



The Alexander Group

GAZETTE

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President
Alex Dean, CR, CGR

Production Mgr.
Michael Colman

Project Designer
James Steele

Lead Carpenters
Steve Mayberry
Gregory Burdette

Carpenters
Marvin Samoya
Hernan Morales

Administration
Kathy Poland

Members of:
NARI DC Chapter
Montgomery Co.
Builders Association

Awards:
2001 Montgomery
Co. Builders Assoc.
Awards (4)

2001 NARI
CotY Awards (2)

2000 NARI
CotY Awards (4)

2000 NARI
Residential Interior

2000 Montgomery
Co. Builders
Awards (2)

1999 NARI
CotY Awards (2)

1999 Montgomery
Co. Builders Assoc.
Awards (4)

1999 Innovation in
Construction Awards



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Details, details, details

What was 1940s "swell" doesn't necessarily translate into 21st Century chic for a young Northwest DC professional couple. Their large, brick home had lasted for decades, but it didn't meet their sense of style or use of space. That's where Alex Dean and crew came in.

Over a four month process of demolition and rebuilding, The Alexander Group created a more open and inviting atmosphere that better served the lifestyle of the homeowners.

A wall between the kitchen and dining area was removed to create a more open plan without adding to the existing footprint. Where the wall once stood, a breakfast bar has been installed. New cabinets and granite countertops, coupled with rich hues create an inviting kitchen.

A kitchen/dining room was remodeled, three modern baths were created, and the kitchen and dining room was brightened with the addition of a new window in the kitchen, which allows for a view of the back yard.

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▲ Master bathroom boasts marble floor and tile.

▼ A crisp fresh look is achieved with new fixtures, ceramic tile and bold paint in the hall bath.



Photography ©2002 3rd Century Photography

A new home office on the lower floor serves the couple's professional requirements; a renovated family room is on the same floor.

Because the process involved nearly the entire house, the home normally would have been in chaos for the duration of the project. However, by carefully scheduling phases, the Alexander Group completed the entire renovation with the homeowners still in residence and with as little discomfort as possible. To achieve this, it meant never having all the bathrooms torn up at the same time. The success of this project was in the attention to the details, an art unto itself!

The key figure in all of this is "Mr. Details," Mike Colman, production manager. It's Mike's responsibility to make sure the correct materials are ordered and delivered on time—not too far in advance, and certainly not too late. Mike also schedules the trade professionals according to the production schedule and coordinates inspections to minimize downtime during a project. Mike carefully plans the construction, resulting in less waste of materials, more efficient use of trade contractors, and happy Alexander Group clients.

▼ The family room area is adjacent to the office on the lower level.



High tech has come home

Less than a decade ago, home computers were a novelty. Folks who owned one were considered “on the cutting edge.”

Today, it’s a different story: people not only have multiple computers, they also want home theaters, extensive electronic security systems, media rooms, multi-zoned music, motorized window treatment, networking, wireless solutions and interactive e-control.

In the construction industry, a remodeler must keep abreast of new developments such as the boom in technology, or perish. Residential systems integration designers assemble and install complex electronic systems. They work closely with the interior designer, the homeowner, the architect, and the remodeler.

“It’s absolutely critical that a systems designer/installer be brought in while plans are in the concept stage,” said Bobby Caras, owner of Multi-Systems, Inc. in Vienna. “Coordination is the key. We need to know approximate furniture placement, traffic patterns—a multitude of details to make the house ‘work’ properly.”

Mike Haslett, owner of Elite Home Theater & Automation, whose showroom is at 7601 D.

Airport Rd, Gaithersburg, agrees. “As remodelers become more and more aware of these options, they are understanding what is involved. It’s a bit more than scheduling the plumber to hook up the dishwasher. We need to be brought in as early as possible. We bring valuable skills to the overall design of the project.”

Both technicians say that even in remodeling projects not specifically aimed at high tech integration, it pays to think of laying the groundwork required for future technology additions.

“The public is learning what is available to them; they are driving the demand for these products and features,” Mike said. “If a remodeler takes the time to explain to a homeowner that getting the wiring inside the walls on the current project will save them thousands of dollars later when they want to add multi-room sound or high speed internet. It’s a matter of knowing what will be available for tomorrow, to make today’s construction more cost effective.”

▼ Log on to:
elitehometheatres.com
and
multi-systems.com to
learn more about
this emerging field



◀ There’s nothing like a day at the beach. During Labor Day weekend, TAG employees and families enjoyed each other’s company while relaxing at a beach house in Fenwick Island, Delaware.

The finishing touches

A homeowner's living space reflects his or her lifestyle, personality, and sense of taste; the colors they select are an important part of that. The color palette is the finishing touch to creating a home's look.

Savvy homeowners know the differences artificial and natural light has in their home. They know warm colors make rooms seem smaller and more intimate, while cool colors, shades of green and blue, create an illusion of distance. No, color cannot be taken lightly!

Wayne Power, president of Power Decorating, a Montgomery County professional painting contractor was called in to complete the transformation of the home described on page 1.

Wayne's crews can be depended upon to do the job right the first time, and are known for performing a quality job. That attention to detail, coupled with Wayne's creative suggestions, are a good fit with The Alexander Group.

James Steele, project designer

James Steele has joined The Alexander Group's sales department. Self-employed as a project designer, James will be representing TAG and calling on potential clients, assisting them in designing and estimating projects, as well as preparing the plans and specifications for construction.



With an Masters in Business Administration, James has worked in the construction field for many years. He also has an extensive background in accounting.

He and his wife, Esther, are the parents of seven children. Coming to DC 30 years ago to play in the US Army Band, his saxophone is now his hobby. He can be heard playing solos at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda and daily on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" playing the program's themes with his group, the Washington Saxophone Quartet.

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