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Legal Eagle Contractors' Bawden
Has Plenty to Boast About

Legal Eagle Construction | Houston, Texas



Legal Eagle Contractors' Bawden Has Plenty to Boast About

By Kathy Bowen Stolz

Customers of Legal Eagle Contractors can walk through their completed houses before the materials are even ordered. How is that possible? Because the staff of this full-service remodeling and renovation firm can create 3-D virtual design plans within a few days of meeting with its customers.

"We can do a whole-house design in one week and a big room addition in two days," Dan Bawden, owner and president of the award-winning company that serves the entire Houston area, boasted.

"Our customers sometimes struggle to see how the dimensions on the blueprints translate into real life. By 'walking' through their houses in this early stage, they can adjust anything to fit their needs before it costs time and money."

And that's not all Dan can boast about. HOUZZ.com has named Legal Eagle Contractors as one of its Best of HOUZZ companies for six years, a feat that only 3 percent

of builders and designers achieve, according to Bawden. HOUZZ.com is now one of the company's greatest source of referrals, he noted.

Something else Dan can boast about? As an early proponent of aging-in-place design, Bawden is recognized as a national leader in the concept of building or renovating a home to allow its owners to live there even as their mobility decreases with age or illness. He helped create the Certified Aging in Place (CAPS) program and regularly teaches classes to other builders around the country, as well as discusses the topic on leading online, print, TV and radio outlets. Around Houston he speaks about aging-in-place design to senior groups and support groups, sharing a slide show of universal design ideas for homes.

While the aging-in-place/universal design movement started about 20 years ago, Bawden said it has really gained in popularity in the last five years.

His Baby Boomer customers are planning ahead and



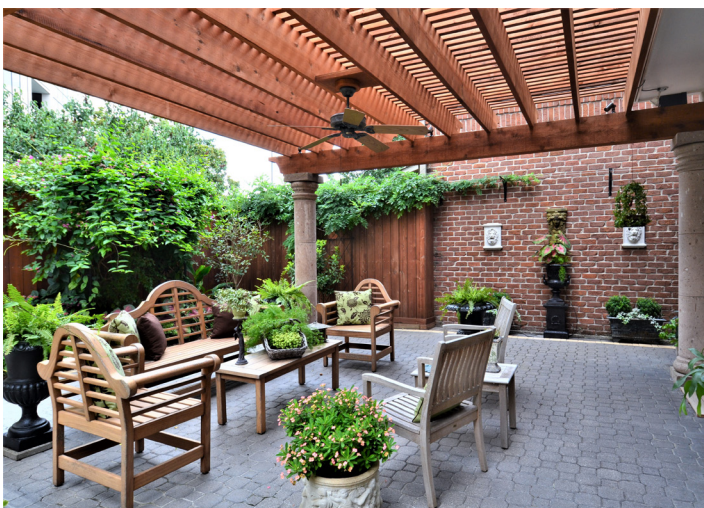
requesting adaptations, such as curb-less showers and wide doorways, because they've seen their parents struggle. If his customers don't request adaptations, he said he "strongly suggests" that they incorporate the ideas in their new home or remodeling projects; about 9.5 of every 10 customers do so once they see it can be done stylishly.

"Our curb-less showers are beautiful. Customers want them because they look cool, and they're good for everyone in the family."

Legal Eagle demonstrates these aging-in-place/universal design features at its Idea Center showroom in Bellaire. Bawden pointed out that the company showroom is an actual working house that was built in the 1980s, about the same time that many of the company's customers' homes were built. The showroom helps customers and even other builders envision the way aging-in-place features can be attractively incorporated into their own homes. "The Idea Center allows us to showcase our creative ideas that no one else has."

One of those ideas is "light cannons," one-inch-diameter glass cylinders 12 inches long that Legal Eagle Contractors can place in kitchen back-splashes to capture and disperse the light, illuminating the granite and today's spectacular quartz counter tops. "I invented these light cannons, as far





as I know.”

Dan can also boast that “our projects are closely managed and our trades are top-of-the line. Some have been building with us for over 20 years. Our process-driven approach minimizes risks and improves the outcome for our customers while also ensuring affordability.”

He said about 80 percent of the company’s business is from remodeling, while 20 percent is from new construction. He added, “We offer numerous architectural style options, including modern, traditional, urban, luxury and both single-and multi-story homes.”

Dan can also boast that he is past chairman (2017) of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Remodelers Division, the top leadership position in the country with oversight for the \$326 billion remodeling industry.

“It was a humbling experience to serve as national chairman for the remodeling industry. That year of service in 2017 allowed me to visit Remodelers Councils all across the country to take the pulse of this industry, made up mostly of small firms like mine.

“I had the opportunity to give best-practices seminars and see the inner workings of many remodeling companies. It was fascinating. I learned a lot that helps me make the



remodeling experience even better for my own clients.”

But that’s not the only way that Bawden serves the building industry. Besides serving as a previous president of local Remodeler’s Council, Dan is the first remodeling specialist ever to serve as president of the Greater Houston Builders Association. He is an accredited instructor for the NAHB, recently being honored as National CAPS Instructor of the Year. He is also a Graduate Master Builder, a Certified Graduate Remodeler, a Certified Aging in Place Specialist and a Certified Green Building Professional. He has also served almost 20 years on the board of directors of the Greater Houston Better Business Bureau.

If that were not enough, here’s one more thing Dan can boast about: “Something exciting going on right now is that I’ve been nominated for the NAHB Remodelers Hall of Fame!”

Dan is unique. He practices law in addition to managing Legal Eagle, both from the same desk, hence, the unusual name for his remodeling company. He specializes in estate planning, often doing wills and other documents for his building clients.. “I get a kick out of being useful to people in two very different disciplines.” In addition, Dan is a vocal soloist and trumpet player in musical theatre productions at the Hobby Center.

He also gets a kick out of traveling with his two adult children and their families, including skiing down the slopes of Colorado and California while the whole family is dressed in full-body cow suits, complete with udders! He boasted, “The best sales job I ever did was getting my wife into a cow suit!”

Yes, Dan Bawden, a man of many accomplishments, has plenty he can boast about after 37 years in the construction business. But if you want to hear him brag, ask him about his granddaughters Lucy and Maeve!

*For more information
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www.legaleaglecontractors.com*

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