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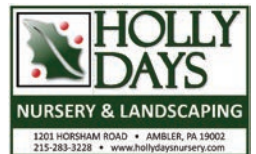
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Your trusted guide for
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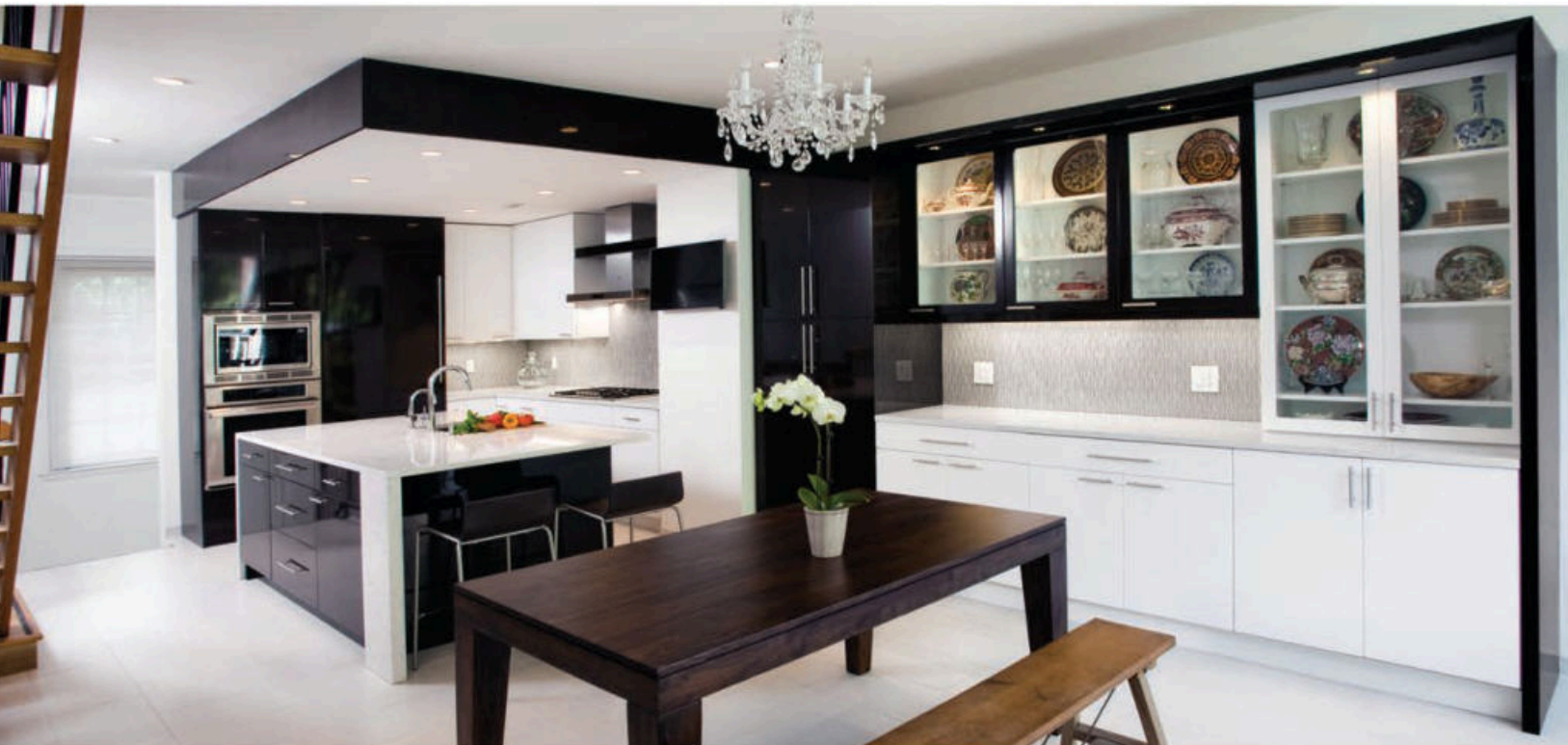
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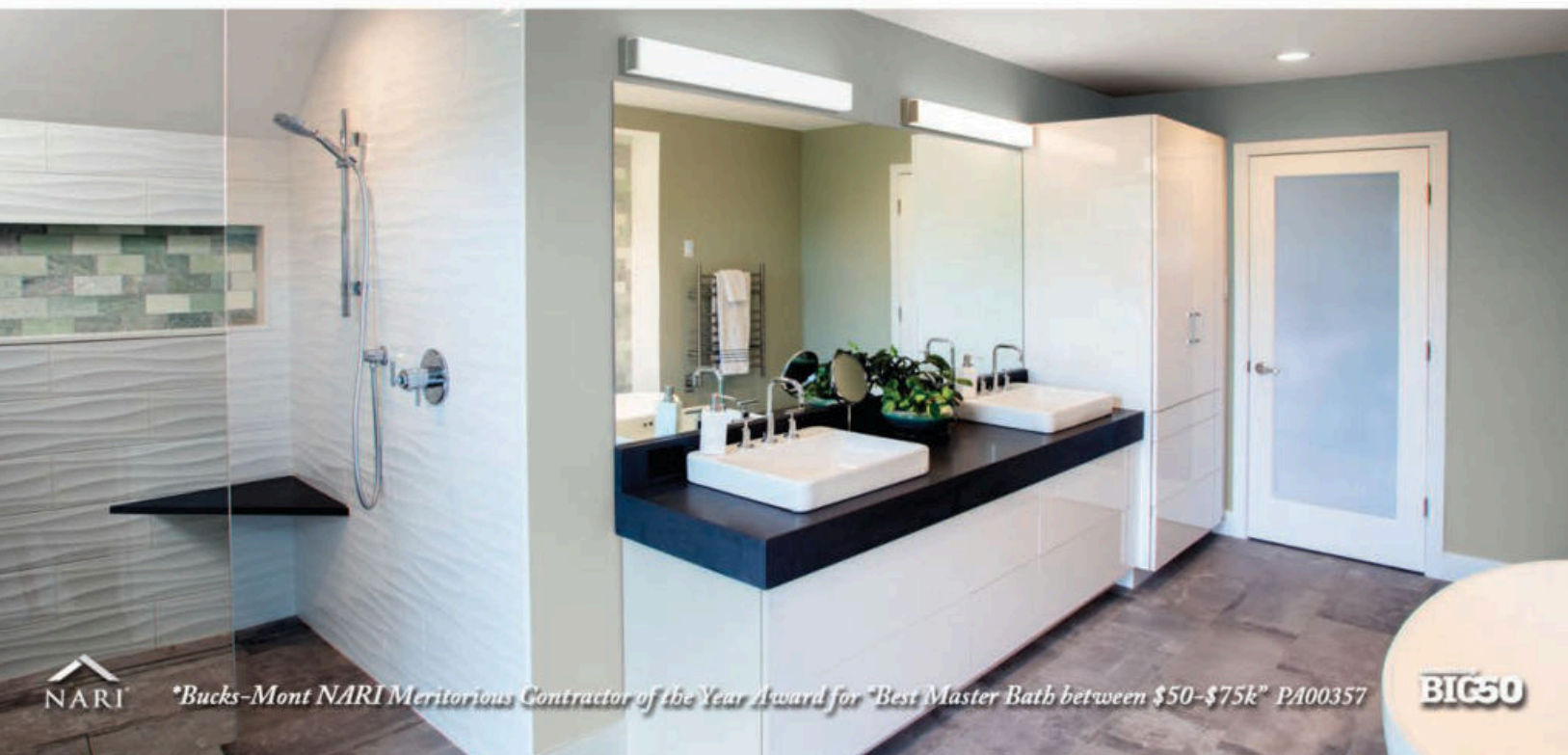
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PLANNING YOUR NEW POOL

Whether replacing an existing pool or introducing a pool to your property for the first time, there is always something new to know.

A swimming pool can add so much to any home. From exercise to fun to relaxation, your pool is transformative, bringing facets of joy to your life you may not have known you were missing. There is much to know about the process, and you want to have the most positive experience possible, so here are thoughts of which you should be aware.

REPLACING A POOL

“Replacing an existing pool is pretty common,” says Sam Waddell, president/owner of SLS Landscaping. “There are many old pools that don’t meet today’s pool code and are just outdated in design and function for today’s lifestyles.” He says it’s important for companies to offer creative and functional designs that meet modern vision and lifestyles.

“Just like a new homeowner who is looking for a pool, you would need to pick a shape and size. It’s really up to personal preference on style,” says Chuck Ordini, owner of Joe Ordini’s Best Fiberglass Pools. “Just make sure you understand what is needed to pay for a

full removal of the old pool because you will have to excavate the old hole to accommodate the new pool installation.”

If you want to replace a concrete pool, you’d need to renovate it to make it new again, unless there are major structural issues, says Dominic DiCesare, general manager of Blue Haven Pools & Spas by Calvitti. “For liner or fiberglass, you’re removing it and starting over. And any replacement would require a design consultation to look at the pool and yard.” He adds that knowing township requirements, understanding the prop-

erty and presenting a design plan are important.

INSTALLING A NEW POOL

Start this process with a licensed landscape architect and designer (LLAD), says Rich Cording Sr., owner of CLC Landscape Design. “An LLAD can really see your whole property and can tell you what works, what doesn’t, what can cause problems, etc. When I get calls to come help with a situation, it’s often too late to make major changes without a real big cost. Maybe it’s after the pool was put in and it was set too low and

now there’s a drainage problem. If you contact a landscape architect first, before having the pool put in, they can show multiple elevations, ordinances, rules of the township, and can add in extra things you need to know like regulations and conditions. They can help create an area that works pragmatically and aesthetically,” he says.

“What ends up being there depends a lot on the size of the property,” says Bryan Hull, one of the partners of Del Val Pools & Spas. “What would fit? What’s better—gunite or vinyl? Gunite is more custom, allowing for sundecks and benches. You can have a premier pool. You can put steps anywhere, add hardscape/landscape backyards. The options are endless. Vinyl pools are not as fancy and are less expensive. It offers fun in the sun, and a pool on a budget,” he says.

Waddell agrees that good landscape architects and designers will meet with a client to discuss how the pool/landscape will be used—if it’ll be mainly used for children or for adults. “The pool is just one element of the total outdoor space and commonly incorporates a pavilion



with a kitchen and fireplace with seating and entertaining space,” he says. Other design elements include pool terraces, pavilions and landscaping.

THE RIGHT COMPANY

Knowing which company will get you what works right for you is important. “I always suggest word of mouth and referrals from friends and family,” says Ordini. “Checking the Better Business Bureau (BBB) for ratings and comments is always a good idea when purchasing a large dollar item.”

“You want to make sure you’re dealing with a professional company, and if it’s a right fit for you because it is major construction and you have to live with the outcome of the job,” says DiCesare. “You have a lot of small builders and landscapers that start pool projects that go upside-down real quick.”

“It’s important that a client can ask the company everything and have a good relationship with them. The client needs to understand what’s involved in the cost,” adds Cording. “Since we are a design/build company, we oversee everything, every company that does the work. We are able to know what will be needed at every step.” A “wish list” assists the LLAD in coming up with creative ways to make the property work, to utilize lawn areas and better integrate the pool into the backyard. “You don’t want just the easiest place to drop in a pool. You want to consider traffic patterns, views from inside the house and the patio. You want to know how the whole area will be seen.”

SPECIAL FEATURES

“Today’s trend is for salt pools. They reduce the need for the added chemicals during the season and leave the skin feeling softer and smoother than that itchy dry feeling with a traditional chlorine pool,” says Waddell. “There are a lot of features that can be designed and built with the pool such as spas, waterfalls, sun decks and luminaries, to name a few.”

And if money is an issue, “salt systems and most special features can all be added at a later date,

for an extra cost of course,” says Ordini.

“Saltwater is incredible,” says Hull. “It takes maintenance down to zero. It stops the pool from turning green and offers benefits across the board. There are also auto vacuums now that do everything. They work great. There’s also lighting that offers mood changing, adds style and elegance, and spillover spas which are very popular.”

Cording agrees that saltwater and various amenities are important aspects of today’s pools. “All we do is saltwater, and most pools have sunshelves since they allow people to sit in the pool or lay in it,” he says. “Today’s pools have less to do with diving, so there are larger shallow areas. All have LED lighting and are controlled by their phones. There are plenty of square or irregular shaped pools, many with bars, grottos, even caves. The ideas seem endless and they help create a leisure location that adds to so much to people’s lives.” **H&H**



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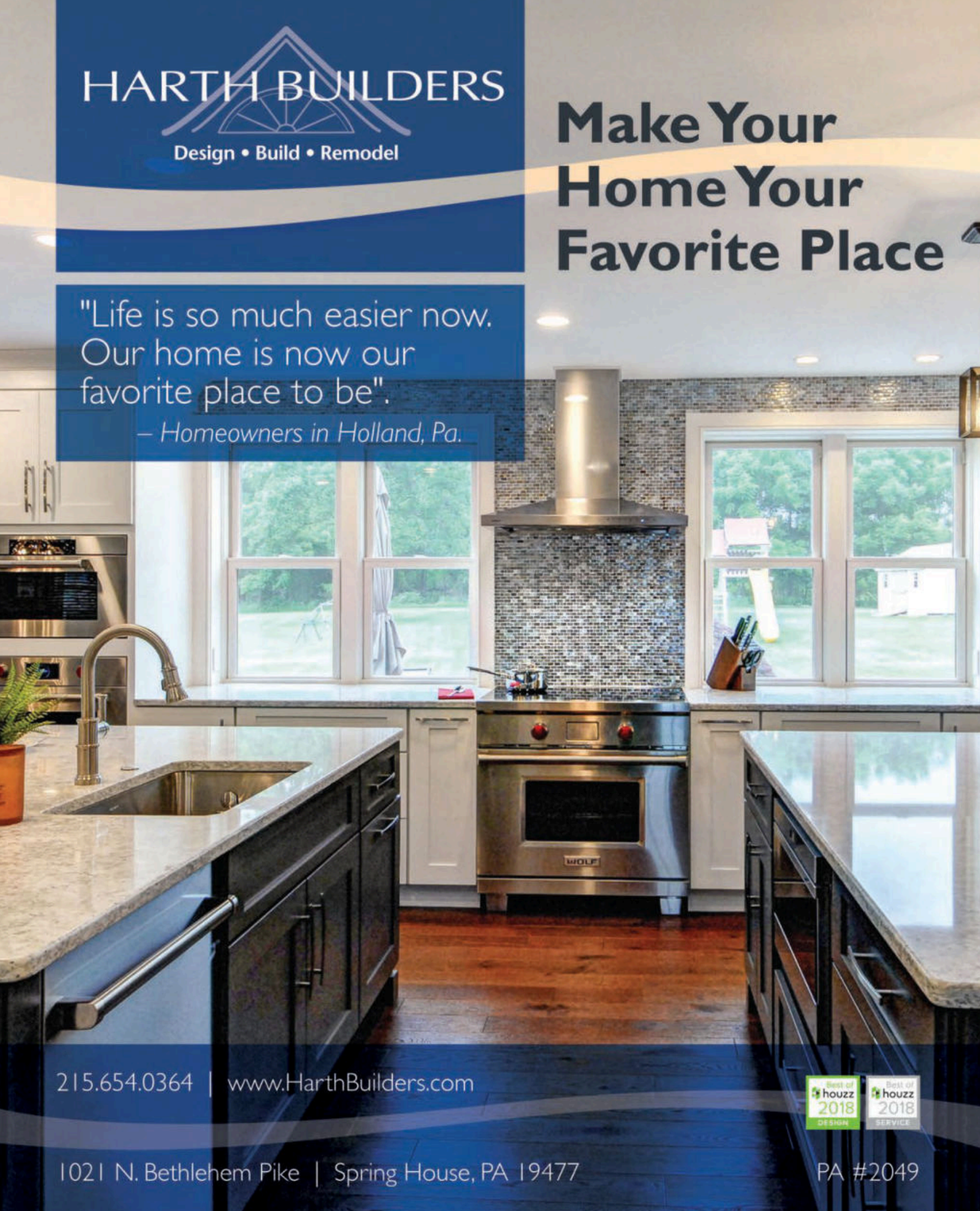
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Community, commitment and customers are three words that best define Salter's Fireplace Patio Grill. They are committed to serving their community in the best possible way which has brought them much success, and they celebrated their 45th anniversary last year.

"We hit our 50,000th customer recently," says President Jay Stong, who purchased Salter's in 2000.

Their current location is the original train station in Hatfield on Market Street, but when the opportunity came up to purchase the original firehouse in town—built in 1924—they couldn't pass it up for its rich history, to better serve their customers and the ability to increase their space from 1,200 square feet to an approximately 8,500-square-foot showroom. A soft opening is scheduled for April.

"Our main showroom in Eagleville is 7,500 square feet, so we are bringing more to what people are accustomed to," Stong says of the new Hatfield location. "We will carry everything we have from Eagleville, plus the additions of our spas."

The additions of their spas came a year and a half ago when they purchased Barto Pool & Spa in Phoenixville. They sell above-ground pools and spas with full service, which Stong says has been a great addition to their business.

Stong and his sales and design team thrive

on providing warm indoor and outdoor living rooms to their customers, with an emphasis on the outdoor living space as we enter the spring and summer seasons.

"That's one of the main things we're excited about—all three locations have a big focus on the outdoor area, extending the life of the outdoor season with fire features, grills and patio furniture. Recently, we've rounded that out with spas and it's been a nice addition for our clients. It's amazing how many of our clients are the same between the two businesses. We are also a service-driven company which has helped us transition to succeed in selling and servicing pools and spas, as well as fireplaces and outdoor kitchens."

When it comes to outdoor fireplaces, Salter's has many options in their showroom to fit everyone's style and needs, from outdoor fireplaces and gas fire tables to wood fire pits and patio heaters. But to get the full outdoor area effect, Salter's new Hatfield showroom is building a rooftop deck that will feature all of its outdoor burning displays.

"It's a really neat setting and creates a cool environment," Stong says.

The reasoning behind the rooftop deck and the expanded showroom with a number of displays is simple.

"People buy what they see and many times they can't fully see it without seeing it in front

of them," Stong says. "People are visual. If they can't see it in a picture or a sample of it in a showroom, it's tough for them to envision it in their own home. We make a big effort of creating full vignettes throughout our showrooms to give our customers a realistic experience they can't get online—feeling the warmth, sitting on the furniture, turning on the grill dials—envisioning what their new fireplace, grill, spa and/or patio furniture could look like in their own backyard."

It's more than just a project to Salter's Fireplace Patio Grill. They welcome every customer as a part of the "Salter's family" and pride themselves on helping clients create lasting memories with family and friends in their new space, as well as being involved in the design process every step of the way.

"We don't just look at ourselves as salespeople. We take the wish list of each customer and make it a reality with the right products, and can help from start to finish in that design process," Stong says. "We are the only fireplace shop in the region that does all aspects of the work. Our crews install fireplaces and fireplace-related items throughout the entire year. We're busier September through March because that's truly when people are enjoying it, but we are nonstop year-round. We have almost 40 full-time employees."

That includes seven full-time technicians, and their own installer and finish crews—something Stong says most fireplace shops don't have.

Another part of their businesses that separates Salter's Fireplace Patio Grill from the rest is called RORI—Remove Old Replacement Install. "We take out an aging fireplace, builder-grade with a lot of brass and doesn't have new technology, and replace it—creating an entirely fresh new look and function. That part of our business is expanding very quickly," Stong says.

Salter's Fireplace Patio Grill is looking forward to expanding their business in Hatfield and continuing to be a big part of the community.

"We hosted a s'mores event during the Hatfield tree lighting ceremony in the center of town and for the last 16 years in September, we host a festival called Eggfest—a barbecue competition with food samples for the public, music and games," Stong says. "Hatfield Borough has about a half dozen events throughout the year and we try to be involved as much as we can. We love being a part of this community." **H&H**

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Creating a Backyard Oasis

The certified professionals at **Holly Days Nursery & Landscaping** work diligently to create the best landscape and hardscape designs for their clients.

WHEN THE SUN IS SHINING brightly in the sky and the summer breeze is blowing through the trees, outside is the best place to be. This is why the backyard should be an oasis, a place where family and friends can come together and enjoy the space in a comfortable way. Many see their backyard as part of their home—an extension of their living area—and for over 25 years, Holly Days Nursery & Landscaping has been transforming these spaces into relaxing havens to enjoy year-round.

Founded by brothers Torrey and John Rose, Holly Days is a seven-acre plant nursery and garden center in Horsham Township. It offers the full gamut of outdoor services, including landscape and hardscape design and installation, water features and pond installation, and pool-scapes. Innovative design and quality workmanship, combined with the breadth of services, have earned Holly Days the recognition as one of the top landscapers in the Philadelphia area. Its leadership in the field also shows in its industry accreditations, including as an Interlocking Concrete Paver Institute (ICPI)-certified company, members of the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA) and a company in good standing with the Better Business Bureau (BBB). These efforts have only strengthened Holly Days' reputation in the community and made them the go-to company for outdoor living creations.

As spring nears, homeowners want their backyards to look their best, and the skilled staff at Holly Days specializes in creating that atmosphere. This is accomplished by installing patios, retaining walls,

walkways, steps and ponds, using the top tier of products in the industry, such as Belgard, Techo-Bloc and EP Henry pavers, as well as natural stone options including flagstone and Pennsylvania fieldstone.

Their skills are not limited to just materials for the ground—these designers can build an entire outdoor living environment from top to bottom. “We can also install outdoor kitchens, outdoor fireplaces, pergolas, pavilion structures, koi ponds and putting greens, just to name a few,” says Mary Brock, project manager at Holly Days Nursery & Landscaping.

No project is too small or large for Holly Days to handle. In fact, designers specialize in your property's master plan process, allowing you to phase your project little by little. For instance, if a customer envisions a new patio complete with an outdoor kitchen covered by a pergola, and even a pool or water feature, the customer can choose to complete the project in stages. The master plan created by the designers provides for this as time and budget allow.

Holly Days' in-house designers can provide detailed 2D computer-aided landscape designs. They also work with engineers to provide carefully considered plans for pools and other structures. If needed, Holly Days can digitally model your project and provide 3D renderings for project visualization. As soon as the digital design is available, customers have the unique ability to see their project materials in person at the nursery located in Horsham.

“The computer-aided designs and immediate access to plant and building materials puts us in a



unique position to present the whole package to our customers before our crews even step foot on their property,” notes Brock. “Customers can review a 3D rendering then walk outside into the nursery and see ‘the’ tree or shrub I’m going to plant in their yard; or walk on ‘the’ flagstone before it’s installed on their patio. It just doesn’t get any more real than that.”

Holly Days' Garden Center is truly something to get lost in—from flowering shrubs and evergreens, to perennials and ornamental trees—the selection is impressive.

“Our seven-acre facility is bursting with plant material, which affords both our retail customers and landscape clients the opportunity to see thousands of plants in person,” says Danielle Goodson, nursery manager at Holly Days Nursery & Landscaping. “It’s all on site so clients can look at them, touch them and smell them.”

With the guidance of degreed

professionals, customers can count on finding the ideal plants for their property, as well as the latest plants on the market. “I would say that the hot plant for this coming season is summer crush hydrangea; while native and pollinator plants, like bee balm, as well as forest pansy redbud trees remain customer favorites,” remarks Brock.

But as important as it is to provide clients with superior service, the staff at Holly Days Nursery & Landscaping also makes a concerted effort to give back to the community. Every Christmas the company offers event space for a local nonprofit's holiday party—the Kisses for Kyle Foundation. The organization supports families with children who are undergoing cancer treatment, and every year Holly Days makes a monetary donation—totaling over \$70,000 to date.

It's clear that every aspect of Holly Days service is geared toward creating the best possible experience for their clients—whether that is through the garden center or creating 2D and 3D models—and an outdoor space they can enjoy for a lifetime.

“We want to create an outdoor environment you can enjoy throughout the year,” Goodson says. “Enjoy your kitchen or bar area, your pool, your fire pit, all with your friends and family, extending your outdoor space to encompass your everyday living.”

H&H

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A Reliable Return on Investment

A cedar or copper roof from MR Roofing can enhance your home and last for years.

by Lauren Kubiak

Roofs are the most essential part of the home, keeping your family and possessions protected from harsh weather conditions, whether it's heat, wind, rain or snow. Asphalt shingles may be the most common roofing type you see nowadays, but growing in popularity are dependable options like cedar and copper roofs.

While beautiful, not many companies offer these products because they require careful attention during installation or else a homeowner could be left with a leaky interior and an eyesore exterior. At MR Roofing, homeowners feel at ease knowing they have professionals who offer craftsmanship to the highest degree with reliability, communication and quality for their customers. Henry Stoltzfus, owner of MR Roofing for nearly 10 years, makes sure his clients receive the best of the best in order to have a roof that not only stands up to weather conditions for years and years, but delivers curb appeal to the home.

CEDAR ROOFING

Cedar roofing is available at MR Roofing for homeowners wanting to make a historical home cohesive and luxurious or add home value and aesthetics. The beautiful renovation can give homeowners the look they're striving for, as long as the roof is angular and a distance away from trees.

"The most important thing for cedar shake shingles is for them to dry within 24 hours of rain. If you live in a wooded area with not much sun, the moss could take over pretty quick," Stoltzfus says, adding that his company puts felt between each piece of cedar to keep the roof dry and lasting longer.

This labor-intensive product does make cedar a bit more expensive than traditional roof options, but the return on investment comes with the added curb appeal and a higher asking price—if a homeowner is considering putting the home on the market. Stoltzfus says cedar wood shingles and shakes last 10 years longer than asphalt shingles, and are highly resistant to strong winds and severe storms—factors that add to their ROI.

Cedar is a natural product so the colors do not vary much from the gray/tan family, although there are treated cedar options that have a deep brown color and shine. Over time, all cedar will age into a gray-silver tone.

"The success of a cedar roof is extremely dependent on its correct installation," Stoltzfus says. "Cedar expands and contracts, and requires nails that won't corrode and for them to be spaced out properly. ... Not as many companies work with cedar and some roofers think it's cool to offer it, but we've seen roofs fail in five years because the wrong nail was used and the cedar chews through. You have to hire someone who knows cedar."

COPPER ROOFING

Full copper roofing is perfect for homes where a portion, or the entire roof, is practically flat. If you want to get rid of the rubber on a flat roof, copper is the perfect solution. Copper is also a great accenting piece to roofs. It can be used to highlight a bay window or cupola to draw the eye and in small areas such as these, most other roofing materials don't work as well with small applications.

No matter the size, big or small, MR Roofing can complete any copper roofing

project from flashing to standing seam to copper sheet roofing. "There's no maintenance. It's a natural product that doesn't decay," he says, noting that its longevity makes it the primary choice for churches and chapels. "And you can cash it in for copper value even if it's 70 years old ... they'll pay you for copper value."

Over the years, copper weathers to a rustic green color, and is the perfect complement to a cedar roof.

"Your roof is there every day of the week, not just when it rains. It's not something you get out when it starts to rain and then put away again," Stoltzfus adds. "Curbside appeal is a huge part; it has to look nice; it has to fit in the neighborhood; you have to like it when you pull in [the driveway]."

MR Roofing is a division of Stable Hollow Construction. For additional renovation and construction services, visit StableHollowConstruction.com. **H&H**



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Collegeville-based Basement Waterproofing Specialists is a “family” business, in every sense of the word.

They are fourth-generation American contractors. Every employee feels like a member of the family. The office employees work together in an environment intentionally reminiscent of a large family home. And the company's philosophy, its formula for success from the very beginning, has been to treat each customer as they would a family member.

“When I started out, the simple management tool that I learned from my father and grandfather was, ‘If this was your mother's house, how would you take care of it?’” says Ken Klinger, CEO. “We have instilled that same philosophy in every one of our foremen on every job, and everyone who answers the phone.” Klinger and his wife Debbie recently handed the ownership reins over to daughter Anne and son-in-law Scott Graham. Ken and Debbie Klinger remain highly active in the company.

Serving the entire region, Basement Waterproofing Specialists is headquartered in a refurbished 150-year-old stone farmhouse in Collegeville. Its main office consists of Second Avenue and they have a new addition of a 150-year-old building on River Road. Their Second Avenue location has a spacious fenced-in backyard where the Klingers' beloved Turkish boz shepherds, Clarabelle and Calvin, can frolic while they work during the day.

“We bought this building for our business because it is our other home,” Klinger explains. “We have created a family environment. We are really lucky because we have the most amazing people who work with us. Everybody here, we really assume is our extended family and we take care of them that way. That's why we are so successful. That's why we've increased our business tremendously.”

The building's converted rooms bustle with activity. Smiling, cordial office staff—Steve Johnson, Donna Wardle, Dominic Corrado, Jennifer Armstrong, Sharon Love, Carlee Wilkinson, Paul Sumler, Paul Mathewson, Jessie Kanagie, Nichole D'Arconte, Shane Harris, Linda Mullin, Rob Mullin, John Cappelli, Marissa Ducary, Alyssa Fiorentino, Kasia Butts, and Jim Welsh—stay busy with phone calls and managing projects. All of the office staff and all of the production crews out in the field contribute to the company's success, Klinger says, emphasizing that he and his employees truly identify with their customers and the issues they face, and they are serious about treating each job as if it is for a member of their family.

“What's interesting is, people call a lot of the times and they are not sure what their problems are,” Klinger says. “They think they know. Any one of our guys will go in and honestly pretend it's their house. They do a full inspection, inside and outside, and they determine what they feel the customer needs. We don't try to sell them anything. It's about determining what they actually need. When you communicate that to a customer, they realize you are not talking at them, you are working with them, and that is really important.”

Through the years, Basement Waterproofing Specialists has accumulated a long list of satisfied customers throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. “We are so grateful to our customers for referring as many customers as they do,” Klinger says.

Basement Waterproofing Specialists distinguishes itself from others in the industry not only in terms of excellent customer service, but also in terms of the superior quality of their work and track record of success, based on their ability to correctly diagnose and correct the specific issue unique to each situation.

Klinger points out that most basement waterproofing companies specialize in just one form of waterproofing, the installation of a basic inside French drain. That will work in many applications, he says. “But if you go 75 miles away and you're in New Jersey with high sand content, or inversely if you go into the Pocono Mountains or Lancaster County, you're going to find different environments and conditions.” You may also want to redirect the water away from your home so it never enters your foundation, he explains.

“We have 13 different levels of waterproofing systems, which are customized per a particular job,” Klinger says. “These water management systems can be installed both inside and outside of your home. We also do inside and outside foundation repair whereas most of our residential competition does one type of waterproofing system and foundation repair and it's always inside.”

Basement Waterproofing Specialists provides an extensive array of services to address virtually any issue related to waterproofing; foundation structural repairs and/or replacement; drainage systems; mold and mildew inspection and remediation; and much more.

“Customers can sense when you really care about their problem,” Klinger adds. “Yes we are there to do a job to make money, but it's not always about that. In this day of complications, it still comes down to one thing: It's what's inside of you. It's about relationships. What you see is what you get with us. Even down to something small. Our contracts have an American flag on the back and no small print. It's the way we do business.” **H&H**

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THINKING Outside THE HOUSE

**Experts offer
their top
landscaping and
hardscaping
ideas for spring
2020.** BY LINDSEY GETZ

Though it may not feel like it quite yet, spring is just around the corner. And now is actually the ideal time to start planning your seasonal projects. Whether you're looking to add some new plantings or you have bigger plans in mind, by starting to think about these projects now and finding the right professional to partner with, you can maximize your enjoyment of these spaces by getting them completed early.

We spoke to some of the area's top landscape professionals and asked them for a few of their best spring planning tips. Here's what they had to say—as well as some photos for inspiration.



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THINK YEAR-ROUND with Landscaping

“Always add something that will have some interest during the winter months. It doesn’t have to be an evergreen either. I love using colorful varieties like cornus ‘red twig’ dogwood, which provides a splash of red once it loses its foliage. Lavender and other herbaceous perennials or hearty liriopse are great too and can be great additions to beds along walkways or areas that require low-growing layering. For medium to taller layering and to provide structure, consider yews or schip laurels as a backdrop.”

➔ **Cameron Kennedy,**
designer, GROUNDTEC, INC.



“A common mistake that people make in the spring is to overload the property with lots of brilliant, beautiful colors that are currently in bloom. The trouble is, when July and August roll around, it gets boring because nothing is in bloom. It’s easy to get ‘wowed’ by what’s out there but if you lean on a landscape professional, they can help create a plan so that there is always something in bloom or providing interest. That even includes winter interest. It all comes down to planning.”

➔ **Steve Compton,**
general manager,
CKC LANDSCAPING



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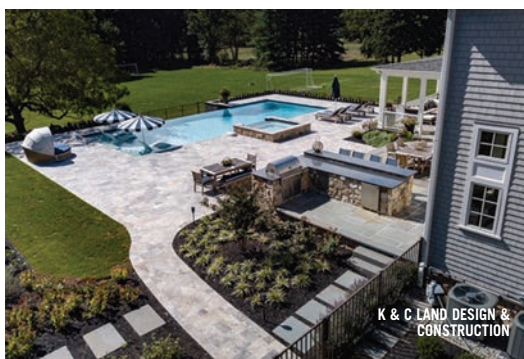
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PLAN NOW for Hardscape Designs

“My best piece of advice is to make decisions as quickly as you can. This is important for a few reasons. For one, even though



K & C LAND DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

we are in the off-season, we can apply for and obtain any permits or special permission that may be required in order to construct the project so that we are not wasting the good working months on this. Second would be to take advantage of the mild winters we may have and actually get a jumpstart on building during the off-season. You should start planning as soon as the idea has interest. This will also ensure

that the project is more likely to start on time and is executed in the most efficient way.”

✦ **Christopher Bianciella,**
principal, K&C LAND DESIGN
AND CONSTRUCTION, LLC



“The best time to start planning your spring hardscaping project is late fall or winter. This way your designer can have plenty of time to ensure the space fits your needs and incorporates all the necessary elements into your project. You should collect inspirational photos and send them to

your landscape designer, this way when we provide building material options, we have a good starting place. Write down the things you could envision you and your family doing in the backyard, and we can design around the activities and needs of your family.”

✦ **Cameron Kennedy,**
GROUNDTEC, INC.

Outdoor Living Rooms REIGN

“Deck/patio combos with clean lines and privacy walls or landscape screening seem to be a feature that we are seeing more and more of. We design the outdoor living space as just another room in the house, with use of space being the primary factor. We want to ensure the client will be able to utilize the space as much as possible and that entertaining or relaxing outdoors is a breeze.

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In terms of color, warmer/softer tones are coming back as grays and monochrome colors are losing their popularity.”

➔ **Cameron Kennedy, GROUNDTEC, INC.**



“There’s no question that outdoor living spaces continue to be the biggest trend. I tell people to take the heart of their home and move it outside. Whether that’s the kitchen, the family room or the dining room—people want to recreate these gathering spaces outside and have them designed and installed in a way that makes them fully functional. Now, people also want to add roofs to these spaces. It allows them to use the space even if it’s raining. They can be outside enjoying their fire feature and their outdoor television in the rain or snow if the space is covered—and people love that.”

➔ **Steve Compton, CKC LANDSCAPING**

LIGHT IT UP!

“Lighting will always be a big trend that will never go out of style. As mammals we are instinctually drawn to light! But from a functionality standpoint, it makes the space useable in the evening hours, which is important to people. When you invest in an outdoor living space, you want to get as much use out of it as possible. It’s important that landscape lighting is done well. Hire someone who knows how to provide safety and security through lighting while also

making it aesthetically pleasing. That means highlighting certain features of the landscape with soft lighting or uplighting certain trees. There’s an art to it.”

➔ **Steve Compton, CKC LANDSCAPING**

Don't Forget THE FRONT!

“People are paying more attention to the front of their homes as well, and installing welcoming front entrances, outdoor lighting and motor courts rather than



GROUNDTEC, INC.

boring sidewalks and asphalt or concrete driveways.”

➔ **Cameron Kennedy, GROUNDTEC, INC. H&H**



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How this company simplifies the kitchen and bathroom renovation process



Freeman says that another major endeavor is the introduction of a state-of-the-art design center that will provide an immersive experience for homeowners who are trying to decide which materials will be best for their project.

“We’re showcasing countertop and surface material options that have not been showcased in the United States before,” says Freeman. “We have dozens of incredibly unique materials such as semi-precious stone countertops made from semi-precious gems like amethyst, rose quartz, and wild agate. We even have shellstone countertops and petrified wood countertops. There are a lot of one-of-a-kind options you aren’t going to see anywhere else.”

Freeman says Colonial recognizes that there are plenty of homeowners who are looking for something completely original and they don’t want their

Beginning the process of updating your home—whether it’s a kitchen, a bathroom or maybe even an outdoor space—is an exciting endeavor. It’s incredibly rewarding watching that long-held dream become a reality. Of course, you want the process to go as smoothly as possible and in order for that to happen, you know that you must partner with an expert who will guide you through it all.

Over the years, that is exactly what Colonial Marble & Granite has been to homeowners—a trusted guide. Colonial is a full-service supplier of natural stone and quartz materials and boasts a slab yard with more than 5,000 slabs in over 500 different colors. It also offers tile, sinks and faucets in order to truly meet all of its customers’ needs.

A Customer-Centric Approach

As part of its effort to be a helpful guide to homeowners undergoing renovations, the company has continually looked for ways that it could make the process easier. One of those ways has been Colonial Marble & Granite’s Kitchen Visualizer tool and Bathroom Visualizer tool—both allow you to virtually build your space on a computer. This can be done from the comfort of your own home or from one of Colonial’s locations if you are there to browse materials. With the help of these tools, you’ll not only see how your project can all come together, but you’ll get a quote for how much it’s going to cost. It’s all part of the effort to simplify the process for homeowners, says James Freeman, the company’s chief operating officer.

new kitchen, bathroom or outdoor kitchen countertop to look like “everyone else’s.” That’s why the company has worked so hard to bring in luxury products that have never been put in front of customers before.

“In the brand-new, state-of-the-art design center, we’re displaying beautiful slabs already installed as countertops so that homeowners can see what the finished product will actually look like,” Freeman says. “This allows you to do more than try to visualize it in your mind—you’ll actually be able to see it all put together.”

Although a renovation project is exciting, Freeman says it can also be overwhelming. There are so many choices that homeowners have to make (and a lot of products to choose from). That’s why Colonial has

trained designers on-hand to guide homeowners through the process and provide as much assistance as they need. At the end of the day, it should be a fun experience, not a daunting one.

Unprecedented Growth

Over the years, Colonial Marble & Granite has become such a trusted partner that there has been demand for it to offer even more services. That's why the Colonial brand has now expanded to include Colonial Home Services. Under this umbrella is Colonial Generators and Colonial Smart Home Services, giving customers access to the same top-notch customer service they've come to count on for more of their needs.

"With the growing demand for the installation of smart home applications like Nest, there's been interest from our customers in having those services performed by a brand they've already come to know and trust," explains Freeman. "This is why we've expanded into smart home services."

On top of that, Colonial has also expanded its brand to offer emergency generator installation. This has simplified the process of purchasing, designing, installing and monitoring standby backup power systems. Freeman says it's another way that the company is looking to meet homeowners' full list of needs.

Of course, the company's growth has not just come from an extension of its brand but also from growing its physical location. Colonial has added new locations which have increased access to its highly desired services.

"It became obvious that we were getting quite a few out-of-state customers who were driving a couple of hours or more to one

of our showrooms," says Freeman. "Our flagship King of Prussia location remains our largest showroom, but we've grown to include showrooms in Center City Philadelphia, Harrisburg and New Castle, Delaware. With four locations we're now more accessible to New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Metro New York."

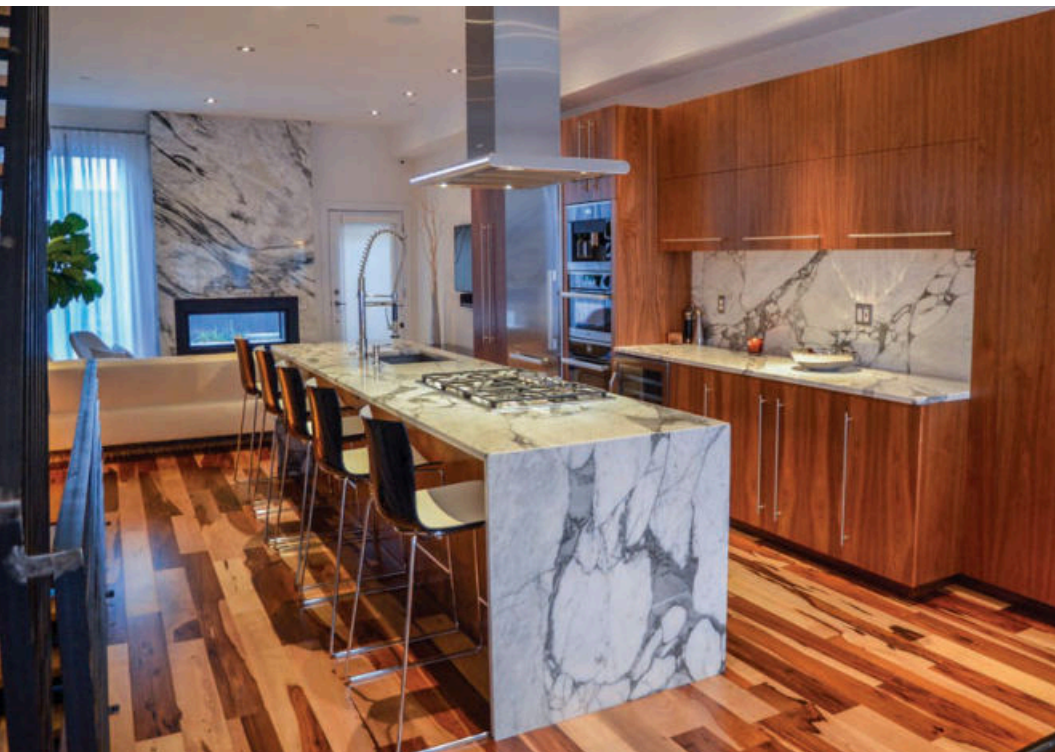
An Unchanging Focus

While the company has grown and evolved to continue to better serve the customer, there's one thing that's never changed—the focus on being a company that cares. Freeman says that Colonial was founded upon the principles of being a company that truly cared about its customers and its community, and that will never change.

From the numerous charities it supports to its avid commitment to local sports sponsorships, Freeman says that Colonial will never stop giving back.

"The people in our local communities have brought us to where we are today and we'll never stop supporting them," Freeman says. "As we continue to grow, our commitments to the community at large will remain unwavering."

H&H



Colonial Marble & Granite

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King of Prussia, Pa.
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New Cumberland, Pa.
(717) 774-2110

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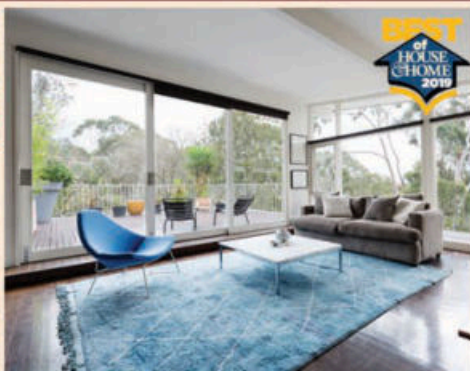
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Nyce Crete and Landis Block & Concrete

by **Liz Hunter**

There is something to be said about a family-owned business celebrating its 75th anniversary. Now in its third generation, Nyce Crete and Landis Block & Concrete has two locations—Souderton and Lansdale—and more than 50 employees. It is one of the area's largest suppliers of brick, pavers, landscape materials, stucco and cultured stone products.

The company's experience and range of materials make it a quality resource for home improvement projects. "Our staff works with our customers to help them with their home improvement project, [figuring] out if they can do it, or if the job is too big for them," says Jarrod Nyce, vice president. Then the company assists the homeowner in connecting with qualified contractors, ones Nyce says have proven over the years to be reputable and trustworthy.

House & Home spoke with Nyce about why homeowners may be pleasantly surprised by their experience with his company.

How does the level of service you provide differ from others?

We are able to provide just about everything for any type of job. For contractors, we can deliver to all construction situations. We provide concrete pumping service, front discharge tucks and theme conveyor trucks. This makes our fleet versatile to handle all job sites, so we can service our customers. We also have piggyback fork trucks to



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deliver materials and get the material close to the job site.

We consider our shop as a one-stop shop. Our staff is educated in all areas of construction including codes, installation techniques and hands-on knowledge of our products. We are here to help you figure out what is possible. We have a no-hassle approach; there's no pressure. Our staff doesn't get paid on sales so we keep it real and ask all the questions you need to be happy. That's what we do!

Is an appointment necessary for homeowners to browse your selection of products?

We are open six days a week, no appointment necessary. Just because we are a contractor service company doesn't mean we don't deal with average people. We try to help everyone make the best decision for their project.

What are the best things a homeowner should do during the winter months to plan their outdoor living spaces?

It's a matter of space, time and budget. It's really simple—we can help any customer figure out what they are capable of doing. We have lots of ideas but doing your research is always best. Once you have an idea of what you want to do, we'll help you get there.

Outdoor living spaces are so much more than patios now. How do I know what's possible for me?

What goes into making a luxurious backyard is up to many different definitions. It depends on what your vision is. We can help in many different areas. Pictures and displays are a good start and we have a lot of both. Whatever you want is limited only by your imagination and budget. Whether it's an outdoor kitchen, fire pit or outdoor fireplace, an outdoor grill area or a beautiful hard-scaped/paver backyard, it's all about going to the next level and we can help you create just about anything you would like to do. It's all up to your imagination.

What types of products do you have to help create these spaces?

One of our partners, Cambridge Pavers, has a full line of outdoor kits from pergolas and pavilions to bistro tables and waterfalls. We also have a ceramic paver that looks like flagstone. It's really cool and can be used in all kinds of applications. It looks like the real thing.

We stand behind all of the materials that we sell. Let's face it, things happen, but we will do our best to make sure a happy solution is found. **H&H**

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Gehman Design Remodeling

by Julie Shannon

Homeowners want their families to feel safe, comfortable and be able to live independently when they are inside their home. But when designing a home, do ramps, levers—items you may need down the road—come to mind? Most likely not.

Dennis Gehman, Master Certified Remodeler (MCR) of Gehman Design Remodeling, says homeowners should start to think about how life will be in their home in the future, and apply various items to the design process known as Universal Design. These items are as simple as specific door knobs and childproof locks to protect infants and toddlers from getting into certain areas of the home.

House & Home spoke to Gehman who talked about the simple ways to go about designing a home to Universal Design standards, and making small but efficient changes to a home already built that will be beneficial in the long run.

What is Universal Design?

Universal Design is designing buildings, homes, for people of all ages, sizes and abilities. It should begin with infants—items such as railings being far apart so they don't get stuck in them and locks on cabinet doors where chemicals are stored.

Where should homeowners incorporate Universal Design?

With the floor plan layout. Making sure rooms are large enough and doorways and hallways are wide enough. Then it starts off with accessing the house. The typical step or two up to the front porch and door does not work for someone who can't do steps. It doesn't have to be the front door—at least one entrance of the house should be accessible. Some examples include:



Dennis Gehman, MCR, President of Gehman Design Remodeling

- **Ramps**—the term ramp turns people off; we've all seen obstructions built outside of houses that aren't pretty but they serve the purpose of getting someone in. When designing from new, you can be very creative with those kind of things.
- **Levers**—using levers for doors rather than knobs, especially for people with arthritis or a crippling disease who aren't able to grasp door knobs to turn it.

A couple manufacturers now have child safety levers with buttons by pushing a button first and turning it. This can be at the top of basement steps, laundry room and bathroom to name a few—places that might have things that are dangerous for children.

Is there a specific type of door homeowners should have that can accommodate everyone, including handicap individuals?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) says all doorways have to have a minimum 34-inch wide clearance and this applies legally only to commercial, industrial or institutional buildings. In reality, you need a 36-inch door. Most interior residential doors are 30 inches and many bathroom doors are 28 inches. A lot of homeowners have heard of the ADA and they begin talking about that with us, and I let them know those are great guidelines. We are not required to abide by them in residential code, but would be wise to pay attention to get them as close to those guidelines as we can.

Many wheelchairs fit through a 32-inch

door. If you know you're doing this specifically for a certain individual and you already have a 32-inch door and it works, I'm not going to say spend a lot more money to change this around. But if you don't see this as your forever home, you may want to market it as accessible or universal later on then and it might be wise to go for a 36-inch door.

What other changes around the house do you recommend for someone in a wheelchair?

Oftentimes we would lower the light switches for someone in a wheelchair or make it one set of switches which makes it easier to turn on multiple lights. If we set it up on a touch device, we can put in an interface with WiFi and have all the light controls in the house on their phone.

What adjustments can you make in the bathroom, specifically the shower area?

We call them zero entry showers. There's no threshold and not a curb to step over. We also install decorative, pretty grab bars. Very well built suction cup units work great and stick on mostly everything. These are great to figure out exactly where grab bars will be the most help.

How do you get homeowners on board with making the necessary changes to adhere to Universal Design?

Once we've started showing them designs such as a wider doorway and blocking a wall around the shower in case we need to install grab bars, they see it's an easy switch out and they can still live comfortably. Some don't even know the difference. **H&H**

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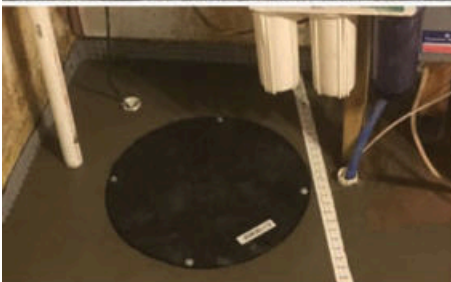
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Welcome to the 2020 Philly Home + Garden Show!

For the 5th Philly Home + Garden Show, we're presenting more features and special events than ever before, along with more than 250 designers, home and garden experts, and celebrity home renovators who are eager to share their knowledge with you.

This Valentine's Day weekend, we invite you to take a romantic stroll through our extensive Garden Hall, create your own floral arrangements and DIY decor projects (to bring home, of course!), see how to enhance

your outdoor space with indoor technology, and even recycle your old electronics.

It's our mission to connect you with the most qualified professionals, and to provide the newest products, ideas, and techniques that will help you realize your home improvement goals. We hope we've succeeded, and that you enjoy the show!

Sincerely,
Jenna Naffin,
Show Manager

You've Gotta See This:

Love Grows Here

Get out of the cold and take a romantic stroll through more than 7,500 square feet of inspirational gardens designed by some of the region's top landscapers. Check the new techniques, ideas, and must-have products for 2020, spend some time at the Pop-Up Flower Shop, Garden Market, and Succulent Bar, and kick back and relax in our Wine Garden.



Do You Dig It?

Go beyond bulbs and blooms to learn about edible landscaping, planting a children's garden (it's never too early!), raising chickens, beekeeping, and more. Experts will show and share what you need to know about these fun and rewarding horticultural interests.

The Connected Backyard

Built by Burke Brothers Landscape Design/Build and powered by Xfinity. Reimagine your backyard outfitted with the smart home technology in this feature garden. See ways to make your own outdoor space an extension of your home, with the same comfort, convenience and security that you're accustomed to having indoors.



Make-it, Take-it workshops presented by The Painted Home

Create and take home something new for your home at one of our free Make It, Take It Workshops! These popular sessions let you work directly with local designers, artists, and crafters showcasing what's hot in DIY. Come and flex your project skills, while learning some new ones!



The Barking Lot

Don't forget your pets while shopping at the show! The unique Barking Lot pet market has a special assortment of toys, treats and accessories to bring home to your furry family members. You'll also feel good about knowing that a portion of all sales helps support the work of the Pennsylvania SPCA.



Erase Your E-Waste

Help us change the future by getting rid of old electronics! Bring your unused or outdated electronics to the Philly Home + Garden Show, and PAR-Recycle Works, a nonprofit electronics recycler, will e-cycle them responsibly (see list of acceptable items at our website, phillyhomeandgarden.com). It's our way of helping you to be a little more green.

PHILLY HOME + GARDEN SHOW

SHOW HOURS:

FRIDAY

February 14
11 a.m.–9 p.m.

SATURDAY

February 15
10 a.m.–9 p.m.

SUNDAY

February 16
10 a.m.–6 p.m.

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Thank You to Our Show Partners!



Don't miss these special Philly Home + Garden Show offers and events!

(Most events at the Main Stage unless otherwise specified. Presentation times and topics subject to change.)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14



Hero Day

We honor our heroes all day by offering all active and retired military, first responders, nurses and teachers one **FREE** admission ticket with identification.



SEPTA Day

SEPTA has the KEY to the Philly Home + Garden Show! Show your SEPTA key card for one **FREE** admission (per pass) at the box office.

Free Tickets and Discounts to the Factory in Oaks

All visitors will receive a coupon for discounts to The Factory in OAKS (Arnold's Family Fun Center, American Treasure Tour, and The Hub Restaurant) in nearby Oaks, and the first 100 visitors will receive a **FREE** ticket to the American Treasure Tour!

4-5 pm Beekeeping In The City

Don Shump of Philadelphia Bee Company

5-6 pm Top 10 Mistakes Homeowners Make When Hiring a Landscape Contractor

Brad Stephenson of New Castle Lawn and Landscape

5-7 pm Happy Hour Sponsored by Kiki Vodka

It's Happy Hour at the Home + Garden Show! And it's brought to us by Kiki Vodka, featuring tastings of their premium, locally-distilled, gluten-free vodka at the Do You Dig It? feature area



6 pm

Lindsey & Eric Bennett of Desert Flippers

Eric & Lindsay Bennett, stars of HGTV's Desert Flippers show, have been transforming

outdated Palm Springs, California properties for more than a decade, and will share their humorous adventures about the many ins and outs of real estate investing and renovation.

6:30 pm "Two Hearts" Floral Design Class

Grab your other half and let floral designer Cameron Peters show you how to make a romantic arrangement of tropical anthurium, pussy willow bent into hearts, and greens. **LOCATION:** Pop-Up Flower Market, Garden Hall. **FEE:** Advance registration required at phillyhomeandgarden.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

11 am Lindsey & Eric Bennett of Desert Flippers

Eric & Lindsay Bennett, stars of HGTV's Desert Flippers show, have been transforming outdated Palm Springs, California properties for more than a decade, and will share their humorous adventures about the many ins and outs of real estate investing and renovation.

11:30 am "Fun With Blooms" Floral Design Class

Floral designer Cameron Peters shows how to create a simple flower arrangement that shows how sometimes less is definitely more.

LOCATION: Pop-Up Flower Market, Garden Hall. **FEE:** Advance registration required at phillyhomeandgarden.com



12 pm Pennsylvania SPCA Doggy Fashion Show

Come see the adorable, adoptable dogs of the Pennsylvania SPCA strut in style! Homeless pets are featured in this fun-for-the-family "fashion" event that you won't want to miss.

1 pm Barry Williams of The Brady Bunch and A Very Brady Renovation

Don't miss the only Philly Home + Garden Show appearance by Barry Williams! Known to millions as Greg Brady from TV's The Brady Bunch and a star of HGTV's A Very Brady Renovation, Barry will talk about these hit shows and his career in entertainment, and will perform some musical favorites.



2 pm Lindsey & Eric Bennett of Desert Flippers

Eric & Lindsay Bennett, stars of HGTV's Desert Flippers show, have been transforming outdated Palm Springs, California properties for more than a decade, and will share their humorous adventures about the many ins and outs of real estate investing and renovation.

2:30 pm "Planterpalooza" Floral Design Class

Learn from floral designer Cameron Peters how to grab some plants and build a planter for inside your home to help beat the winter doldrums. **LOCATION:** Pop-Up Flower Market, Garden Hall.

FEE: Advance registration required at phillyhomeandgarden.com

3-4 pm Top 10 Mistakes Homeowners Make When Hiring a Landscape Contractor

Brad Stephenson of New Castle Lawn and Landscape

4-5 pm Beekeeping In The City

Don Shump of Philadelphia Bee Company

5:30 pm "Fun With Blooms" Floral Design Class

Floral designer Cameron Peters shows how to create a simple flower arrangement that shows how sometimes less is definitely more.

LOCATION: Pop-Up Flower Market, Garden Hall. **FEE:** Advance registration required at phillyhomeandgarden.com

6-7 pm Top 5 Outdoor Designer Secrets Your Contractor Doesn't Know

MasterPLAN Landscape Design

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Trade Day

To highlight the skilled labor shortage, and our efforts to close the skills gap and support the home improvement industry at the local level, the Philly Home + Garden Show offers **FREE** admission for all home-related tradespeople with valid ID.



10 am Sunday Morning Yoga

Start your Sunday at the Philly Home + Garden Show with an all-level yoga class overlooking the Garden Hall, led by Susan Madden-Cox of Ocean Earth Wind Fire yoga studio in Spring City, PA. Just bring your own mat or towel.

11:30 am "Brunch-N-Bloom" Floral Design Class

Join floral designer Cameron Peters as she shows how to create a fun arrangement using beautiful blooms that just scream spring.

LOCATION: Pop-Up Flower Market, Garden Hall.

FEE: Advance registration required at phillyhomeandgarden.com

1-2 pm Top 10 Mistakes Homeowners Make When Hiring a Landscape Contractor

Brad Stephenson of New Castle Lawn and Landscape

2-3 pm Beekeeping In The City

Don Shump of Philadelphia Bee Company

2:30 pm "Planterpalooza" Floral Design Class

Learn from floral designer Cameron Peters how to grab some plants and build a planter for inside your home to help beat the winter doldrums. **LOCATION:** Pop-Up Flower Market, Garden Hall. **FEE:** Advance registration required at phillyhomeandgarden.com

Pro Secrets of TV Home Renovations

There's much more to TV home renovation shows than can be seen in just 30 or 60 minutes. So we've invited some celebrity insiders from some of your favorites to share their experiences (and a few secrets)!



Eric & Lindsey Bennett

Eric and Lindsey Bennett have been transforming outdated Palm Springs, California properties for more than a decade. Originally from the Midwest, the property power couple moved across the country in 2006 to pursue their dream of building a real estate empire, and since then, they have built their business together—selling real estate, originating loans, acquiring rental property and flipping more than 100 houses.

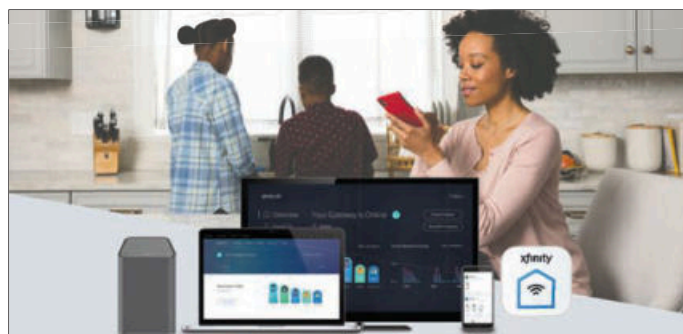
The Bennetts share their success by educating and inspiring others to get in the game of real estate investing and renovation. Eric, a savvy real estate entrepreneur and financier, and Lindsey, a construction planner, manager and designer, can be seen in their hit HGTV show *Desert Flippers* bravely defying triple-digit desert heat and renovating dilapidated homes while raising three rambunctious small children. Don't miss the dynamic duo as they take the time to educate and share the ins and outs of the real estate business!



Barry Williams

Barry Williams had many TV roles before becoming known to millions as Greg Brady, America's most reliable big brother, on TV's hit show *The Brady Bunch*, but that's the one that has endeared him to viewers worldwide and enjoyed unprecedented success. Since then, his extensive career in entertainment has encompassed musical theatre (more than 85 productions and starring roles), and he's been a bestselling author, satellite radio host, and executive producer (NBC-TV movie *Growing Up Brady*).

Recently, Barry and the other actors who played the *Brady Bunch* siblings got together for HGTV's highly-rated new series *A Very Brady Renovation*, in which they worked to restore the house featured in the *Brady Bunch* show—and which gave him many insights into home renovation design and production. Barry has also recorded several CDs of music and performed all over the world. He continues to sing and perform with the trio Barry Williams & The Traveliers, and will perform as part of his Philly Home + Garden Show appearance!



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PHILLY HOME + GARDEN SHOW

and the
mikeroweWORKS
Foundation

Photograph by Michael Segal

This year, the Philly Home + Garden Show is adding a focus on the shortage of skilled labor, an issue that affects many in the Philly home improvement arena. Marketplace Events, the producer of the Philly Home + Garden Show, has partnered with Mike Rowe and the mikeroweWORKS Foundation to bring attention to the issue and to encourage people to consider a career in the trades.

Among his many roles and endeavors, Mike Rowe is well known from the TV show *Dirty Jobs* and his voice is recognized by millions from his narrations for hundreds of documentaries about space, nature, and how stuff works. He is also CEO and runs the mikeroweWORKS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity that works hard to debunk myths about the skilled trades and help close the skills gap. The foundation helps to fund training for in-demand skilled jobs through a variety of scholarship programs, and technical and vocational education for trade schools across the U.S.

Mike shared some of his experience and his mission with us recently:

What was your first job?

The first job that generated an actual paycheck was for United Artists, back in 1978. I worked at one of the first multiplexes in the country, at Golden Ring Mall in Baltimore, Maryland. I was an usher, a cashier, a concession worker, and a projectionist.

What projects have you been most proud to work on?

Tough to beat *Dirty Jobs*. It was not only a hit, it transformed cable television, reinvigorated my career, and began as a tribute to my grandfather. That show checked a lot of boxes. Lately, I'm proud of *Returning the Favor* on Facebook.

Any embarrassing on-the-job moments you'd like to share?

My humiliations are a matter of public record, and best enjoyed on YouTube. Search for "Mike Rowe and QVC," and brace yourself.

Name a home improvement project you thought you could take on but ended in disaster.

Name one that didn't!

What's one thing you wish every homeowner knew?

I wish people understood how much they could save by making bi-weekly mortgage payments instead of monthly. It's simple, and for most people, doable. An easy way to save a small fortune.

What's mikeroweWORKS Foundation all about?

mikeroweWORKS began as a PR initiative to help close America's skills gap. I launched it 10 years ago on Labor Day. Fans of *Dirty Jobs* helped me build an online Trade Resource Center, which generated a ton of great press, and got me in front of Congress on multiple occasions. Today, we've morphed into a scholarship fund that assists people looking to learn a skill or master a trade. Every year, we award a few hundred "Work Ethic Scholarships." So far, about \$5 million worth. Additionally, I've become an annoyance to universities that charge obscene amounts for degrees that have left a generation with over \$1.5 trillion of student debt, which I personally feel to be a scandal of monumental proportions. I made an animated video that answers this question in detail at <https://www.mikeroweworks.org/sweat/>.

Describe our Home Show in one word.

I can't find a word that combines elements of "pandemonium" as well as "delightful." So let's go with "pandelightful."

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YOUR PARTNER IN PLANNING AN Outdoor Paradise

A BACKYARD HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME THE PARADISE a homeowner has always imagined. With the right help and knowledge, turning imagination into reality is possible thanks to the experts at Nyce Crete and Landis Block & Concrete.

Now in its third generation of family ownership, Nyce Crete and Landis Block & Concrete has two locations—in Souderton and Lansdale—and employs over 50 people. “We are a resource for good quality materials and service,” says Jarrod Nyce, vice president. “What we do here at Landis Block is we’re kind of a facilitator,” adds Nyce. “A customer comes in here with a bunch of ideas, and we go, ‘OK, here’s what you can do.’ We help them make a decision on: Are they capable of doing it or do they need help? If they need help, we help them find a good contractor. We have a suggested list of contractors, who we trust, who are on that list for a reason because they’ve earned our trust and will provide a great job,” adds Nyce. “If they’re a do-it-yourself type of person ... we have all the materials, all the equipment and all the knowledge to help walk [them] through that whole process, step by step.”

In addition, the company is also a great resource on installation specifications and all

updated codes, he explains.

“We have tons of different options from a full working kitchen to a simple backyard fire pit,” explains Nyce. “We have waterfall [and] fire applications [and] outdoor TV sets. It comes down to, in my opinion, simple factors [like] space, how much room you have, imagination and budget.”

That step-by-step process starts with a solid foundation and the pavers themselves, which as Nyce explains, are akin to the carpet or tile floor inside a home. “Everything starts with your floors and you work your way up,” he says. “If you’re thinking about a kitchen [and] you want to have a nice place to cook your meal, we can give you a couple different options of what kind of grill would work with what kind of pavers, and those pavers just accent everything else. It’s your foundation [and] it’s where you start.”

With Landis Block’s vast array of products spanning pavers and wall systems from Cambridge, brick pavers, Belgian blocks or concrete products, the options are endless. It’s especially true if a homeowner is looking to complete the space in small projects over time. “The nice thing about the pavers we sell, [from] Cambridge Pavers, is they have what’s called ArmorTec, a special surface layer they put on that’s made of

Nyce Crete and Landis Block & Concrete connects homeowners with the knowledge and materials to bring any project to life.

very hard granite and they have a promise that their colors won’t fade or change,” says Nyce. “They understand that not everybody can go out there and do their dream backyard all at one time, so you’re going to buy pavers from [them] this year, next year[and] the following year and [their] colors aren’t going to change, they’re going to match.”

Going beyond the foundation, Landis Block also offers homeowners kits that complement pavers of their choosing to further curate a livable outdoor space. From a barbecue to a propane grill, each kit can be built within the hardscaping, while accompanying features from waterfalls and fire pits can also be incorporated.

Yet, with all the possibilities, Nyce advises homeowners to do their due diligence before embarking on a project or moving forward with a contractor. “Ask questions,” he says. “Get as much information as you can, do your research [and] be smart about what you’re doing. Come talk to us, we can help you make those decisions.” If a homeowner is using a contractor, Nyce also suggests asking for their references beforehand. “I always suggest that with any contractor ... ask him for references,” he vouches. “There’s nothing wrong with that.”

Beyond that, it’s also crucial that plans for an outdoor project start months before the summer season. “If you’re meeting a contractor, a lot of them are getting booked up already,” Nyce warns. “It takes a month to get something done ... so start making your plans on it now. We can’t get anything done right now because of the conditions outside, but it’s imperative to start your planning and get your process rolling right now.” **H&H**

Nyce Crete and Landis Block & Concrete

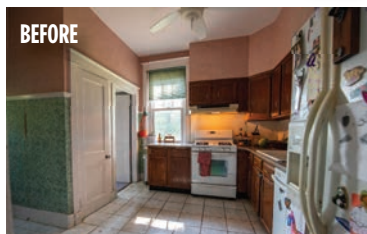
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Residential Kitchen

\$30,000 to \$60,000 ➔

Harth Builders

This kitchen was transformed and brought into the modern age to better serve a family and their young children. The old dark cave-like room was brightened by the careful selection of materials and removal of walls to adjacent spaces. The difficult installation of a steel beam under a 2-wythe brick wall above helped create the new open space below.



\$60,000 to \$100,000

Luxury Bath and Kitchens



This project's construction was heavy in demolition because we decided to change the existing layout of the kitchen. Taking the wall back was crucial in building their dream kitchen with space and function. The new bright design included subway tile, white quartz and gray-toned cabinetry. Our client received their dream kitchen and solved problems like storage, lighting and functionality.

\$100,000 to \$150,000

Rolf Schroeder General Contractors, Inc.



Our client came to us looking to remodel their kitchen in continuity to the remainder of their home. The homeowners envisioned a crisp, clean and light filled space with better design and functionality. Our team created a heart-warming design using white cabinetry with black accents to add depth and help set this project apart from the typical all-white kitchen, which won over the client.



Over \$150,000

Brett King Builder Contractor, Inc.

New home ownership launched the kitchen renovation of this historic home. They disliked the style, disconnectedness and lack of natural light. They desired to see their guests arriving while offering a welcoming access to the outside. An aggressive remodeling plan involved a vertical expansion, removing the second floor into a cathedral ceiling, adding hand-hewn beam tresses and



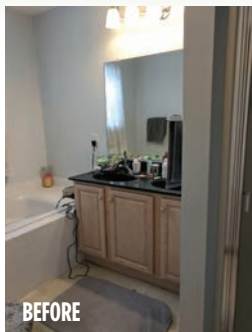
increasing natural light by removing walls and adding glass doors and windows. Highlighting the home's history, the original exterior stone wall was reclaimed and exposed. Meeting and conquering all challenges, great and small, resulted in a jaw-dropping outcome for all to admire.

Residential Bath

Under \$25,000 →

Sovereign Construction Services, LLC

This renovation was designed to provide a fresh, contemporary look to replace a worn, builder-grade master bathroom. The client requested additional floor space and an open concept feel without enlarging the footprint. Both were accomplished by removing the soaking tub and shower divider wall and installing a semi-frameless glass-enclosed shower. A new double vanity increased storage space; and products used, including protective glass coating and acrylic shower base, make cleaning easier. White cabinetry and matching marble vanity top and shower tile, combined with coordinated fixtures, faucets and other decorative accents give the space a cohesive, finished look.



BEFORE

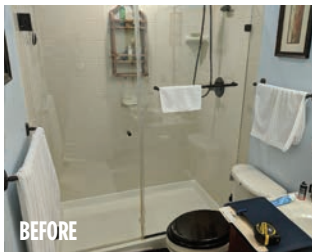


AFTER

↓ \$25,000 to \$50,000

Luxury Bath and Kitchens

We took a very traditional space and turned it into the sleek, new-age vision the customer had in their mind—helping the client take their vision of the space and turn it into a reality. The project was very detailed from demolition to final finishing touches, from moving the toilet over a few inches to accommodate a bigger shower, to sourcing a door that fit the space and style of the project.



BEFORE

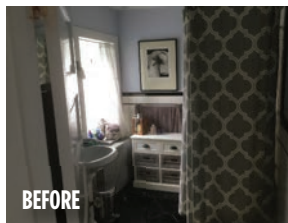


AFTER

↓ \$75,000 to \$100,000

Brett King Builder Contractor, LLC

The owners of this circa 1876 home desired a more spacious and usable master bedroom ensuite. The hope was to have a brighter, larger and more modernized bathroom within the limited stone walls of its structure. The renovation entailed taking a portion of an adjacent bedroom to repurpose for the ensuite. Not willing to lose valuable interior space, the stone walls presented challenges. However, stone was cut and chases were run. Moving comfortably from the master bedroom into the marble-enveloped luxury bath, overflowing with modern amenities, the historic structure takes on an updated feel without jeopardizing the home's antiquity.



BEFORE

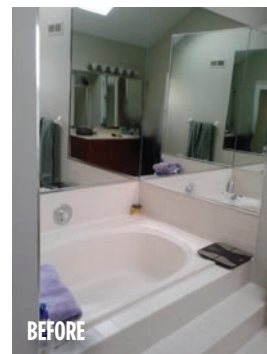


AFTER

↓ \$50,000 to \$75,000

Inspiration Kitchen and Bath, LLC

Transformation for relaxation is what started the dream of a whirlpool tub for the clients. The shower and tub deck were re-configured around a Kohler Tea for Two cast iron undermount tub. Beautiful finishes and materials were selected by the clients and they spared no expense when it came to the mosaic tile above the tub on the wall and the shower floor. Accent lighting on dimmer switches under the floating vanity and on the walls above the tub and shower help to create a spa feeling for relaxation while soaking in the whirlpool tub.



BEFORE



AFTER

Interior

Under \$100,000

Drumm Design Remodel



This mid-century modern home built in 1971 had a dated master suite that was a maze of dark walls and doors, tight spaces and poor flow. With much creativity and space planning, this cramped and confusing space was transformed into an open, modern and spa-like master retreat. From the double-sided fireplace, refinished original hardwood floor to the oversized shower and soaking tub, this master is all the homeowners' dreamed of and more!



BEFORE



AFTER

\$100,000 to \$250,000

Luxury Bath and Kitchens



This project's construction had minimal demolition because we stayed within the existing layout of the kitchen. We also remodeled their laundry and small bathroom off the kitchen space. All three spaces gained tons of space and more cabinetry. The laundry hall storage area was replaced with more functional cabinetry to better suit the clients' needs and items. The crisp, bright design included subway tile,

white quartz and contrasting cabinetry. Our client received their dream kitchen and solved problems like storage, lighting and functionality.



AFTER



BEFORE

\$250,000 to \$500,000

Harth Builders



The contemporary kitchen is located in a quaint suburban neighborhood with traditional esthetics. The overall goal was to update the space into a more modern-style floor plan for entertaining 20-30 guests regularly.



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE

Under \$50,000 ➔

Sovereign Construction Services, LLC

The clients, parents to four teens, were ready to extend their living space outdoors and build a deck where the family could relax, entertain and barbecue. This exterior renovation does just that. In addition to increasing the home's value, this free-standing deck with built-in grill station expands the usefulness of the kitchen while enhancing the hub of the home. The use of premium materials ensures durability, and stone, deck and railing colors were selected to combine aesthetically with the existing look of the home.

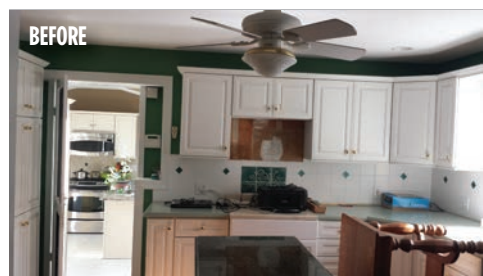


AFTER

Exterior



AFTER



BEFORE

\$100,000 to \$250,000 ➔

Gehman Design Remodeling

Our client wanted to have a space that was open. There were two kitchens in the house and to make it all work together we needed to start from scratch and build a single kitchen at the one end thereby opening the rest of the space which gave them a lot more room to entertain. Another big item for our clients was the low ceiling—they felt claustrophobic since the ceiling was so low—and they wanted to raise the roof.

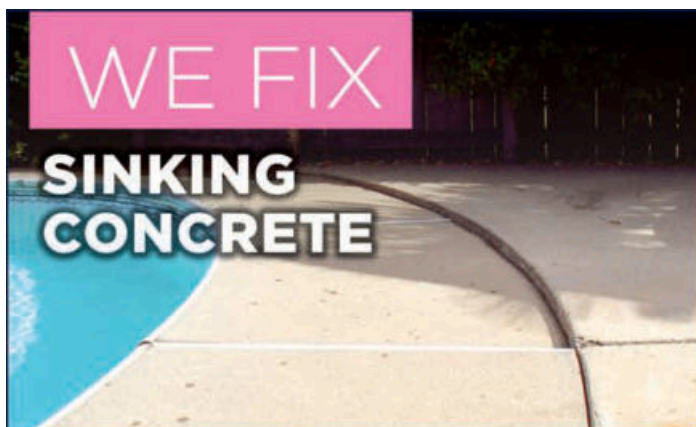


AFTER

Addition



AFTER



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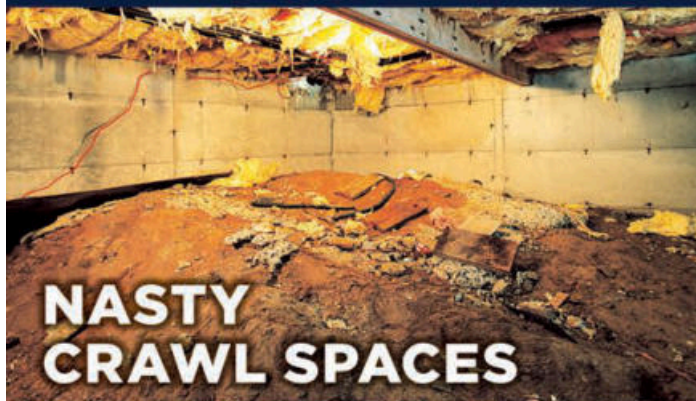


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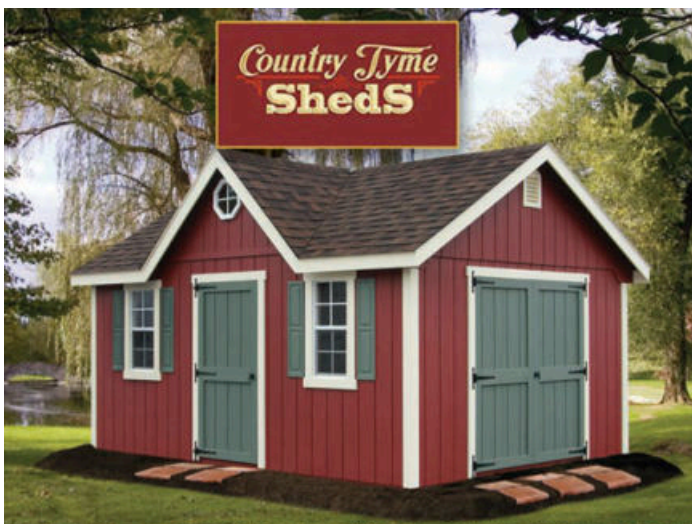
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