

BOWA Gets Even Greener

Environment-friendly construction practices benefit us all

For years, BOWA has been implementing "green" practices when building its residential construction projects, including using efficient building materials and systems and salvaging materials when possible. But in response to growing concerns about the environment—both globally and locally—



We have been successful in helping clients to identify energy-efficient materials, such as windows and doors, that provide the desired aesthetic.

BOWA is embarking on a more comprehensive "green" initiative. Our goal is to provide our clients with environmentally friendly options to ensure we are building durable structures that have the least impact on our environment and create healthy, efficient living spaces. Our initiative focuses on three main areas: a) energy efficiency; b) conserving resources; and c) indoor air quality.

Our first focus, energy efficiency, provides our clients ways to save money in the long term while reducing the demand on limited energy resources. Energy-efficient construction starts with building a good outer shell that seals in the air, thus creating and maintaining a more comfortable environment while reducing the need for operating air conditioning and heating units. Some of the construction methods that

BOWA utilizes to achieve this include using high-quality insulation and protective house wrap, as well as minimizing and weatherproofing inevitable gaps. BOWA then assists our clients by providing energy-efficient options on numerous materials, such as windows, furnaces, air conditioning equipment and appliances. We have been very successful in providing our clients with energy-efficient solutions that still allow them to achieve the look and functionality they desire.

Our second focus is on conserving resources, and BOWA is working to accomplish this in a number of ways. First, much of BOWA's work is in renovating existing homes. By helping clients to transform their homes to meet their changing needs, we avoid building new structures, which preserves resources and reduces landfill waste.

Next, we encourage clients to consider using longer-lasting materials, such as tile, stone, brick and fiber-cement, which save on maintenance and replacement resources. We also encourage the use of rapidly renewable resources, such as bamboo flooring or engineered structural materials made of plentiful species like poplar and aspen.



Highlighting many "green building" principles, this home includes energy-efficient windows, material-efficient joists and composite structural beams.

Finally, when possible, BOWA works with non-profit companies to remove reusable materials from homes being renovated or demolished. These materials are then resold, with benefits all around: purchasers can buy a wide variety of reclaimed materials at good prices; clients receive a tax credit based on the value of the materials; and the need for creating additional landfills is reduced.

Our third focus is on air quality. Indoor air quality has always been a priority for BOWA's clients, and we continue to investigate ways of making improvements. Some of the things currently being implemented to help improve air quality are:

- Using effective ("MERV 8" or better) filters on air conditioners and furnaces;
- Preventing water from infiltrating the home (waterproofing basements) and reducing humidity (installing fans and dehumidifiers), thus reducing the growth of mold and other allergens;

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A combination pool heater/dehumidifier unit provided the client a solution that was both energy efficient and effective in controlling moisture for improved air quality.

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Being a Good Neighbor

BOWA steps up commitment to community service

With a long history of supporting our communities through financial and in-kind donations to charitable organizations, BOWA Builders has recently committed to making a more hands-on contribution to the neighborhoods in which we work. This summer we launched a program that called on each of our production teams to give back to the community through cleanups and other service activities. We believe so strongly in this program that we have committed to performing at least ten projects per quarter going forward.

As such, if you have thoughts on how we can make a difference in your neighborhood, please let us know. Following are a few examples of the projects our teams completed in the past few months:



Our Great Falls and Customer Service Teams picked up trash and debris along a stretch of Innsbruck Road in Great Falls, VA.

BOWA's McLean and Home Projects Teams spent several hours cleaning up Clemyjontri Park, which is located off of Georgetown Pike in McLean, VA.



Members of our Middleburg Team cleaned and landscaped an alley and parking area behind several stores along Washington Street in the heart of Middleburg, VA.

Members of BOWA's Maryland Team cleaned up trash and debris in Avenel Park, and also painted and performed carpentry work on the Rapley Preserve Guard House in Potomac, MD.




BOWA's DC/Arlington/Alexandria and Customer Service Teams cleaned, landscaped and performed minor repairs at the Duke Ellington Field in Washington, DC.

Green Initiative (continued from page 1)

- Installing air cleaning systems either as stand-alone units or as part of air handling systems;
- Discouraging products that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which release harmful chemical vapors and can have negative health consequences.

Finally, BOWA is working to employ "green" practices within our own company. As such, we are committed to reducing our paper usage by at least one-third by printing two-sided documents, using projectors instead of handouts and going paperless for many of our project and accounting functions. We are also buying carbon dioxide credits and looking to gradually switch many of our vehicles to hybrid models to offset the negative impact of our vehicles on air quality. And we are working with our suppliers to encourage them to purchase materials that have the least negative impact on the environment (responsibly harvested lumber, non-toxic glues, etc.) yet still allow us to maintain the highest standards with respect to quality and aesthetics.

Our intention is to continuously research alternatives to ensure we are taking advantage of every opportunity to build responsibly and offer our clients a range of "green" alternatives to include in their homes. Our goal is to be a leader in responsible residential construction by providing solutions that are cost effective, practical and healthy for our clients while minimizing the impact our work and finished products have on the environment. We look forward to sharing our "green" practices with you on your next project! 

HAVE PLANS FOR A CHARITY EVENT?

If you have plans for a fundraiser or awareness event in your BOWA-built space, let us know.

As part of our community outreach program, BOWA Builders is looking to support our clients in their philanthropic efforts by partnering to sponsor charitable parties.

To date, we have proudly worked with clients on events benefitting Cure Autism Now, The Washington Ballet and The YMCA of Martha's Vineyard.

For additional information, contact your BOWA representative or Kathy Kelly, Director of Marketing, at (703) 873-8005.

Project Profiles

Custom Addition in Arlington, Virginia

Commentary contributed by
RICH CASSAGNOL, PRINCIPAL

The client wanted a new three-level, L-shaped addition that wrapped around the existing home on two sides. On the upper level, this eliminated a small office/bedroom at



Accessed from the master bedroom, the nautical-themed eagle's nest provides lovely views of the Washington Monument.

the back of the house and created a substantial space for a beautifully appointed master suite. Upon entering the bedroom one notices the unique angles of the ceiling that were carefully designed to blend with the existing 1920's home, while creating visual interest. To the right, a hallway leads to the changing area and master bath, which features a tiled steam shower, a large soaking tub and a beautiful vanity area with custom cabinetry and mirrors. To the left of the bed is a custom glass door, which leads to the

owner's spa and morning bar and balcony beyond. The truly unique feature of the master suite is an eagle's nest, which serves as a map room for planning the owner's boating trips. The elevated nautical-themed room is accessed via a ship's ladder and provides beautiful views of the Washington Monument. On the main level, the addition allowed for a substantial kitchen expansion, which



On the main level, the addition allowed for a substantial kitchen expansion, as well as a new family room, breakfast room and sunroom.



The new wine tasting room is a favorite gathering place when entertaining.

features custom cherry cabinetry, granite counters and stainless appliances. A new family room, breakfast room and sunroom were created along the back wall, and finish work was completed throughout to freshen the look of the existing rooms. The expanded lower level is home to a new mahogany tasting room, an adjacent stone-walled sitting room and a home gym. ↑

Basement Renovation in McLean, Virginia

Commentary contributed by
GEORGE HODGES-FULTON, VICE PRESIDENT

As the client works from home several days a week, he wanted a functional office space in his basement, which would feature a separate, private entrance appropriate for visitors. The solution was to excavate, form and place exterior stairs and retaining walls leading from the newly cut French doors in the office to the rear yard, while matching existing stone and brick. The project called for the fabrication and installation of a metal gate in a new masonry retaining wall, for improved access to the rear yard. The client also wanted to renovate much of the rest of their basement to suit their current needs and create a more appealing transition from the main floor



The client wanted a private entrance to his new lower-level home office, which would be appropriate for business associates and seamless to the existing space.

above. Whereas the original staircase terminated in a dark hallway leading to the basement, the stairs were reconfigured to create a final landing that is fully in the renovated space. A long, angled hallway was reclaimed and enclosed to create a space for a fully outfitted exercise room, and another wall was removed to expand the new wine bar and billiards rooms. The wine bar, billiard, television and stair areas all were outfitted with antique wood floors, lighting, drywall, crown molding and paint. The project also included renovating existing basement bathrooms, correcting a wet basement problem and identifying/correcting a gas leak to the fireplace. ↑



With improved access, the client's new office space features lovely French doors at the visitor entrance and the warmth and character of a reclaimed China road slate floor.



The wine bar, billiard and television areas were all outfitted with antique wood floors, lighting, crown molding and paint.

Project Profiles

Custom Addition and Renovation in Potomac, Maryland

Commentary contributed by

CUSTOM DESIGN CONCEPTS ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS

The client wanted a full renovation of their unfinished basement, as well as an addition, which added about 450 square feet to both the basement and the main level above. To accommodate adult visitors, the design included a custom pub, a billiard and game room and a double-sided tropical fish tank between the two rooms. For the children's favorite activities, the architects designed spaces for a dance studio, craft area, Murphy beds for sleepovers and an indoor sports court. Playing on their love of sports, the basement addition allowed for a baseball stadium themed theater, complete with custom murals featuring friends and family.



The new baseball stadium themed theater is complete with custom murals and authentic stadium seating.



The sunroom addition, features two walls of windows that open up to give this space the feel of a screened-in porch.

On the main level, the homeowner wanted an interior space that had the feel of a screened-in porch. The architects accomplished this with a new sunroom addition, featuring two walls of windows that open to give this heated and air-conditioned space the light, sounds and easy breeze of a screened-in porch. The addition to the main floor was complicated because of an existing series of cantilevered truss tails that had to be structurally modified and incorporated into the volume ceiling design.

The project also included an extensive backyard renovation, featuring a custom pool with a spa and waterfall; an outdoor cooking pavilion; a pool shower and changing structure; and numerous seating areas for entertaining. The home's position on and nature of the lot presented a significant challenge in getting the required equipment to the backyard and installing the new whole-house generator.



An extensive backyard renovation included a custom pool with a spa and waterfall and an outdoor cooking pavilion.



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