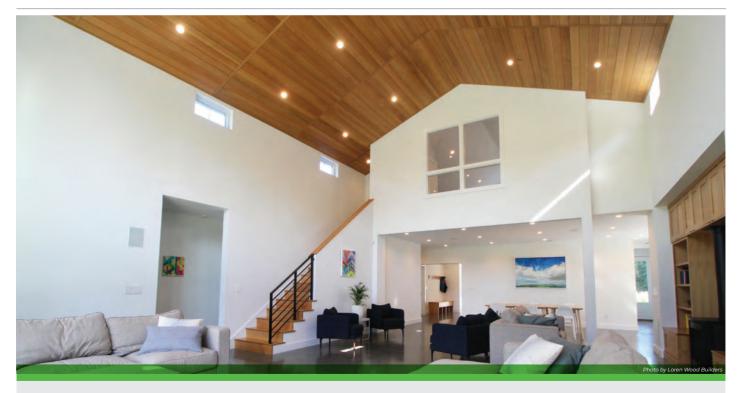
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These local vendors can help you make (and maintain) a beautiful home.

by Linda Margison



building + landscape architecture

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HARRELL-FISH INC.

Clean Air for Your Home

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, Harrell-Fish Inc. was raising awareness about the importance of clean air. "The air you breathe matters," says President Steve Dawson. "This is the first time any of us have lived through a pandemic where there can actually be harmful viruses in the air."

Founded in 1985. HFI does significant work in the health care field and knows the importance of air quality and filtration on industrial, institutional, and laboratory levels. The pandemic propelled Dawson's team to use those same practices, like ionization technology, better filtration, and better ventilation, within the home.

HFI expertise includes industrial construction, emergency commercial service, virtual construction, and residential services. Dawson says the company's evolution began in reverse of most companies, starting with large industrial clients and evolving into also working in people's homes. "What sets HFI apart is we have so much expertise as a company, which makes us even more valuable for the homeowners we service," he says, adding that being a leader in the industry helped shape pandemic best practices in Bloomington, the state, and the nation.

With 400 employees and offices in Fort Wayne and Evansville. Indiana, and the main office in Bloomington, Dawson says staying locally owned and operated is important and ensures HFI can support community organizations and charities. "When we are hired, we reinvest right here at home," he says, adding that he's grateful to the clients who continue to hire HFI. "Every time we get hired, we consider it an honor." For more information, visit harrell-fish.com.







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MPI SOLAR

Affordable Solar Power for Your Home or Business

With technological advances and more renewable energy focus, David Mann with Mann Plumbing proved insightful when he branched out his company and formed MPI Solar. "Our solar business is an outgrowth of an effort in 2008 with solar hot water, which is kind of a transition from plumbing to solar," Mann says. "Now we're mostly doing solar electricity, providing solar photovoltaic panels almost exclusively."

MPI Solar is installing residential, commercial, and institutional solar systems, including one with more than 700 panels, across all of southern Indiana. With greater availability of solar panels and batteries, these systems can be installed in about three to four days. "The solar industry is going through some interesting developments, and that's exciting," Mann says, adding that change has also grown

his company to six people, including some family members. "Our solar business is very strong and very family oriented."

Most of the solar installations are mounted on rooftops, however, some are free-standing ground-mount panels. MPI Solar also installs dual-axis tracker systems, which follow the sun throughout the day and during all seasons. To increase customers' energy independence, about 40% of the installations include battery backup systems. "More folks are taking an interest in battery storage than ever before for their home and business systems,"

says Mann, who offers packaged and customized off-grid systems.

Mann says that the Solar **Energy Industries Association** reports that the decline in solar photovoltaic prices in the past five years has been about 43%. "So, it's cheaper than ever and more affordable for homeowners and business owners in the United States," adds Mann, noting that the industry employs about 230,000 people in the country. "Over the next 10 years, the industry is expected to see phenomenal growth."

While most solar installers are working with the same physical

equipment, Mann says his company's intentional focus on providing good service and forging a partnership with customers makes MPI Solar different.

"We are excited to help bring energy independence to homeowners and business owners," Mann says. "Energy independence is important as people take personal responsibility for their power production. Also, if we're really going to try to address climate change, renewable energy, especially solar, is going to be a huge part of that."

For more information, visit mpisolar.com.



(I-r) David Mann, Mark Welk, Jordan Sutche, and Amie McCarty, Photo by Andrea Petersen





A sharp, modern design with white walls and natural light highlight this Shawnee Bluffs home at Lake Monroe. Courtesy photos

LOREN WOOD BUILDERS

From Concept to Move-In: Full-Service Design-Build

Since its inception more than a decade ago, Loren Wood Builders has worked collaboratively with other architects and designers in the community to meet clients' needs. As the industry grew busier, however, owner Loren Wood saw the need to provide a full-service experience for his clients and began building his design team.

"A client can work with us from the very beginning, all the way to move-in," Wood says. "They don't have to bring in an interior designer and then a contractor, and then have their design created someplace

else. All steps of the process are aligned with our full team at the client's disposal, so the project stays on budget and on time. Having those services under one roof is more convenient for the client."

Wood adds, "We've been a full-service design-build company for quite some time, but doubling the size of our architecture team expanded our capacity significantly, while adding an interior designer rounds out our ability to offer full-scope design services from architectural through finishes."

The architecture and design team

includes Russ Herndon, Ernesto Castañeda, Sasha Shumyatsky, Alex Minor and Tucker Jaroll.

One of the team's most recent projects is a new family home in Shawnee Bluffs at Lake Monroe, Castañeda worked with the clients to create a sharp, modern design softened by warm material choices and colors. Natural light and soft white walls set the stage for the interior spaces of this home, and the clients thoughtfully chose tile, colorful artwork, and understated furnishings to add splashes of color and texture to the living areas.

"The landscape always informs the design," says Wood. "This home fits so beautifully on a wooded lot backed by acres of native hardwood forest. When Ernesto designs a home, he thinks about the environment and the landscape, so the house fits seamlessly into the lot and the land."

He adds that the team gave the clients a design-forward house that combines practicality and craftsmanship with state-of-the-art mechanical and insulation packages. "The attention to detail in this home is reflective of what folks have come to expect from our carpenters and crew, as well as from our building partners."

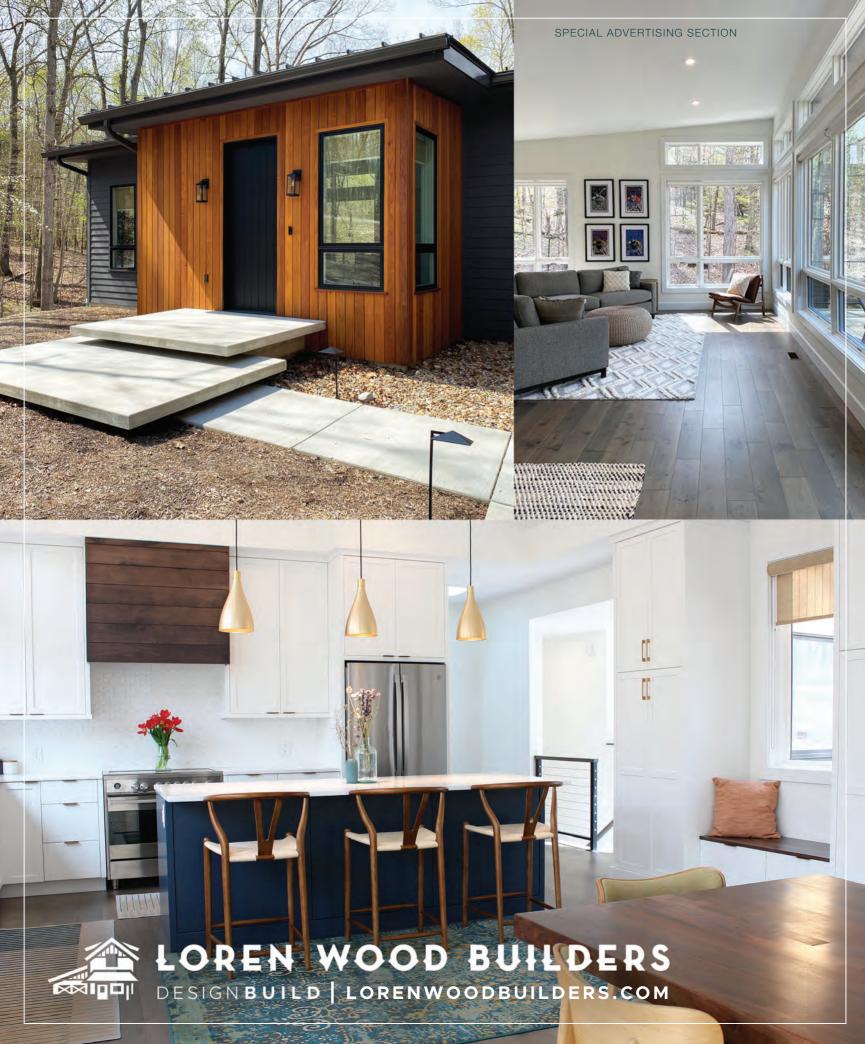
Wood is pleased to have pulled a team together that simplifies the entire process for his clients. "The ease of a one-stop shop, as well as the cohesiveness of having the same team working from concept through execution simply creates a more seamless process for the clients, both in terms of who they are interfacing with and in terms of creating a smooth transition from design into estimation and construction," he says.

To accommodate his growing team of around 50 people, Wood renovated the former Cardinal Stage building at 900 S. Walnut and moved his office from the east side of Bloomington.

For more information and project photos, visit lorenwoodbuilders.com.



The Loren Wood Builders architecture and design team includes (I-r) Daniel Green, Tucker Jaroll, Russ Herndon, Ernesto Castañeda, Sasha Shumyatsky, and Alex Minor.



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