



Shavings

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Watch Us On CNN's Open House

On Saturday, March 19th Craig will appear on CNN's "Open House" at 9:30am. This is a real estate show that among other topics covers improvements that homeowners can do themselves to increase the value of their houses. Our company was approached to film a segment about installing a new front door. With the help of Catharine Karsten a willing client and past Jeopardy contestant, we had an exciting day of filming. Check out the final product and see if there is any future in show business for Craig.



Ice Dams

This past January the weather ganged up on us to produce perfect conditions for ice dams. Several clients called complaining about water dripping through the ceiling or through windows into their house. These leaks were caused by ice dams on the roof of the house and while they were not the result of any work that we had done, they were still a big problem to our clients.

Ice dams are caused by a build up of snow and ice on the roof that melts at different times. The snow and ice that is over the heated portion of the house melts faster than the snow and ice above the soffit or roof overhang. This difference is due to the heat from the house escaping through the roof. In the sunlight, when all the snow on the roof is melting, there is less of a chance for the ice dam to form, but on cloudy days or at night, conditions are perfect. The water created from the ice on the roof runs down the roof and hits the unmelted snow and ice. The water backs up under the shingles and into the house. To make matters worse, the ice due to its expansion can actually lift up the shingles making it easy for the water to flood.

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Dusty Thoughts

by Craig Lord

We started spring cleaning early this year in the office. One of our chores was to reorganize our document storage and rid ourselves of paperwork older than ten years [the IRS recommends seven years; we chose ten to be on the safe side]. Since we had never done this before, there were documents dating all the way back to the start of the company in 1980.

I must say, it was kind of sad to throw away all that history. Old invoices, bargain hunters there were some great deals back in the old days, plans, estimates and notes filled up box after box. A veritable geologic timeline was created by these documents. The Handwritten era, preceded the Pre-Faxian, era which was followed by the Faxian era, the Cellular age and the Pre-Computer era. The Age of Enlightenment was brought on by the computer and led into the time we are in now which is the old enough to

know better era highlighted by the ability to make the same mistakes faster then it used to take. I call this the Senile era.

Anyhow I digress. The memorable aspect of this task were the names of the clients through out twenty five years. There were the Ansel's, my first job in January of 1980, multiple job clients like the Dailys, the Cassels, and the Lampmans, large detailed jobs like Lippincott and Young and all of the more recent jobs like Gaertner, Schantz, and Trought. The list of clients is quite extensive, but there is one thing in common for all of them. Each client extended their trust to our company. They opened their doors and let us in so we could practice our trade – for this we are eternally grateful. Our lives are measurable by the relationships we make and the relationships we keep. For twenty-five years now I have been truly blessed by the people I have worked for and worked with. I thank-you all.

Ice Dams continued

The good news is that on all of our jobs in the last ten years or so, we have installed snow and ice shields on all roofs. This is an asphaltic product that is installed before the shingles. It adheres to the roof plywood and is installed up the roof past the unheated area and into the heated area preventing any water that gets under the shingle from entering into the house.

In some cases snow and ice shield can be installed on existing roofs. If matching shingles can still be found, the lower courses of shingles are removed and the snow and ice shield can be applied.



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Chrysalis Awards

March is the month when we select the projects that we are going to enter in the Chrysalis Awards design competition. For the last few years, we have been very successful in this competition, winning three years in a row in different categories. This year we will enter four projects in four different categories.

In the **Kitchen Remodel** group we are entering the Madara job, a kitchen design by Neil K. Johnson, AIA that featured cabinetry by David Ramsay Cabinetmakers. This kitchen was the vision of Lisa Madara who blended the old with the new and chose some eclectic finishes to create a wonderful space.

For **Historical Remodel**, one of our favorite categories and one that we won last year, we chose the Trought job. Here we renovated and improved an old farmhouse. You have to have a love for the old and plenty of patience for these kinds of jobs and Andy and Melissa Trought had both. The result is a wonderful "new" old building that has a lot of the modern conveniences yet retains the grace of the original building. Neil K. Johnson, AIA was the architect on this job.

The **Kitchen Addition** category features jobs where space was added to create a new kitchen/eating area. Paul Kiss of the firm of Olivieri, Shousky, and Kiss, Pa. architects designed this addition for Ken and Lynn Zimmer that opened up the rear of the house. A wall of windows that curves and arcs is the focal point of the room. The open floor plan and the tall ceiling make the space comfortable for even the largest crowd.

Our entry in the **Outbuilding Competition** is the garage we built for Phyllis and Bill Schantz. Again the firm of Neil K. Johnson, AIA worked their magic and produced a charming two-story garage reminiscent of an English cottage. The cupola is lit at night giving the building a warm glow.

We are thankful to all the clients involved for giving us the opportunity to do such work. Win or lose, this year's entries are all very special for the people that created them and for the people that get to enjoy them.



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