



June 2009

in this issue

[The Wright Stuff](#)

[Sustainable Ideas](#)

[Cracking the Code](#)

quick links

[Meyer & Meyer](#)

[Envision Kitchen and Bath](#)

[Green Building Tax Credit](#)

[Hardwood Closet Organizer Systems](#)

[Previous M&M Newsletters](#)

[Contacts @ Meyer & Meyer](#)

[Bob Kostelny - Owner](#)

[Randy Meyer - Owner](#)

[Joe Klocke - Sr PM](#)

[Brian Paciorkowski - PM](#)

[Rick Meyer - Estimator](#)

[Wesley Ward - Kitchen](#)

[Design](#)

[Marilyn Smolenski - Off](#)

[Mgr](#)

Green Building

**Meyer & Meyer
Construction
is an**



**partner
and a**



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Summer is upon us again, even though it seems like we just welcomed in the new year. It's interesting how time is relative: six months can seem like a lengthy period at the start of a project, but many people who began remodeling projects at the beginning of 2009 are already enjoying the positive changes they've introduced into their homes.

This is an especially good time to begin a home remodeling project, and people are starting to realize it - there has been an increased level of construction activity in the last two months. In addition to the obvious benefits that warm weather provides for construction projects, interest rates remain low, and there are various incentives currently available for remodeling work of all types and scope. For example, there's a \$1500 tax credit for energy efficient upgrades, and our cabinet vendors are offering promotion discounts. At Meyer & Meyer we're always looking for new ways to enrich your environment, and in that vein we're pleased to announce that we're now offering hardwood closet organizer systems direct to our customers.

This edition's featured project highlights a new home in the timeless Prairie School style. Our "green" feature takes a look at how the Prairie School's organic architecture is a concept that remains current in this time of environmental activism and awareness. And our final article outlines a global endeavor to codify construction standards - ones to which Meyer & Meyer already adheres.

Enjoy your summer, and please make time to stop by our offices to catch us up with what's new in your lives. And we can show off our expanded cabinet display area and selections center.

Sincerely,

Bob Kostelny



Featured Project

The Wright Stuff

When Marshall and Robin, Oak Park residents for 20 years, decided to move to Chicago's northern suburbs, they were determined to take one familiar aspect with them. Oak Park is home to arguably the world's largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed homes, and Marshall and Robin were longtime admirers of Wright's Prairie School Movement. So when they purchased a lot in Evanston's Ridge Historic District, they set out to build a home that embraced Wright-inspired organic architecture, which promotes harmony between the natural world and human residents through design.

The couple's soon-to-be-completed home, designed by Paul Florian and Isaac Eun of Florian Architects, has preserved the integrity of the Prairie School Movement. At 3500 square feet, the residence is composed of rooms that will be well-used. For example, there is no formal dining room, as Marshall and Robin do not want space that is used solely for special occasions. The area for dining is just off the kitchen - a place where visitors and family alike enjoy gathering. "And none of the rooms is particularly large," explained Marshall. "We wanted this house to be special without being inflated."

Horizontal lines, hipped roofs with overhanging eaves and windows grouped in horizontal bands are hallmarks of the Prairie School Movement, and all of this is incorporated into Marshall and Robin's home. Solid construction and craftsmanship is also associated with this style; to provide this, the couple chose Meyer & Meyer Construction. "We knew about the company's commitment to quality and craftsmanship and, initially, that was our focus. But the project management that they've provided has made this project exactly what we had hoped for. Our weekly meetings combined with their technical knowledge and adherence to budget is extremely valuable to us. Believe me, I've heard horror stories about runaway construction budgets."

Evanston's latest addition to its Prairie School collection will be complete and inhabited in early August.

Sustainable Ideas

To say that an architect was "ahead of his time" is almost trite. But in the case of Frank Lloyd Wright, there's no disputing the idea. Though his Prairie School Movement originated more than 100 years ago, its philosophy is perfectly relevant today.

Wright and his disciples took a holistic approach to architecture in which structures develop organically from their environment. He believed that the site, the terrain and the sun had to be incorporated into the project. In fact, his Prairie Style homes were intended to complement Midwestern topography. Wright's focus on harmonious conservation of our environment is a forerunner to today's hottest trend in construction - sustainable building.

Cracking the Code

In 1994 the International Code Council (ICC) was established to develop a single national model of construction codes, combining the wisdom and efforts of three code organizations that have been overseeing safe construction practices regionally. The 2009 International Energy Conservation Code is a product of the Council's work.

Part of the ICC's mission is to provide education and certification programs for contractors, municipal building officials, architects and manufacturers. Joe Klocke, Meyer & Meyer project manager, attended one such program in April on the fundamentals of ICC residential codes. While adherence to these codes is not yet mandatory, eventually it will be required, and Joe wanted a preview of Meyer & Meyer's future compliance requirements.

As the only contractor participant in the seminar (the others were code enforcers), Joe was often asked by the instructor to speak about builders' practices. "But the best part was that it was reassuring to know that Meyer & Meyer is already building to future code, so there will be no surprises as they become more stringent." The innovative air exchange system built into the home profiled above is but one example of Meyer & Meyer's early adherence to future requirements.