the fact that the company had years of experience behind it. Since then, Harriman's Bomanite has been installed in driveways, patios, pool decks, and sidewalks around south-central Indiana. It's poured like standard concrete; what makes it different is how it's colored, stamped, and molded to resemble whatever the homeowner wants, from flagstone to decorative tiles.

"Usually we use the colored and stamped concrete, but we can also apply overlays to existing concrete, providing it is in good enough shape," says Kathleen. "We also offer Micro-Top, which is a credit-card-thin cement topping that comes in any color and design you could choose."

The award-winning company also installs other surfaces, including recycled glass aggregates, salt finishes, Sandscap, and Grasscrete. They have been commissioned for jobs as far afield as Cortez, Colorado, where a client, fascinated by Anasazi Indian culture, had built a house in an adobe style. While Steve often helps create designs, this time he executed the client's designs for the driveway and patios using colored and stamped concrete and acid stains.

*To talk about the possibilities for your own hardscape project, call 812-829-2086.*

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# A Retirement Home *Suited for You*

When you consider Bloomington's rolling hills and serene lifestyle, it's small wonder that the city has been ranked one of the top retirement destinations in the country by the likes of *Modern Maturity* and *Money* magazines. The amenities of IU, like continuing-education opportunities and cultural events, make the area even more desirable for retirees.

Many of them choose Meadowood Retirement Community, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last year. Originally built for IU professors at the urging of Herman B Wells, then-chancellor of the university, today it's home to artists, lawyers, physicians, and others from Bloomington and all around the country. Nestled on 55 beautifully landscaped acres, Meadowood was named "Best Retirement Community in America" by AOL consumer-finance website walletpop.com.

An especially exciting option is unfolding right now at Meadowood: Sycamore

Ridge, a series of paired patio homes currently under construction. "With Sycamore Ridge, people have the potential to come in and oversee the construction of their dream retirement home," says Bill Bennett, Meadowood marketing director. The debut home in the Sycamore Ridge project has already been built and is occupied, and ground is about to be broken on another. When complete, nine homes will be available for residents.

Most of Meadowood is in a gorgeously wooded setting, and the Sycamore Ridge homes are no different, boasting beautiful views near Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. Each home has 1,300 square feet on the ground floor and 1,300 more in the basement; residents can decide if and how they want the lower level finished. "It's a great chance to come in and be a part of the building process," says Bennett.



Wooded setting of Meadowood.

Residents of Sycamore Ridge will share all the perks of the rest of Meadowood, which includes 99 garden homes, 87 midrise apartments, a community building, and a 66-bed health pavilion. The Wells Sanctuary encompasses a gazebo, colorful flowerbeds, and a pond finished with a fountain, making it a draw for not just residents but for local wildlife as well. Meadowood offers more than 200 monthly events, classes ranging from exercise to woodworking, and transportation to big local draws like IU football and basketball games, opera and theater performances, and special events.

2455 Tamarack Trail, 812-336-7060,  
[www.meadowoodretirement.com](http://www.meadowoodretirement.com)

**Sycamore Ridge at Meadowood**

Meadowood, a beautifully-landscaped, 55+ adult residential community on 50 acres surrounded by Griffy Nature Preserve and Indiana University, announces its newest addition, Sycamore Ridge, nine distinctive, maintenance-free paired patio homes.

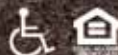
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Call Meadowood at 812-336-7060 to arrange a tour.

# It All Began 40 Years Ago

In 1969, Dr. George and Sydell Lewis arrived in Bloomington from Gary, Indiana. They were accompanied by their 2 youngest sons – Marvin and Elliot.



The Lewis Family, 1969

The 2 eldest sons - Barney and Marshall - attending IU at the time, along with the safety Bloomington offered, convinced Dr. Lewis to take over Dr. Robinson's medical practice and make the move.

1972, Sydell and Barney begin Cedarview Management with the 12-unit "Cedarview" building located at 509 E. 10th Street. This paves the way for 4 more buildings over the next 24 months. Sydell and Barney also begin to manage rentals for other property owners.

1974, the Lewis family builds an office building at 3937 Curry Pike, which houses Dr. Lewis' medical practice. Dr. Lewis also begins his tenure as the GE plant doctor for the next 25 years. In the late 1970's through the early 1980's, at this same building, Sydell owns and operates Joy's Clothing.

1978, Elliot purchases "The Lincoln House" during his senior year of high school. He uses his savings and the money he earns working at Block's Department Store.

1980s & 1990s, Cedarview continues to acquire other properties and eventually phases out third party rental management. During these

years, Barney also focuses on assisting others grow their real estate portfolios and pursues his passion of creating and acquiring art.

2003, Stone Mansion joins the Cedarview family. The former home of Dr. and Mrs. Nellie Showers Myers. This historic home still retains much of the original architectural features, including wrought iron stair railing, beamed ceilings and leaded glass entry transom and windows.

2004, Tenth & College is the first of 3 downtown luxury apartment developments, which includes Les Champs Elysees, B Boutique, Heynineteen and BTown Express.

2006, the Lewis Building is constructed to house all of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law legal clinics, Dagwoods and Qdoba.

2007, the OddFellows Building is purchased and renovations are begun to bring life back to this historic structure. FARM Bloomington begins serving one of a kind cuisine from the main floor, which features much of the reclaimed architectural artifacts from the building. The upper two floors were converted to 12 apartments that preserve the original features of this stunning building. A documentary of these renovations can be viewed at [www.tenthandcollege.com](http://www.tenthandcollege.com)

2009, Tenth & College Village, the second downtown luxury apartment development is completed and includes a 2,000 square foot clubhouse and heated swimming pool.

2010, the Big Red Building is purchased and 4 apartments join Top Ten Video on the main level. Morton Mansions is also completed in 2010 in just 3 months and 21 days, giving life to the third downtown luxury apartment development.

2011, East Bay (phase 1) is underway next door to the new Indiana University Technology

Park East at 10th & ByPass and on schedule for an August completion. East Bay (phase 2) is planned for a 2012 completion.

The Lewis Family wishes to express their gratitude to all those who helped to pave the way over these past 40 years. **IVA HOUGH & LUCY THOMPSON GOODMAN**, Dr. Lewis' nurses and pinch hit property managers. **ALTON & MARGARET MCCOIN**, who helped to create Cedarview's respected reputation. **MEG HARRIS & MAUREEN MARCHANT**, long time property managers. **JIM JOHNSON**, for his financial stewardship in the early years. **ANDY MALLOR**, as the family's scholarly legal advisor. **ANDY DODDS**, for helping to create a customer service environment. **WILLIAM B. HAYNES**, for the creative design of our first 5 buildings. **DON COLLER**, our first builder. **TIM ELLIS & SCOTT OWENS**, who helped identify great properties throughout the years. **TONY MORAVEC**, for cheering & encouraging our developments. **JOHN HAMILTON, MARCIA KEITH, DAVE LANDIS & MARK BRADFORD**, our Monroe Bank finance team. **KEN RITCHIE & COLLEAGUES**, our ONB finance team. **JANE THOMA**, German American finance. **MIKE CARMIN** for insightful counsel. **TOM RITMAN**, Gilliatte Construction and miracle worker. **TIM COVER & ZACH BODE**, Studio 3 Design team extraordinaire. **LYNN COYNE** for many years of support. **DONNA DISQUE & MARGARETE DISQUE NOWAK**, (Les Champs Elysees Day Spa & Salon and heynineteen Boutique), for their loyal tenancy and ability to make us look great. **CHEF DANIEL ORR** (Farm Bloomington), for bringing his culinary talents to the OddFellows Building, along with **NANCY HIESTAND's** historic renovation expertise. **JOHN SANTOS** (Dagwoods) for great subs. **BROOKE MAGDZINSKI & MELISSA CORDON** (B Boutique), for their great sense of style. **DICK WILSON** (Top Ten Video), for the entertainment. **BALVINDER "RABARI" SAINI** (BTown Express), we are looking forward to tasty delights. **MIKE HOLLARS**, our go-to guy.

1972-1974



Cedarview



Barney, The Cedarview Visionary



Curry Pike

1978



The Lincoln

*Thank You Bloomington!*  
*-The Lewis Family*

**2011**



**East Bay I**

**2012**

Completion of  
East Bay II

**2010**



**Big Red**



**Morton Mansions**

**2009**



**Tenth & College Village**

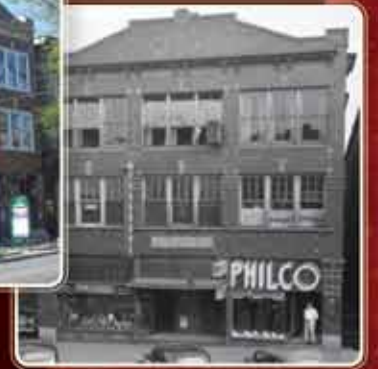
Thank you to our current Cedarview Team –  
**PAM SPILBELER, SUZANNE O'CONNELL,  
BRITTANY HOLMAN, ANDREA REEVES,  
SHANNON YOUNG, LORRAINE STOOPS,  
SHARI MILLER, JON NEAL & JC CRIDER.**

We look forward to continuing our relationships  
and making new friends as we continue down  
the road to our future.

**2007**



**Oddfellows**  
(restored)



**Oddfellows**  
(circa 1926)

**2006**



**Lewis Building**



Dr. George, Sydell, Barney & Elliot

**2004**



**Tenth & College**

**2003**



**Stone Mansion**





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812-330-1169      Bailey-Weiler.com

## Custom Homes with *Style and Value*

Every word of Bailey & Weiler's slogan, "Your Style—Designed & Constructed," is key.

Craig Bailey and Don Weiler, who founded the custom home design, construction, and renovation company in 2005, listen carefully to each client's vision and goals, and then seamlessly integrate them throughout the design and construction process. The IU grads are a valuable resource for their clients, whether seeking a simple renovation project or a new custom home. Instead of hiring separate architects, builders, and designers, then figuring out how to coordinate them, homeowners have one comprehensive resource that handles the entire job from concept to completion.

"It eliminates the frustration of juggling separate parties and hoping they implement your vision consistently," says Weiler. Homeowners can also realize significant savings by discussing layout, budget, and finishes early in the process. "Our detailed, front-end planning process eliminates the conventional stress and cost overruns many homeowners associate with building."

By understanding early on the look and feel you desire, Bailey & Weiler Design/Build can easily incorporate many high-end finishes while still keeping your budget in check. According to Bailey, "Our homeowners are surprised at the level of finish and detail we achieve without pushing up the cost. It all starts with effective listening and planning."

Whatever the project style and however large its scope, Bailey and Weiler share a few principles. "Homeowners deserve the best finish and function possible within their budget. Our focus is exceptional value, attractive design, incomparable quality, and personal attention," says Weiler, "and striking the proper balance between aesthetics, function, and budget."

*By appointment, 700 N. Rogers St., 812-330-1169, www.bailey-weiler.com*

## Toss Your 'Honey Do' List to the Dog

We all have one—that nagging "To Do" list that, despite the best intentions, never gets done. The ripped screen. The sticky doors. The clogged gutters. Not to mention the furnace filters you keep meaning to change.

It's time to call Red Dog Maintenance, a unique one-stop resource for home and business maintenance services. Red Dog was founded by Craig Bailey and Don Weiler, owners of Bailey & Weiler Design/Build, the Bloomington custom home and commercial architectural design and construction company.

While Red Dog is happy to fix problems as they occur, their main focus is on finding and preventing issues before they become bigger and more expensive to repair. Clients that sign up for their Preventive Maintenance program enjoy the benefits of regular inspections, routine maintenance services, reduced labor and material rates, and access to knowledgeable and reliable maintenance professionals.

In addition to clearing your plate for more enjoyable activities, Red Dog's clients benefit from the reduced risk of emergency breakdowns, lower operating costs, longer equipment service life, and improved home value and appearance.

Their clients include busy professionals with little time for home upkeep, surviving spouses, single parents, seniors who are physically challenged by home maintenance, rental-property owners, real estate agents, and out-of-town children who would rather spend time visiting Mom and Dad than working on their home.

"You have peace of mind knowing your work is being performed by honest, competent professionals," says Weiler. "Enjoy your free time doing the more important things in life, and leave the chores to us."

*By appointment. 812-558-0153, www.rdogmaintenance.com*

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800-598-8158

## A Year-Round Vegetable Garden

Now that fall is approaching and the traditional growing season is ending, it's time to think about growing your winter garden. Imagine fresh tomatoes from your own vines in January! Worm's Way can show you how, with methods as simple as a fluorescent light and a few pots to a complete hydroponic system.

The main ingredient for indoor gardening is light, and Worm's Way has many options. "To grow indoors, you just need good supplemental lighting," says store manager Roger Emmick. "For people who want to grow in larger quantity, we have high-intensity discharge (HID) lights—hot, intense lighting that offers a certain spectrum to the plant that it needs to grow."

Techniques for indoor gardening are demonstrated in the Worm's Way greenhouse, where vegetables, herbs, and flowers thrive in soil-less media. If you are unfamiliar with hydroponics, they will give you a tour of the various systems and help you find what you need to get started.

Emmick explains, "Hydroponics is just a way to grow plants in a soil-less medium. Because the plants don't have to work so hard to grow into the soil and absorb nutrients—the root hairs are just dropped into water—it allows them to absorb nutrients a lot quicker, and allows plants to be more efficient so that you get a faster-growing plant."

"We're unique because we allow people who are really into plants and gardening to continue all year long," says Emmick. The substantial catalog is a good place to start studying. Free copies are available at the store.

Hours: 10 am-6 pm daily.

7850 N. State Road 37, 812-876-6425, [www.wormsway.com](http://www.wormsway.com)

## Designer Counters and Cabinets

If you are thinking about a kitchen or bath renovation and are not familiar with Råke (pronounced *rocky*), you should be. This homegrown Bloomington company is on the cutting edge of countertop and cabinet technology. Better yet, they will never sell you a product that doesn't suit your personal needs.

Craig Bumbalough, designer and sales associate, says, "We make every effort to educate our clients on how each different surface will perform in their home and with their lifestyle. Armed with that information, they decide which surface meets their needs, desires, and budget."

A designer will come to your home or you can visit the showroom where there is a comfortable design-consultation area to discuss ideas, look at samples, and view computer-generated possibilities. Kitchens are just a beginning; B-town folks are adding party rooms, bars, and wine rooms to their homes.

Råke offers all the talked-about countertop materials, and especially recommends quartz and acrylics because they are easy to maintain. Quartz is more durable than granite, doesn't stain, and never needs sealing. Acrylics are renewable and can be buffed or patched if damaged. For those who are concerned about affordability, laminates are an option.

Custom-designed cabinets for kitchen or bath are made near Bloomington by a company that has more than 70 years experience and offers a vast selection of styles and finishes. Formaldehyde-free materials are available.

"Once a customer has our products in their house, they don't have to worry," says Bumbalough.

Hours: 7 am-4 pm Monday-Friday.

705A E. Dillman Rd., 812-824-8338, [www.rakesolutions.com](http://www.rakesolutions.com)

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## A *Mission* in Customer Service

The staff at Furniture First believes that a good shopping experience begins in the store and follows you home with your new purchase.

"We're not happy until the customer is happy with what they take home," says Jason Publow, co-owner of the store in Eastland Plaza on East Third Street.

Publow admits to feeling uneasy about self-promoting, but he's proud of the store's legacy. Furniture First, formerly named Comfort Solutions, has been a family-operated business for more than 30 years. While the styles have changed, the store's values have not.

"You're going to get a good deal, here," says Publow, who credits this to the small store's buying abilities. Furniture First is part of a member-owned buying co-op, where they are able to buy and sell furniture and mattresses for the best prices.

The store's selection also turns over quicker than bigger chains.

"We like to change our styles every month instead of every six months," says Publow.

One feature that remains a staple is the mattress selection at Furniture First. "We probably have the largest selection of mattresses in the region," says Publow. Click on the "Mattresses" tab on the store's website and you'll find more than 100 mattresses to choose from. They carry a comfortable selection of Serta, Simmons, and Tempur-Pedic mattresses in all sizes.

At the end of the day, Publow says it's about more than just selling furniture. The store's real passion comes from its mission. "We are in the business of customer service, and we achieve that through selling mattresses and furniture," says Publow.

*Hours: 10 am-7 pm Monday-Saturday, noon-5 pm Sunday  
2624 E. 3rd St., 812-332-8400, [www.myfurniturefirst.com](http://www.myfurniturefirst.com)*

## Timeless Restorations

"Past Meets Future" is the slogan owner Chris Sturbaum uses to describe Golden Hands Construction. Since 1979 this family-owned business has specialized in remodeling and restoring older homes.

The business laid its foundation when the Sturbaum family began buying and restoring houses in the Prospect Hill neighborhood. With their experience in historic restorations, they understand how older homes are built and how to incorporate new structures within the old.

Sturbaum and his crew of six—brother Ben, nephew Sam, son Paul, Tom Weddle, Eric Petry, and Drew Benson—have over 100 years of experience. "Our clients are getting an experienced crew," Sturbaum says. "Even our subcontractors have been with us for a long time."


Whatever the home project may be, clients can expect trustworthiness and collaboration. "They are part of a team creating their dream," Sturbaum says. "We're trying to reach the owners' goal, to materialize their vision."

Considering Golden Hands was saving houses at a time when many were being torn down, it should be no surprise that they incorporate energy-saving practices in their projects. A new house they constructed recently received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating of platinum, the only house in Bloomington to receive such a rating. "This really opened our eyes to how we can improve energy efficiency within homes," Sturbaum says.

Above all, Golden Hands prides itself on customer relations. "Many of our customers are old friends of ours now," Sturbaum says. "If you're going to spend a lot of time with your remodeling crew, it's good to have people you can get along with."

*For more information, visit [www.goldenhandsco.com](http://www.goldenhandsco.com). Sturbaum can be reached at 812-340-0724 and [chris@goldenhandsco.com](mailto:chris@goldenhandsco.com).*

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# An **Expert Guide** to the *American Dream*

Having your own home is the American dream—but getting it can also be one of the more nerve-jangling experiences you'll

can be one of the most stressful things in an individual's life," says Plecher, an agent with RE/MAX Realty Professionals.

But, he notes, it absolutely does not have to be. "By keeping the lines of communication open and guiding my clients with the knowledge I have accrued in this business, I hope to ease the stress and make it a satisfying and successful endeavor."

Since getting into the real estate business nine years ago, Plecher has ranked among the top two or four RE/MAX agents in the state of Indiana for the past five years. He thinks the secret to his success is simple. "I always try to act in an honest, ethical manner in all my dealings," he says. "Treating people the same way I would treat my family is key. My business is mostly word-of-mouth and referrals, and I try my best to live up to the confidence people place in me."

Plus there's the fact that he really loves his adopted home. Though he grew up in Seattle, Plecher was born in

California, where he eventually met his wife, a Bloomington native. They moved here 21 years ago, thinking it would be a good place to raise a family.

Sure enough, today Plecher is a proud hockey dad—his youngest son plays for the Bloomington Blades and attends the new Bloomington New Tech High School. "We are so pleased that Bloomington has this breaking-edge educational opportunity," says Plecher. "The music and arts scene here is amazing—the culture, the theatre, the diversity, the seasons."

Working with his neighbors and clients has been a joy, he says. "There are genuinely good people in Bloomington and Monroe County and it is a pleasure to work with these folks. I love what I do, I am proud of my community, I have a wonderful, supportive family, and for all that I am very grateful."

The bottom line, says Plecher: "It's easy to sell real estate in a place that you love!"

812-320-2142, [rplecher@homefinder.org](mailto:rplecher@homefinder.org)



For Ron Plecher, it's a pleasure doing business in Bloomington.

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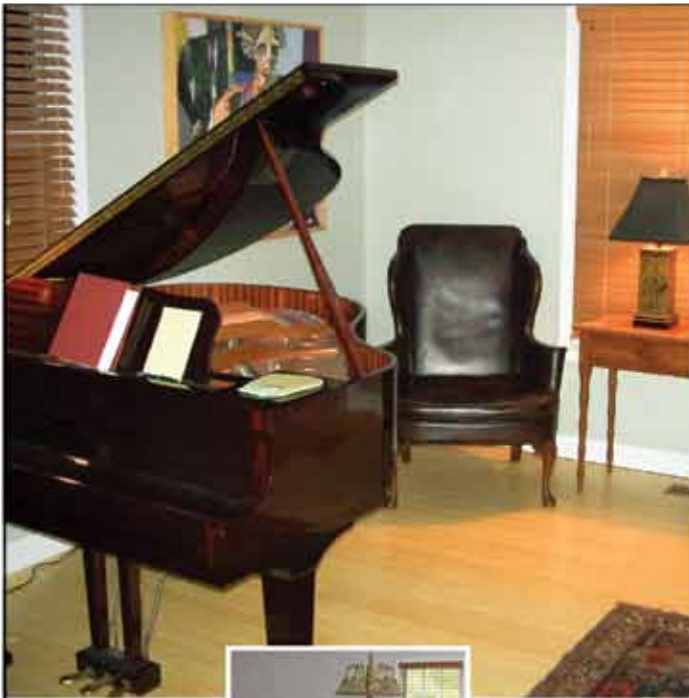
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## Simply Tasteful Design

Interior decorating—simplified. That's what Matthew Cole does as the brains behind Bloomington Staging & Design.

The goal is always to make a home look as great as possible. Here's the difference: When Cole is staging a home that's up for sale, he leans on his 20-plus years of experience in real estate to create a look with the broadest possible appeal. Design jobs, however, are tailored much more closely to the tastes of the owner.



Matthew Cole has 20-plus years experience.

# Same Space, Fresh Perspective



B L O O M I N G T O N  
**Staging & Design**

Matthew Cole | 812.606.8558  
[bloomingtonstaging.com](http://bloomingtonstaging.com)

Either way, it's a matter of helping homeowners make the most of their space. "It's like cooking dinner and not having a recipe," says Cole. "They've bought the ingredients and don't know how to use them. I go into people's homes and try to use everything they have, and give them a fresh perspective of how to use the space."

Most jobs take no more than three or four trips, says Cole. First, he'll stop to check out the space and talk to the homeowners about what they want most. Next comes a design plan—furniture ideas, color shades, the occasional structural change. Clients might pursue the plan on their own, or ask Cole to suggest painters and other service providers, or hire him to manage the entire job. Finally, he keeps an eye out for just the right finishing touches. "If I'm out and about and see a perfect item, I'll snap a photo and text it to them," he says.

What Cole doesn't do is traditional interior design where the drapes are perfectly matched with new upholstery and paired with wall paper. "My design is based far more on functionality and simplicity. This also makes me more cost effective because I can complete a job for as little as two or three hundred dollars and give the homeowner a whole new way to look at their space and live in their home."

The biggest mistakes he sees? "People who try too hard to make a house look staged with over-the-top bouquets of flowers and knick-knacks," says Cole. "They are trying too hard to make it look perfect."

"I want my houses to look like people are living there—just somebody with really good taste."

Contact Matthew Cole at 812-606-8558 or visit [www.bloomingtonstaging.com](http://www.bloomingtonstaging.com).

# VGS Volta Glass Studio

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## Your Visions in Glass

Many shops and art galleries offer sculptures of blown glass. But come to Volta Glass Studio and you can actually watch the glass-blowers in action. The combined store/studio on West 6th Street offers a diverse inventory ranging from functional art to abstract sculptures, and a very large window through which visitors can see the wares being created.

Founders and co-owners Ryan Hoffman and Bob Taylor have 25 years of glass-blowing experience between them, but the studio is a recent venture, having opened in March. Items for sale start at \$30 for jewelry, ornaments, and small vases, while the large sculptural pieces can go for upwards of \$800.

"One of the things we can offer people is custom work," says Taylor. "If the customer can dream it up, whether it's a vase, a chandelier, or anything they want, we can help them realize their vision and create it."

Many of their pieces are infused with dazzling colors, some with tiny layers of metal oxides sandwiched between colored and clear glass. All are made from Pyrex, the same durable type of glass as cookware and laboratory equipment.

Traditional glass-blowing, which dates back to the 1st century B.C., allows for a huge range of personal artistry. "We shape the glass in the flame—blow, pull, stretch, things like that," says Hoffman. "We make everything right here; you can come in at any point in the day and see us working. It's the only place in town where the glass gallery and studio are connected."

Hours: 11 am-7 pm Tuesday-Thursday; 10 am-8 pm Friday-Saturday.  
405 W. 6th St., Suite D-3, 812-330-4191, [facebook.com/voltaglassstudio](http://facebook.com/voltaglassstudio)

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