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MacPherson Construction & Design



This MacPherson Construction & Design home utilizes the great room concept to create open and airy spaces. Photo by Krogstad Photography.

MacPherson Construction & Design

Georgian estates, English manors, French chateaus, from *Miami Vice* stark contemporary to *On Golden Pond* cozy, Craftsman-style homes, there are not many architectural styles Roger MacPherson hasn't designed and built in the last couple years. MacPherson, president of MacPherson Construction & Design, says the general public perception is that the company only builds contemporary homes. "That's a big reason we'll be participating in the 'Street of Dreams' again in 1997," MacPherson explains. "Our company's versatility is what makes our work fun."

In addition to building a wide range of styles, the depth of services offered by MacPherson Construction & Design is also surprising to many. MacPherson has two architectural

degrees from Washington State University (WSU), plus a minor in psychology. The company prides itself in being equally adept at building homes designed by architects as well as preparing complete plans for its clientele. "The keys to enjoying and succeeding in this business," MacPherson says, "are to design and build what your client wants, at the same time making every home an original, a one-of-a-kind, with your client's fingerprints."

After graduating from WSU in 1982, rather than start work with an architectural firm, MacPherson decided to take a different approach. "I had a good understanding of architecture and I wanted to see where the problems often developed between contractor and architect: contractors

complaining it couldn't be built the way it was drawn, and architectural design elements being ignored."

After architectural school, MacPherson worked for a local home builder. After a few months, he was running a framing crew. MacPherson not only worked hard at this job, but found ways to make it even more enjoyable. "We use to have competitions to see how many sheets of plywood we could carry at the same time," MacPherson recalls. "Not only did it make the jobs fun, but also more efficient."

In 1982, Roger and Nancy married and built their first home the following year in Redmond. By the fall of 1983, MacPherson started MacPherson Construction & Design. In 1985, the company completed its first spec

See Page 26

Attention to detail makes a dramatic and personal master bath. Photo by Krogstad Photography.





Color and texture add interest to this Georgian-styled home. Photo by Imaging Northwest.

Continued from Page 7

home which was featured in the *Seattle Times*. 1986 marked the year when the company designed and built its first ultracontemporary home in Redmond overlooking Lake Sammamish. "It was a great contemporary home," MacPherson describes, "with a flat roof, radius walls and lots of glass block." That home served as a springboard for the company because few builders specialized in contemporary home construction on the Eastside. The business was going so well in 1990, MacPherson took his company to Puerto Vallarta and Acapulco as a thank you.

MacPherson remains as convinced in 1997 as in 1990 that the company's employees are a real benefit to MacPherson Construction & Design as well as its customers. "The benefits to our clientele are numerous," MacPherson explains. "We have the ability to make personnel changes so construction schedules can be maintained. We have direct accountability. We have consistency of craftsmanship. Selection of the area's best subcontractors and use of our own employees assure excellent quality throughout."

Controlling the quality of workmanship is just one priority for MacPherson. Delivering a final

product the client is pleased with is another. "Where we do provide design services as well as the construction, we are providing a huge advantage for the client," MacPherson states. "Their comfort level is raised considerably by knowing the same people who worked with them in creating their dream home are still there when they are

moving in."

This is what MacPherson went to college for and why he set out first in the construction business. "As the designer, we work closely with the client and design a home that can meet their budget. We can create the specifications that take away the worries of what is being provided. There are no problems with the architect's intentions and the builder's interpretations. The transition between design and construction disappears."

MacPherson's goal is to provide a home that satisfies all of the client's objectives. With hands-on control, from the design through construction, MacPherson believes his company can do just that. "It's very rewarding to take a client's idea of a perfect home, put it to paper and actually build it," MacPherson says. "And it's even more rewarding when they let you know how happy they are and you turn out to be friends for a long time." From a simple tennis match to going fishing, to an exotic vacation destination with past clients, all attest to the strong and personal relationships MacPherson forms with his clientele.

Intuitively, MacPherson leans towards designing houses which are more home and less monument, more comfortable and less formal. "We like to design homes which offer comfort and warmth, a reflection of our

See Page 29

Functional gourmet kitchen takes advantage of lake view. Photo by Krogstad Photography.





Dramatic in-home office enhanced with tranquil waterfall. Photo by Krogstad Photography.



Inviting Craftsman-style home is an example of understated elegance. Photo by Imaging Northwest.

Continued from Page 27

client's lifestyle and personality," MacPherson explains. "Most of our projects are on the Eastside and tend to be quite complex. We have a lot of experience in dealing with steep slopes, wetlands and waterfront challenges. It's almost reached the point where I wouldn't know what to do with a flat lot. But, give us a complex design issue and we'll solve it.

"It's amazing, wherever we build, we almost always end up doing another custom home, remodel or even a deck for the neighbor," MacPherson observes. However, the company's main focus is building and designing custom homes. Their 1997 Street of Dreams home in Blakely Woods will be a 4,300-square-foot rambler built on a 2.1-acre lot. Designed by MacPherson, the Craftsman-style home features large timber trusses, pine ceilings, and granite, slate and limestone interior treatments. The exterior is graced with a bluestone veneer and shingle siding. "The home has a very comfortable and cozy feeling," MacPherson describes.

Another home MacPherson Construction & Design is building in Blakely Woods is an English manor with multiple gables, bay windows and a 12-by-12 pitch tile roof. This "super-traditional" custom home features brick veneer with concrete quoins, arched entry with wrought-iron gates, and an indoor pool.

"The home we are just finishing at Peregrine Point in Issaquah is summer in Peregrine Point will be a French chateau with large columnades and archway viewing Lake Sammamish. We design and build homes spanning a very wide range of architectural styles. Today, we often find the design to be eclectic, pulling from many eras, creating a style I would call 'transitional.'"

MacPherson and his team strive to create homes for their clients' current needs as well as those for the future. "We build structures that are homes," MacPherson explains. "A place where you want to be, a place to raise a family, a place where you are proud to invite your friends." To accomplish this, MacPherson relies heavily upon his employees. Some employees have

been with MacPherson Construction & Design since its inception.

The company's two superintendents are Doug Conner and Doug Martensen. Tom Jurek pulls all the final touches together, acting as job foreman. "I'm very proud of all our employees," MacPherson states. "From in the office to out in the trenches, they are all vital to the continued success of the company. If work ever slowed down, I'd do anything to keep them busy, including mowing the lawn, before I'd risk losing them."

Loyalty to employees and customers is a hallmark of MacPherson Construction & Design. "We at times may try too hard to satisfy our subcontractors and customers doing that one extra thing," MacPherson says. Maybe that's why Roger MacPherson's clients are so pleased with their final home.

Builder/Architect is proud to feature MacPherson Construction & Design as its May Builder of the Month, a company focused on meeting all of its customers' objectives.

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