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Homes *of* distinction



REBECCA R. NEWSOME, MIRM

Dreaming of a new home, or the renovation of your current one? Enter New Vista Development. This award-winning Chapel Hill-based company, under the leadership of Licensed General Contractor Kurt Mueller, offers design, build and renovation services resulting in highly efficient green and custom homes. Kurt's focus for the company revolves around quality, style, functionality, environmental friendliness and budget sensitivity.

"I've always been enamored with the design/build process," says Kurt. "I'm fascinated not only by intricate form and design but also with performance, sustainability, and affordability. My passion for the creative process, my terrific sub-contractors and employees, and my affiliation with first-rate

professional organizations are huge assets for New Vista Development. The company goal with every client is to deliver an end product that surpasses expectations."

Born and raised in Chapel Hill, Kurt identified his diverse creative talents at an early age, via his interest in music and the design/build process. His initiation into the construction industry began with volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity while at Chapel Hill High School. From there, Kurt worked summers and breaks on construction crews before graduating from the UNC-Asheville with degrees in jazz guitar and recording arts.

While still keeping one foot rooted in construction, Kurt spent eight years in the music industry running a recording studio and performing as an original mem-



ber of the locally acclaimed Jumpstarts band. Although his love for music ran deep, Kurt felt in the late '90s that the time was right to pursue his ardor for building homes, thereby obtaining his General Contractor's License in 1998. Kurt's creative abilities combined with his skills of interacting with clients and managing sub-contractors, schedules, and finances provided an excellent foundation upon which he has built New Vista Development.

"As a devoted student of architecture, I'm intrigued by intricate

details and designs," Kurt comments. "Although I enjoy all types of architecture, my personal favorites include historic turn-of-the-20th-century styles, such as Four Square, Craftsman, Arts & Crafts, Cottage, Southern, and Victorian. Some have referred to these styles as 'Grandma's Home.' I take pride in designing homes that help to preserve the environment and improve home owner health, while keeping fiscal goals intact. Based on my engineering degree, studies and real world experiences I have also consulted and designed in

"I truly enjoy working through the build/design process with clients, and seeing dreams become reality," says builder Kurt Mueller of New Vista Development.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW VISTA DEVELOPMENT

Kurt was very responsive to our needs and many change requests," says Edward Aul. "He was quite knowledgeable about building practices, a stickler for details (like painting the backside of exterior trim before having it nailed to the house to increase longevity of the materials), fair, open, and honest. Kurt was very flexible and accommodated our requests for numerous and significant upgrades during the construction process. Due to the large number of changes and expansion of scope, Kurt performed the work on a hybrid cost-plus basis using open-book accounting. He was very schedule conscious, probably even more so than us as the owners. Kurt's main concerns appear to be to build a high-quality house and make his owners happy, which he achieved in our case."

"From the concept stage through move-in and post construction follow up we appreciate the fact that Kurt was willing to spend whatever time necessary to make sure we understood the many facets of the homebuilding process and also the assistance he provided in walking us through those many phases" says another client, Karen Macomson. "We couldn't be happier with the final results. Kurt's ability to envision and incorporate our many different and sometimes conflicting ideas along with his suggestions and recommendations proved invaluable in making this truly 'our home.'"

Kurt builds and renovates homes primarily throughout Chatham, Durham and Orange Counties. He is a member of the Home Builders Association of Durham, Orange, and Chatham Counties Green Building Council, and his new homes are all priced as both Green and Energy Star certified. He is available to build your new home on your lot or on lots in northern Chatham County's great Horizon new home community, located off Hamlet Chapel Road.

For more information, call Kurt at 919-932-5900 or visit www.newvistahome.com.

areas related to recording studio ergonomics, acoustics, and soundproofing."

"I'm driven with an ongoing desire to explore how all of us use the spaces we live in, and how the shape and layout of these spaces makes us feel," Kurt continues. "I truly enjoy working through the build/design process with clients, and seeing dreams become reality."

Clients are quick to support Kurt's remarks regarding his enthusiasm toward his work. "During the entire construction project,