

Postmodern grandeur in Great Falls

McLean-based BOWA Builders ranked nation's largest 'whole house' remodeling firm

By JOHN BYRD
Special to The Times

In just 17 years, Josh Baker and Larry Weinberg have taken their firm, BOWA Builders Inc. of McLean, from a two-man deck construction crew to a premier building outfit that **Qualified Remodeler** magazine recently ranked as the nation's largest "whole house" remodeler.

"Whole house" remodeling is what the name implies: a project that may entail the entire house at once or any part of a house. It's a category reserved for "Class A" general contractors that perform a full range of construction services.

Last year BOWA did more than \$18 million in the "whole house" category alone. Total revenues, which include custom building, topped \$23 million.

Typifying the spacious yet innovative high-end remodeling ventures the firm attracts is the addition to a Great Falls residence that currently holds both a National Association of the Remodeling Industry "Contractor of the Year" award and a "Finest for Family Living" award—a competition sponsored jointly by the Northern

Virginia Builders Industry Association and the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association.

No doubt the project's string of plaudits owes something to its sheer audacity: a three-story wing encased in reflective glass that was made to look "inevitable." The renovated structure was a collaboration between owner, architect and contractor.

The original goal was an addition that would greatly expand the home while complementing the existing pool area, and during the design phase, the owner became even more specific: he wanted a free-flowing interior space that was "wall and column free" with unobstructed views of the pool and backyard.

A curved exterior wall of reflective glass, three stories high was designed. The structure "flows" not only horizontally but also vertically—using a relocated main staircase as a means of connecting and unifying all the new and existing spaces together. Views from the interior are unobstructed.

A rear terrace extending from the living space leads down to the pool area. Completing the project are a large master suite, wine cellar, home theater and recreation spaces.



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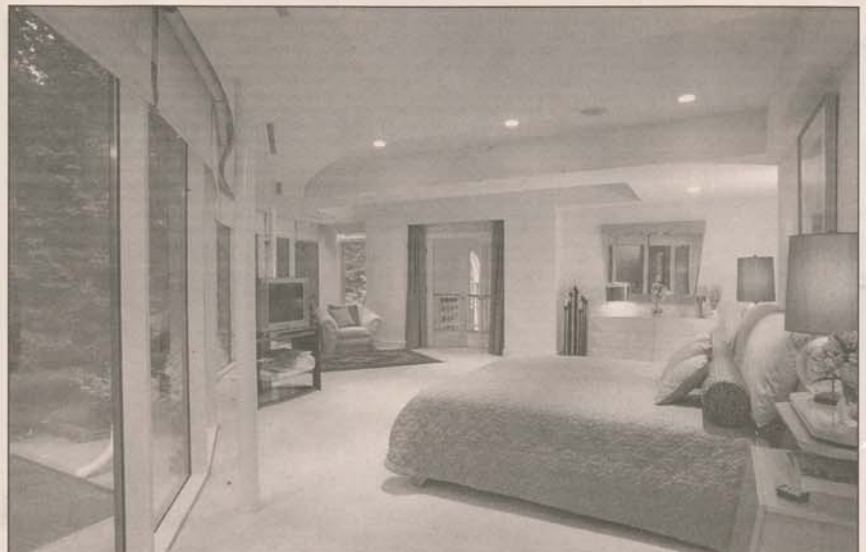


DRAMATIC CHANGE: A curved exterior wall of glass adds drama to this renovated Great Falls home.



WELL-STOCKED: The custom wine cellar is a delight for the owners of this Great Falls house that was redone by BOWA Builders.

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RELAXING SPOT: The master bedroom with recessed lights and window walls is a peaceful, visual and exciting area.