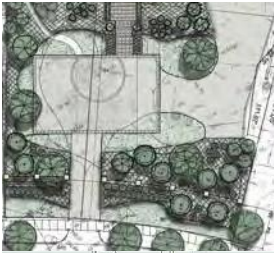




Design Planning Guide

YOUR HOME DESIGN PLANNING GUIDE

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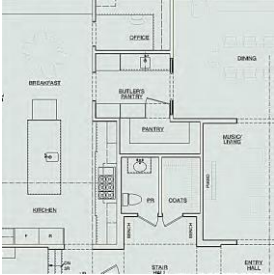
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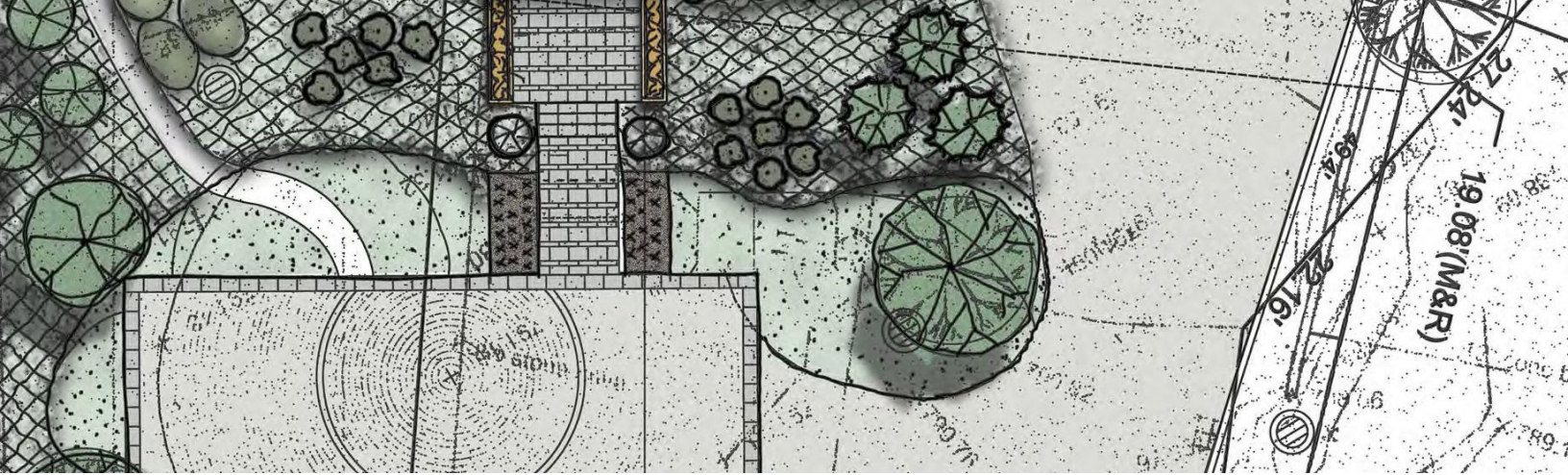


NEW HOME DESIGN PLANNING GUIDE

At B & K Build, a well prepared client is one of our best assets. The sooner that we understand your aesthetic, functional, and financial goals, the sooner we can produce great solutions. Many of our clients have never before engaged an architect or taken part in a residential design and construction project. As a result, we have found a great deal of our time in the initial stages of the project is spent gathering information that is essential to begin the design process.

Whether you engage us as your design and build team or select one of our well-qualified peers, organizing the following information will help you get into your dream home in a shorter time period with a thoughtful and effective process.

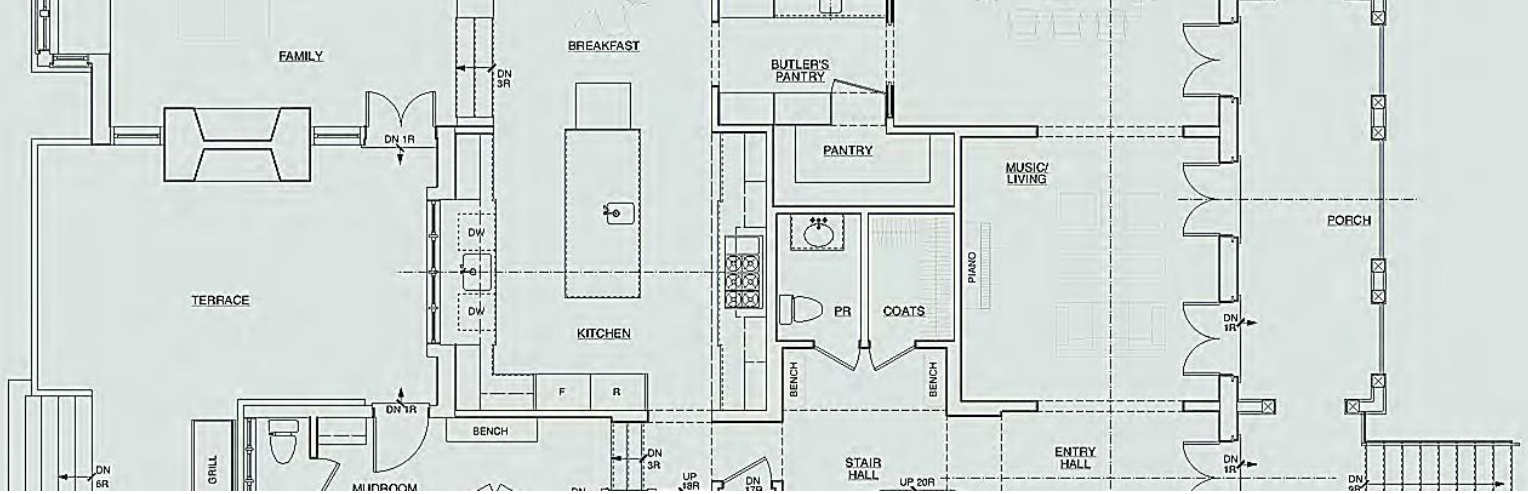
Gathering and management of this information is sometimes referred to as "pre-design", and while we do offer this step as a paid service, it is possible for you to begin this yourself, at your own pace, before you hire a building professional. This will help you to be well informed and prepared for your home design project.



Site Considerations

Have you selected a building site? If so, the first step in planning a new home is to gather as much information about the site as possible. The following documentation will help establish the existing site conditions (both restrictions and opportunities) for your new home design.

1. A professional survey. This will be required for any new project. It should contain a legal description, show all boundaries and significant features, easements, rights of way, etc. A survey should contain the footprint of any buildings on the site and helps establish the parameters of any modifications. If the site has a steep slope, hills or large trees, a topographic survey includes another layer of more detailed information and will locate and document these features.
2. Photographs of the site and immediate surroundings are helpful to record significant features and views.
3. Contact your local municipality and inquire about any special rules or concerns with building a new home on this site. Particular areas of inquiry should be:
 - a. Is there a local map of zoning districts and regulations for your district?
 - b. Does the municipality offer homeowners assistance interpreting the zoning code?
 - c. Are there any local design review covenants for the site?
 - d. Is municipal water and sewer available, or does the site require a well and septic system?
 - e. Is the site in a floodplain or does it include a wetland area?
 - f. Does the municipality require a civil engineer to design the site drainage and storm retention?
5. Google Maps or Google Earth can be used to generate a satellite plan. This is a helpful tool to understand the surrounding context, vegetation density and other existing features.
6. Consider gathering all of your site data and putting on a cloud server that you can share with consultants as required. Dropbox or Google Drive.



Functional Requirements

How do you want to live in your new home? Do you want your experience to be similar or different from where you live now? Giving some thought to the following questions (and any other questions or comments that these may inspire) will help you create a Wish List for your new home design.

1. Describe your existing home.
 - a. How many square feet?
 - b. How many bedrooms and bathrooms?
 - c. Does your home have any specific spaces or features that you need?
 - d. Does your home lack any spaces or features that you need?
2. How long do you intend to live in your new home?
 - a. 2-5 years
 - b. 5-10 years
 - c. Forever House
3. Are there specific requirements or preferences that would make your new home best serve your family's lifestyle and everyday needs?
4. Fill out the Pre-Design Guide Functional Requirements Survey at the end of this booklet to outline and define the functional requirements of your new home.



CLASSIC

TRANSITIONAL

CONTEMPORARY

INDUSTRIAL

MODERN

Design Style 101

Do you have a specific style of home or design characteristics in mind? When determining the style of your new home, consider the architectural style as well as your design lifestyle. By defining the terms described here, you can better communicate your preferences.

Architectural Style

There are many different historical home styles such as Tudor, Georgian and Craftsman, Modern, as well as trending styles such as the Modern Farmhouse. The array of stylistic approaches to home design can be overwhelming so for the sake of simplicity, let's start with a few main categories of architectural styles:

Classic/Traditional

Historic styles featuring an emphasis on decoration and symmetry

Transitional

Classic architectural basis with a contemporary twist for today's lifestyle and preferences

Contemporary

Current design, (and hence always changing), that utilizes current trends and features

Industrial/Rustic

Generally a more open or contemporary layout, but utilizing texture, materials, and exposed elements throughout the design

Modern

Minimal decoration, clean lines and open spaces



Defining Your Design Lifestyle

Consider not only the visual appearance of your home, but how you will live within it. Here are a few items to evaluate in defining your "design lifestyle" preferences:

- formal vs. casual
- decorative vs. minimal
- a traditional floor plan vs. an open concept plan
- private vs. open (both interior layout and views to the exterior/street/yard)

Combining Architectural Style and Lifestyle:

As you begin the pre-design process, you may already have a specific style preference as you envision your future home or you may find aspects of various design approaches appealing based on your "design lifestyle." To refine or combine design styles consider how your home preferences may influence the overall design. Features that contribute to a thoughtful, functional and aesthetically pleasing home design include:

- Attention to scale, proportion, and form
- Creating connections between interior spaces, both visual and functional, that improve circulation through the home as well as enhance the quality of the interior spaces themselves.
- Establishing a connection to the outdoors through views and expanding livable spaces.
- Developing a well-structured plan that includes the spaces and rooms that you both want and that you will use, while arranging spaces to best reflect how you move through and occupy your home.
- Incorporating specific architectural styles and thoughtful details to build the character of the design and enhance both curb appeal and the quality of interior spaces.

Collecting (and Sharing) Ideas and Precedents:

To fully explore and define both your architectural and lifestyle design preferences, viewing and collecting home design imagery is a valuable resource, both for clarifying your own style and sharing with others.

Using online imagery resources such as Houzz or Pinterest can provide a wealth of inspiration imagery. As you search and browse through images, you can select those that appeal to you and save to "idea books," collecting photographs of exteriors, interiors, and specific room designs. As you build an inspiration library, these images may help refine your design goals in various spaces as well as the overall house design. You can also add specific notes and invite "collaborators," such as your architect, to share ideas and compare images.



Budget Considerations

When you are considering a new custom home or a major renovation of an existing one, you will get many opinions about the potential construction cost. These opinions will be based on varying assumptions of your desired quality level and features, the size of the home, and the cost of labor and materials. Typically, construction costs are described in terms of a cost per square foot multiplier. These multipliers, and your overall cost expectation, can only be accurate if they take into account three primary factors:

- Accurately estimating the size of your project.
- Assessing the typical cost of recently constructed homes in your area that are of similar quality.
- Project delivery methods and how it influences cost, quality, and schedule.

Estimating the Size of Your Project

Calculating the Desired Size of Your New Home:

How big of a home are you building? These items are simply average rules of thumb, and you are likely not average, so use them as a measuring stick against your ideal home size and program.

Here are a few basic tools to help you begin your estimate:

- The average single-family American house with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths is about 2,500 square feet (above ground). This varies widely by region and economic power.
- An average 2-car garage with some storage space is about 500 square feet.
- A standard bedroom (with closet) may require between 125 to 250 square feet.
- A master suite with walk-in closet, double vanity and separate tub & shower may require between 350 and 450+ square feet.
- A typical two sided kitchen with an island, open at one end, may require between 250 to 450+ square feet.
- A stand alone dining room to seat 12 can range from 210-250 sq ft.
- A powder room can range from 12-60 square feet.
- A typical bathroom can range from 50-75 square feet.



Assessing Size of Comparable Properties:

Keep in mind that the size of your home may be restricted by your lot and the zoning regulations of your community. Overall square footage, lot coverage and building height may all impose design limitations based on the local community regulations. Real estate considerations may also mandate that your home needs to be within a certain range to be competitively priced against the neighbors, especially if you plan to be in the home less than 10 years. If you intend to live in this home for more than 10 years, we recommend putting your own needs ahead of the investment decisions, as the market over that time is simply unknown. The best thing to do is to make an educated guess and compare against other homes in your area.

When you inquire about the size of similar homes, it is helpful to clarify exactly what total area you are describing. Developers, builders, real estate professionals, and tax assessors may define space differently. Typically, the builder's number includes only interior spaces (measured to exterior wall surface) that are heated and cooled, and above the basement. Finished basements, exterior porches, balconies, and garage spaces are often not included, yet these elements have a real cost. A real estate listing will typically include finished basement space, but may leave out garages or porches, this is why you need to ask what exactly is included in the square footage estimate. When you see a home with oversized, highly detailed exterior porches or a 4 car garage, the cost per square foot may be significantly misstated unless these elements are listed separately with assigned values.

While these preliminary calculations are helpful, it is common for the estimated area at the front end of a project to be more than what is actually needed, unless additional rooms or uses are added along the way. During the design process, we work to make your use of space more efficient throughout, and by result less expensive.

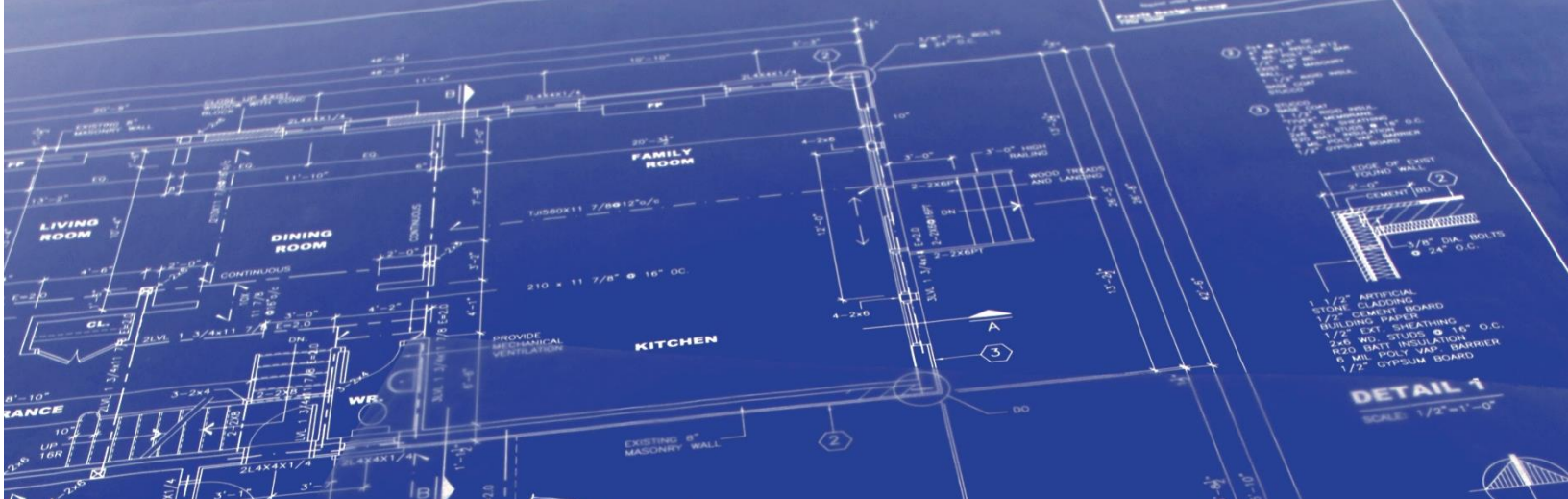


Assessing the Cost of Comparable Homes in Your Area

When you are consulting a builder, neighbor, or realtor regarding the cost of a similar project, check the date it was completed. Cost estimates are highly perishable. Costs have essentially two components: materials and labor. Both are subject to the forces of supply and demand. Lumber, steel, concrete, brick and stone are all commodities that can vary widely depending on when it is purchased. Material costs can also be highly localized. The labor required to construct your home has varied skill levels, depending on the trade. For example, high skill steel welding or experienced carpenters may be in short supply relative to excavation labor. In recent years, a nationwide shortage of skilled construction labor has driven costs upward at a higher than normal pace. If the home you are looking at was constructed between 2 and 4 years ago, the same home would easily cost between 15% to 20% more in today's dollars.

If possible, research multiple recent projects. Take notice of the overall type and quality of the materials employed. Brick and limestone, for example, is a significant premium over painted wood siding. Remember, you don't need to like the homes you are using to estimate costs, only to compare the material and labor to create them. Some things to look for that have a large influence over construction cost:

- Are there site issues that make the work more difficult, such as a significant hill or utility access?
- What are the primary exterior building materials? Wood siding, stucco, masonry?
- What type of roof does the home have? Asphalt shingles, metal, clay tile, slate?
- Does the cost estimate include landscape costs? Is the landscaping extensive?
- What type of flooring materials are used? Wood, wide plank, stone tile?
- Does the home feature built-in cabinetry, benches, or window seats?
- What kind of built-in cabinetry and kitchen cabinets were in the home? Paint finish vs. stained wood, standard vs. premium finishes, simple profiles vs. highly detailed?
- Do the interiors include wood trim around the doors and windows, or a simple drywall opening?
- What kind of appliances and fixtures were in the home?
- Do all the bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms or shared bathrooms?



Project Delivery Methods

A huge influence in your cost will be the contract delivery method employed for construction of your custom home. There are many shades of gray when using the word “custom” so we thought you should have a basic explanation how projects can be delivered and at what level of design. Your neighbor’s house that you referred to in terms of area and contract cost may have been delivered in a different way than you intend with a different set of goals and parameters. You need to understand the trade-offs between these methods. We have done them all:

1. Traditional Track - Design, Bid, Build

You hold separate design and construction contracts.

Homeowner is responsible for quality control on differences between plans and site conditions.

2. Design / Build, Builder Lead

The Architect works for the Builder.

Builder does quality control and can help the client make decisions based on budget and site conditions. It also makes changes easier.

3. Design / Build, Designer Lead

The Builder works for the Architect.

Architect does quality control. Can be a slower build process depending on the architect’s availability. Makes changes more difficult.



Traditional Track, Design, Bid, Build Separate Design and Construction Contracts

This is the method preferred by clients who seek a customized home and is used in the majority of our work. The same process is followed if you have pre-selected a contractor, or if you are competitively bidding to three. In this scenario, you will only be limited by your imagination and your budget. We then work to assemble a group of qualified contractors and other vendors to bid the work. When bidding, you can take advantage of any competitive market that may exist, as well as get a wider number of opinions as to the most efficient means and methods of construction.

When the bids come back, it is often typical that they are not yet entirely aligned with your budget. We have a bit more work to do to get the costs in line and at this stage. This process is often called Value Engineering and is best performed by entering into a preliminary agreement the sub-contractors, vendors, and others to find value in design modifications that reduce the cost but maintain the design intent and construction quality. When we bid the project, everything is line itemed. By doing this we have an open book approach to show all costs and fees associated with the project. This can help our clients find ways to reduce their budget by removing line items that are additional costs that are not as important to them or the final quality of the project. This can help us, and our clients reach an agreement to build their home with a budget that they are comfortable with

A traditional track process will provide the highest quality at a negotiated cost you control.



Design/Build Builder Lead

The architect works for us.

We also work in a hybrid environment, when a client first approaches a builder about a new custom home and the builder hires an architect to design the custom home for the owner. This is a common approach in many markets and can have many variations. In this scenario, you get the benefit of our building design process to highly customize your design or come up with a unique solution for a particular site. In this arrangement, we are involved in all aspects from to design to finished product. A builder-lead design process can provide advantages in guaranteed cost and access to vendors in the design process, while providing a fully custom home. As the builder holds the contract, economy is typically weighted more heavily than design nuance and requires advocacy to be successful.

Design/Build Designer Lead

The builder works for the architect.

The Architect can also take the lead in a Design/Build process. In this scenario, the chief benefit is the client has one stop shopping and one main point of contact for the entire design and construction process. They can also negotiate a fixed, not to exceed project cost based on the completed Schematic Design Documents.

They will hire a General Contractor as their Prime Subcontractor and the home is built as typical. All communication is funneled through the designers for efficiency, and they typically charge a fee on the construction as any other general contractor service.

A designer lead design-build process will emphasize design excellence over cost, but the architect will still have a broad license to seek economy in means and methods to achieve financial goals.

Pre-Design Guide Checklist

Site Considerations

Project Address:

Lot size (sq ft):

Site Checklist:

- Survey
- Photographs

Special Considerations:

- View
- Topography / Steep slope
- Landmark Status / District
- Corner Lot
- Lake Frontage
- Flood Plain
- Unusual Neighboring Lots / Adjacent Properties

Functional Requirements

- Complete the Pre-Design Guide Survey

Determine Your Design Style

Home Design Resources - Create Your Personal Ideabook at:

- Houzz.com
- Pinterest.com

Be sure to add notes and captions to highlight your favorite features and materials
Gathering images will help you establish your style and material preferences:

How would you describe your general lifestyle? (0 = casual to 10 = formal)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Decorative preference (0=minimalist, 10=highly decorative):

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Private vs. Open (0=let it all hang out, 10=everything tucked away):

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Pre-Design Guide Survey

ARRIVE

1 level (ranch style) / 2 levels / 2+ levels (3-story, finished attic, loft)
Attached / Detached Garage (Number of Vehicles / Additional Storage)

GATHER

How long do you plan to live in this home?

How many people will live here? _____adults
_____kids (current and/or future)
_____pets
_____permanent and/or temporary guest space

Formal Living Room / Open Concept Family Room / Other

Separate Formal Dining Room / Eat-in Kitchen / Open Concept

Special Features & Accommodations (check preferences):

- Grand Entry, Large Foyer, Open Stair
- Fireplace (note rooms, gas/wood burning preference?)
- TV watching area(s) (note rooms)
- Furniture / Heirlooms / Misc Accommodations (ie - piano, artwork, etc.)

EAT

Separate Kitchen & Dining Areas / One open Concept Space

Formal Dining Room / Separate eat-in Kitchen / Open Concept Space

How much do you cook? (0 = mostly takeout, 10 = home cooked meals every day)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Special Features & Accommodations (check preferences):

- Kitchen Island (number of seats:_____)
- Kitchen banquette/bench seating (number of seats:_____)
- Open Shelves / All Storage Concealed in Cabinets / Combination
- Walk-in Pantry / Pantry Cabinet(s) / Combination
- Butler's Pantry / Wet or Dry Bar

Appliance Preferences:

- Refrigerator size/configuration (if known)_____
- Oven/range preferences (if known)_____

Integrated-built-in appliances / Stainless steel / Combination / Other

Pre-Design Guide Survey

CLEAN

Mudroom (circle preferences):

- Closed Lockers / Open Hooks / Bench / Pet Area / Sports Supplies

Laundry (circle preferences):

Basement / 1st Floor / 2nd Floor

- Stackable units / Side by Side / Front Load / Utility Sink / Folding / Hanging Space / Hampers

SLEEP

How many bedrooms?

@ 2nd Floor _____ ensuite bath(s)? _____

@ Basement _____ ensuite bath(s)? _____

@ 1st Floor _____ ensuite bath(s)? _____

RELAX

Would you like to allocate space(s) for special activities? (circle):

- Study / Library / Home Office
- Recreation Room / Play Room / Game Room / Home Theater
- Art Studio / Craft Space / Music Room
- Study / Library / Home Office
- Home Gym / Wood Shop
- Finished Basement / Unfinished Basement / Walk-out Basement

OUTDOORS

Would you like to include special features at your front or back yard? (circle):

- Screen Porch / Enclosed 3-Season Room / Covered Porch / Pergola
- Privacy Screen
- Outdoor Kitchen / Simple Grill
- Stone Patio / Wood Deck / Other
- Outdoor Fireplace / Fire Pit
- Swimming Pool / Spa
- Decorative Garden / Vegetable Garden / Decorative Water Features / Other

Our Story

At B & K Build llc. We focus on helping our clients from start to finish. We put a priority on building quality relationships with our clients, subs, and vendors. We strive to deliver the highest quality homes that are not only beautiful, but homes that meet our clients needs. We help turn your ideal home into reality.

Since high school, Brandon Parker and Khalid Arafeh have dreamed of owning their own construction business. Their biggest goal? To one day create a neighborhood like Ross Bridge where residents could live, work, and play all in the same neighborhood. Working together during the summer on construction jobs, they got to experience first-hand life in the construction field and learn the ins and outs. After high school, both aspired to become engineers, but life had other plans.

Brandon would start his first full-time job in the construction field at 21 and completed his builder's license in 2014. "I ended up working with a local developer that offered for us to start building in a neighborhood which helped jumpstart our dream of starting our own business."

Khalid went on to complete his Civil Engineering degree from UAB. After graduation, he started working with a design manufacturing firm for multi-family projects. He then went onto getting his MBA in Business from UAB. From there, he changed jobs within the company to more of a customer service and business side of the company. With this change, Brandon and Khalid knew they were closer to starting their own company and realizing their dream and the rest is history.

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