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## Bailey & Weiler Design/Build: Under Budget and On Time

Before moving to Bloomington, Maria and Neal Krause undertook many remodeling projects in their Ann Arbor, Michigan, home, so they consider themselves well-versed in the process. When they began discussing having Maria's mother, Yvonne Apsey, move in with them in their Bloomington home, they wanted to renovate the bathroom to be more elder-friendly, so they called Bailey & Weiler Design/Build. The project would involve a custom shower with a built-in seat, handrails concealed as a design element, new fixtures, and new paint.

Maria was the primary contact for the project, and says she appreciated the way the team from Bailey & Weiler collaborated with her to coordinate the ideas she had for her mother's bathroom with their own, expert opinions.

"We are very pleased with the results," Neal says. "It was a very smooth process with no surprises. They came in under budget and on time. Their experience in both design and construction added great value to our project." One important consideration for Neal was the all-inclusive budget for the six-week project that was presented up front—no additional expenses cropped up during the project. Don Weiler, the firm's co-founder, says transparency is important for Bailey & Weiler. "That's why we do the itemized budget," he says. "We think it's important that it's all out on the table."

"We put a lot of time into our budgets so they are as complete as possible and leave no room for surprises," Weiler says. "While our budgets are thorough, our cost structure is right in line with comparable builders." He adds that while his company may be known for new home construction, Bailey & Weiler also

does modest remodeling projects, like the Krauses' bathroom and major home renovations.

Apsey was the true judge of the project's success. Now in her late 80s, she has 30 years of design experience, has traveled

abroad to do design research, studied at the John Herron School of Art, and modeled for L.S. Ayres department store. Her verdict? "I wouldn't change a thing," Apsey says, "It's outstanding. The best I've ever seen."

Weiler is pleased that everyone likes the renovation. "We hope we can bring value to a project," he says. The Krauses have other projects planned, and when it's time to start them, Maria says they will definitely be calling Bailey & Weiler. —Linda Margison



The Krauses' remodeled bathroom. Photo by Martin Boling



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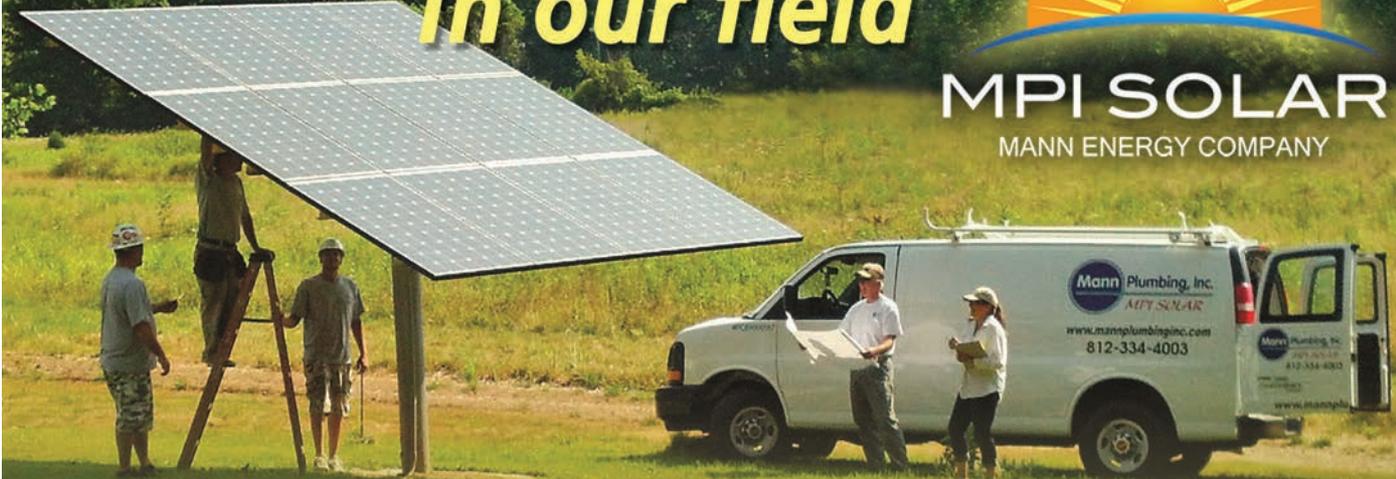


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## Financing Dream Sanctuaries

Emily McCluskey and Jordan DeHaven want people to have dream homes that are their sanctuaries. Whether that means buying a cheaper house to renovate or updating a current home, the emPOWERHOUSE Renovations Team with AmeriFirst Home Mortgage is making sure homeowners have houses with the features that make them happy. “Not liking the layout of your house or feeling like there’s some integral part of your home that’s missing, that’s not a sanctuary-type feeling,” DeHaven says.

“If you own your home and you’re not happy with it, there’s an underlying stress in not truly loving your space,” says co-owner McCluskey. “It’s not what you want it to be. It’s not ideal for you, not your vision for yourself. Our renovation refinance loan products can ultimately provide you with the means to get your showcase home, and it’s all part of your mortgage.”

McCluskey and DeHaven explain that the idea of refinancing or borrowing against a home’s equity for improvements is not new. However, that leaves the homeowner with one dollar amount to work with and no security that they will end up with the result they envision. Borrowers often have to eliminate projects or leave them incomplete when a remodel takes an expensive turn. The upfront plans and contingency funds included in emPOWERHOUSE renovation products mean that everything is covered should unexpected problems crop up. Loans are written to cover the completion of projects, not just the dream of them, so homeowners can find peace and happiness in their completed sanctuaries.

—Linda Margison

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## Roof Replacement Experts

While the primary purpose of an adequate roofing system is to protect your home and everything in it, improving your roof's condition, color, and style can greatly impact your home's curb appeal. Through his business, Red Roof Exteriors, 47-year-old Andy Peterson helps homeowners add to their home's value by repairing and replacing roofs, gutters, and siding.

Although Red Roof Exteriors is in just its second year, Peterson's experience in a myriad of industries has contributed to the Bloomington native's business sense. This acumen, paired with placing the right people in the appropriate positions, creates a better business model. "We bring a different level of professionalism to the trade" says Peterson. This is evident in his office personnel, project manager, and a crew that is very conscious of respecting a homeowner's lawn and surroundings during what can be a messy process. Typically, Red Roof Exteriors can complete most roof replacements in just one day, while still offering superior service.

While the specialty service of Red Roof Exteriors is definitely full roof replacements, the company also happily takes on both routine roofing jobs and urgent repairs. "When the storms roll in, we roll out," Peterson says. "We do emergency cover-ups to protect your home from further damage." In the end, Peterson says, "Where we really stand apart from any of our competition is our professionalism from start to finish in the process of replacing your roof. If you have a concern regarding your roof call Red Roof Exteriors for a free roof evaluation. —Sara Sheikh



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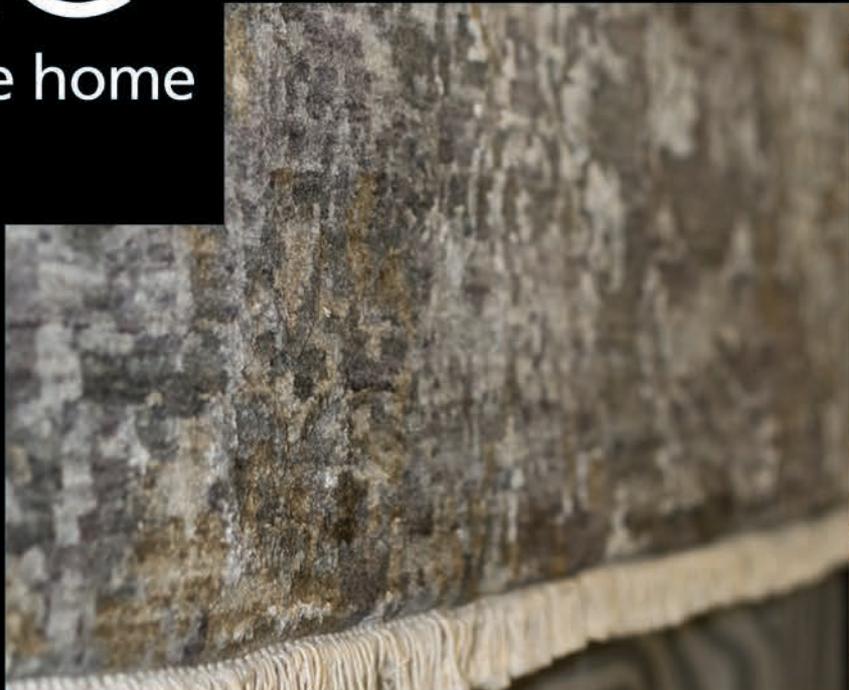


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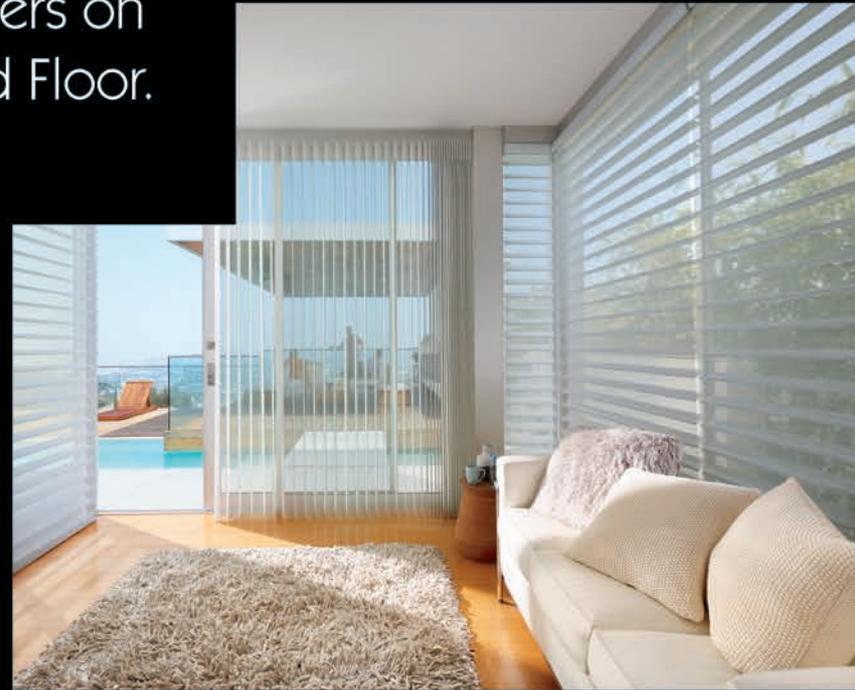
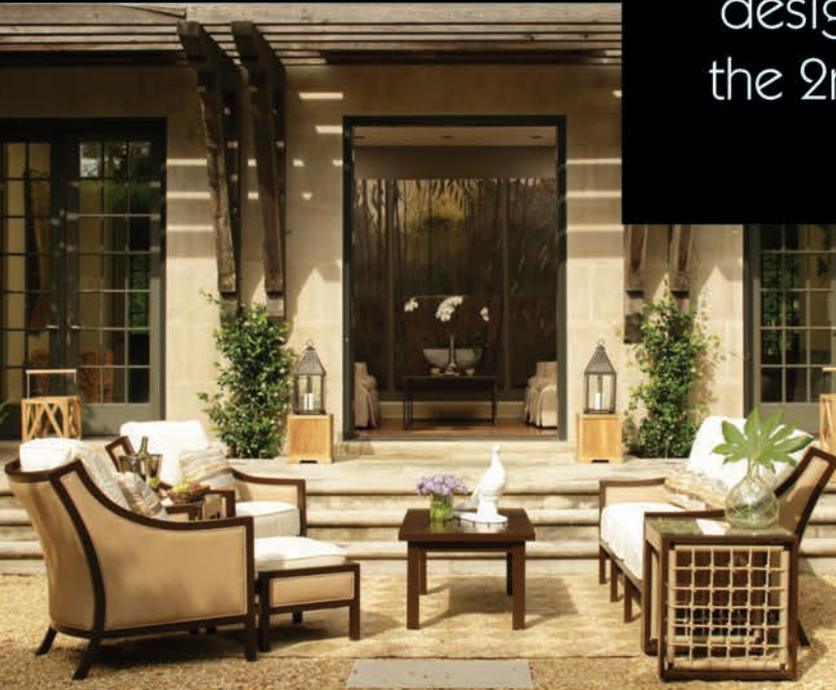
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## Beauty in Building and Beyond

Loren Wood acknowledges that his company, Loren Wood Builders, is often associated with large, new construction projects. However, those dream homes make up only a fraction of Wood's business. Alongside his residential and commercial construction, Wood spends a lot of time on home renovation projects. The 40-year-old builder says he appreciates that each project is unique. "I'm not drawn to a project's size," Wood says.

Instead, Wood appreciates the challenge of working on different types of projects, like the two presently underway in the McDoel Gardens neighborhood. While one job involves the renovation of a small historic home, the other is centered around repurposing a historic church. "It is the really interesting projects that appeal to me," says the Danville, Illinois, native.

Loren Wood Builders' focus on clients remains central in the 7-year-old company's business model, and client relations take the front seat with every Loren Wood Builders job. "We strive for a highly positive client experience as we work to execute each client's vision," Wood says. The company is equally dedicated to quality, which translates into the striking use of material and design, fastidious attention to detail, knowledgeable crews, and mindful integration of sustainable technology.

With one eye on the community and one toward the future, Loren Wood Builders contributes as much beauty to Bloomington's soul as it does to its aesthetics. The family-owned business is passionate about engaging with and taking care of the community through a company culture that treats staff like family and making



Loren Wood. Photo by Martin Boling

Bloomington a better place to live and work by collaborating with community partners who share a similar vision.

"We get very excited about projects that contribute to the community's fabric," Wood says. "We want to contribute in a positive way and love the opportunity to work on jobs that help speak to the character of Bloomington." Current community endeavors include projects and collaborations with The Warehouse, Sycamore Land Trust, Cardinal Stage Company, and Habitat for Humanity.

"I want to be able to look back on every day and know that we have made a positive contribution to our community," Wood says.  
—Sara Sheikh



  
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## A Neighborly Atmosphere

When Alice moved into an apartment at Jill's House, she was having difficulty understanding what she needed to do. Alice's new neighbors, Zetta Ann and Honey, spent the morning showing her around and helping her become more comfortable in her new home. That neighborly spirit is what sets Jill's House apart from other memory care communities.

The setting does, too. From the great room with its fireplace and grand piano to the open-concept kitchen and dining room to the chapel and its exquisite stained-glass window, Jill's House features earthy colors that draw together the common rooms and apartments like a showcase home. Windows open up to the wooded surroundings on Tamarack Trail, allowing residents to watch children on the playground, deer foraging across the lawn, or flowers blooming in a garden planted by Jan, one of the residents. The porch is a gathering place, as is the kitchen, because, as community relations coordinator Heather Kinderthain says, "The kitchen is the heart of a home."

At Jill's House, residents find a safe, inviting, and inclusive place in which to live fully and experience joy. "When people move to Jill's House, they're not moving to a facility, they're moving to a beautiful home, and then we're surrounding them with love," Kinderthain says, adding that Jill's House was built by members of the Bloomington community to provide strength and comfort to all who enter. Learn more about the Jill's House story, including the blessing that occurred when tragedy turned into a beautiful mission, by visiting [jillshousememorycare.com](http://jillshousememorycare.com). —Linda Margison

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