

All in the Details

The 2005 Monument Awards recognize custom homes featuring the best of craftsmanship and design

By Jeff Marcus

A custom home is part art, part construction job. It is the work of an architect and a builder and a collection of specialty craftsmen, all informed by the desires and dreams of the homeowner. Its starting point may be notes on a cocktail napkin, sketches on graph paper, pages pulled from a magazine, or a builder's existing design. The custom process, when it works, takes off from that starting point and moves on, incorporating the way the clients and their family will live each day in the house, the way they entertain, the way they see themselves inside the space and the image they wish to project. It combines personalities, living patterns, budgets, materials, time frames and more, to create a house that stands as a monument to the process and a dream come true for the fortunate owners.



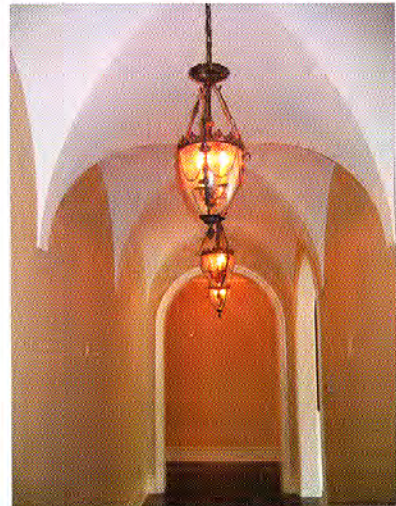
Rich dark wood floors and fine millwork give the home a stately but warm glow.

The best custom homes in our region are recognized each year by the building industry's Monument Awards. They are singled out by a committee of industry professionals for their beauty, their innovations, their floor plans and their overall appeal.

A look at homes by three winning custom builders, Great Falls Construction Company, Monticello Homes and WCI/Renaissance, shows how different approaches and different styles can all lead to the same result: A stand-out custom home worthy of recognition.

Great Falls Construction

With its winner in the category of Customized Single-Family Home over \$2 million, Great Falls Construction showed that a large home can be a warm and polished home, when special attention is given to fine finishes and master carpentry. "It's the high level of the finishes and extensive built-ins that really set this home apart," says Stacey Hoffinan, vice president of Great Falls Construction. The 15,000-square-foot home boasts



Details such as a rib-vaulted ceiling bring an Old World feeling into this home by Great Falls Construction.

large spaces that are warmed and brought into scale thanks to extensive use of rich wood tones, custom millwork and beautiful finishes. The two-story great room, for example, is much more than a cavernous space. Its upper reaches are ringed by a catwalk with a rich oak railing and a stylish wrought-iron balustrade. Behind the catwalk railing are built-in bookcases and oversized windows. Above, a coffered ceiling in white plaster is a nice counterpoint to the rich dark wood floors below. Another focal point is the custom-designed marble fireplace mantel surrounded by custom built-ins. A series of large windows provides a two-story view overlooking a golf course. The overall effect is a large space alive with detail and warmed by wood. Superior craftsmanship is evident everywhere you look.

The home's extensive custom millwork, designed on site and installed throughout all three levels, was manufactured to specification by Pennsylvania-based Precision

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Custom Building: Custom Homes Win Awards

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Millwork. Great Falls Construction has relationships with a wide range of local craftsmen and regional specialists they can call on to produce elements needed to create homes that are truly works of art.

One wing of the home's exterior is marked by a large two-story tower, or turret, that adds an Old World, European flair to the view from the front yard. Once inside, you'll discover this entire tower is filled by a slowly and gracefully ascending spiral staircase that was custom fabricated on site out of cherry wood and installed in the tower that houses it. The staircase winds up to a luxurious master suite and three other bedrooms, each with its own well-appointed bathroom. Elsewhere, a secondary staircase makes it easier to access other parts of the home, and improves the overall flow.

The home's main level includes a tastefully appointed mudroom adjoining a home office that is completely covered, top-to-bottom and on all four sides, in rich custom woodwork. The wood floor is matched by a coffered wood ceiling, and the walls are covered in polished wood

paneling with extensive furniture-quality built-ins.

The extensive lower level includes a billiards room with adjoining wine cellar, a children's playroom, a golf practice room, a custom designed bar for entertaining and an exercise room with adjoining steam shower.

A three-car attached garage features a complete in-law suite above, while an adjacent two-car detached garage offers additional storage space. The site-scape package includes a 30-foot retaining wall to accommodate a 60-foot lap pool and surrounding tiered flagstone terraces.

"It has a very opulent feel overall," says Hoffman of the Potomac Falls home. "And that's what the owner was looking for. We spent a great deal of time on custom



The WCI/Renaissance kitchen boasts two islands and custom built-ins.

woodwork, millwork and finishes. In this home, it's the details that really stand out."

WCI/Renaissance

The Monument Award winner in the category of Customized Single-Family Home \$1,000,001 to \$1,500,000 was built by WCI/Renaissance on approximately five acres in the Beacon Hill community in Leesburg, Virginia. This fully customized version of the firm's classic Grand Monet model has a stone and stucco façade enhanced with darker trim that gives it a modern Tudor quality. The five-car garage with separate mud room entry, office above and stone-paved parking court are designed to be functional and beautifully integrated into the home.

As you enter the home through stately stained redwood double doors, you'll find the living spaces in the front of the home—living room, dining room and side sunroom—are quietly elegant spaces with an Old World appeal. These rooms overlook the formal entrance with stone pavers and stone walls that designate areas for lawn and gardens. The rooms that overlook the pool, tennis court and terraced landscaping in the rear of the residence capture the essence of the seamless rela-



A coffered ceiling adorns the master bedroom of this WCI/Renaissance home.

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HOMEBUYERS
ARE
DEMANDING,
YOU SHOULD
SEE OUR
JUDGES.**



The Monument Awards recognize superior design. So look for this trophy in the home or community you are considering. The Monument Awards are the Washington region's most prestigious competition for communities and production and custom homes priced from under \$200,000 to over \$4 million. Learn more at MonumentAwards.com



Monument Awards

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Single-Family Home Awards

Following is a list of Monument Award winners in single-family home categories over \$500,000. Prices shown are in the 1,000s.

BOWA Builders, Inc.

- Custom Renovation in DC; Customized Residential Remodeling \$600 to \$750

Centex Homes

- War Admiral, GlenRiddle; Single Family Homes \$700 to \$750**

Churchill Group

- Avonshire, Churchill's Reserve; Single-Family Homes over \$800*

Equity Homes

- Preston, Foxfield Estates; Single Family Homes \$900 to \$1,000**
- Lancaster II, Cedar Crest; Single-Family Homes over \$1,000**

Five Oaks Homes, Inc.

- The Craftsman, Windsong Pond; Customized Single-Family Homes \$750 to \$1,000

Great Falls Construction

- Private Residence; Customized Residential Remodeling over \$750
- Private Residence, Potomac Falls; Customized Single-Family Homes over \$2,000

Mid-Atlantic Builders

- Amherst, Beechtree; Single-Family Homes \$750 to \$800**
- Tara, Woodmore North; Single-Family Homes \$850 to \$900**

Mitchell & Best Homebuilders

- The Hamilton, Maple Lawn; Single-Family Homes \$750 to \$800*
- The Westport II, Waterford View; Single-Family Homes \$800 to \$850**

Monticello Homes, Inc.

- Private Residence; One-Of-A-Kind Single-Family Homes \$1,500 to \$2,000

Sekas Homes

- Yorkshire Model, Renzetti Residence, Rolling Ridge #3; One-Of-A-Kind Single-Family Homes \$500 to \$750

Stanley Martin

- Ballou III, Brambleton; Single-Family Homes \$700 to \$750*

WCI/Renaissance Communities

- Grand Monet Platinum, Beacon Hill; Customized Single-Family Homes \$1,000 to \$1,500

Attached Housing Awards

Following is a list of Monument Award winners in attached housing categories over \$700,000. Prices shown are in the 1,000s.

Beazer Homes

- Braxton, Lansdowne on the Potomac Courtyard Homes; Attached Housing \$700 to \$800

WCI/Renaissance

- The Thoreau, Eagle Ridge at River Creek; Attached Housing Over \$800

New Condominium/ Co-Op/Conversion Awards

Following is a list of Monument Award winners in new condominium, co-op or conversion categories over \$600,000. Prices shown are in the 1,000s.

Bozzuto Homes, Inc.

- Lancaster Central Tier, President's Point at Spinnaker Bay; New Condominiums/Co-Ops/Conversions Over \$750