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Basic Builders' Work
Hides in Plain Sight

Houston, Texas



Basic Builders' Work Hides in Plain Sight

By Kathy Bowen Stolz

The work of Basic Builders Construction is all over greater Houston, but few people may realize it.

Its eye-catching and award-winning endeavors allow businesses to conduct their work efficiently in an atmosphere that enhances their image, whether that business is banking, medicine, law or hospitality. Basic Builders specializes in all areas of commercial interior construction and renovations, most typically in the office build-outs and remodeling that account for approximately 98 percent of its revenue.

Its notable recent projects include La Table in the Galleria; all Treebeards locations; Taste of Texas; the first floor lobby and food court at Esperson building; Tudor Pickering & Holt Co., an energy investment and merchant bank; Global Energy Capital; Laminack, Pirtle & Martines, a law firm; Empryeant; and CCRD Consulting Engineers. It is currently

constructing a wine bar and outdoor seating area for the Post Oak Hotel in the Galleria section of Houston.

In a rare residential project, Basic Builders completed a multimillion-dollar condominium town house unit in the River Oaks area.

In 2019, it even played a major role in the restoration and recreation of NASA's Mission Control Room at the Johnson Space Center to commemorate the 50th anniversary of man's landing on the moon!

"We have the experience, the ability, and the manpower to bid and execute any size job, from building standard construction to custom-design decor. No job is too small or too large," according to Roxane Baer, company president. Projects range from \$1,000 to \$3 million.



Since its founding in 1989, co-owner and vice-president Don Baer has set high standards, according to John Fares, millwork supervisor. “I go into places [done by other contractors], look at the quality of work, and wonder how they got away with it. Don Baer wants the work done right the first time without cutting corners. He expects the best quality of materials and work possible.”

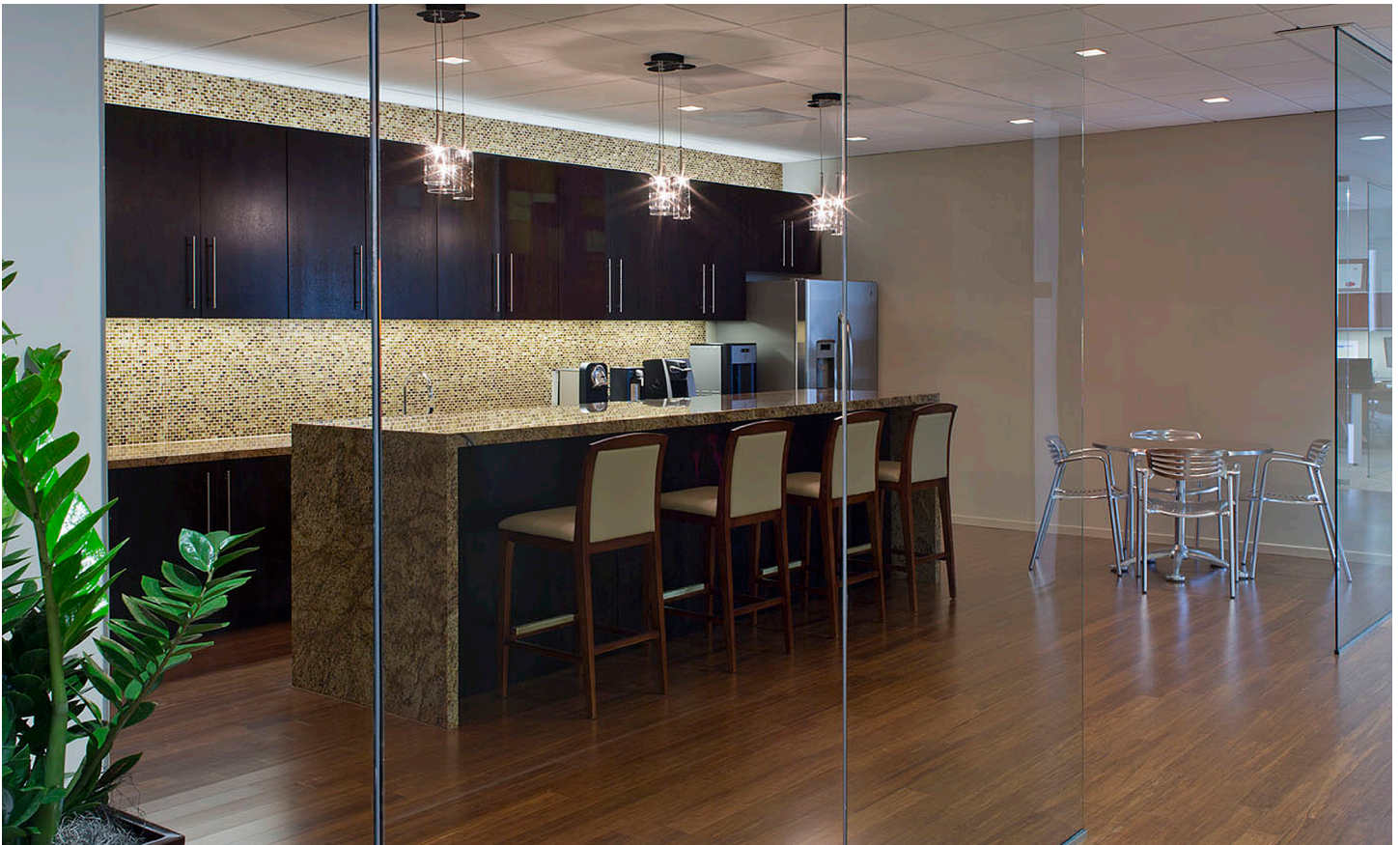
Basic Builders maintains high standards and strives to complete projects ahead of schedule, agreed Jessica Kuhns, assistant project manager and millwork administrative assistant. “Because most of our projects consist of interior work, we don’t have to fight the weather to stay on schedule,” she said. Having an on-site warehouse also helps the company meet deadlines.

“We are one of the few general contractors that has its own millwork shop,” Fares said. Having a cabinet shop “allows us to control the quality. We treat all projects as high-end. Everything is custom-made. Nothing is stock. We use only domestic products, with most coming from Hardwood Products here in Houston.”

Basic Builders counts five cabinet makers among its 39 employees. Fares and two other cabinetmakers joined the company when their cabinet shop was acquired by Basic Builders in 1996.

Its four field superintendents, each with 30 or more years of experience, supervise five to six projects at a time. While subcontractors handle electrical, plumbing and HVAC, “we pride ourselves on the work we do in-house, which includes demolition, drywall, doors, frames, hardware, ceilings and millwork,” according to Roxane Baer.





include Transwestern, Hines, CBRE, Stream Realty, Parkway Properties and Landry's, according to Kuhns.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected Basic Builders, as it has most businesses. "Because of the pandemic, people have been holding off on changing offices. Our business slowed down over the past year and a half, but it's picking up again," Fares commented. "It's starting to get back to where it was."

And Basic Builders is ready to meet the challenge!

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Many of Basic Builders' jobs come from professional referrals. Its owners have a relationship with such architectural firms as MARs, Rottet Architects, Gensler and Zeigler-Cooper. Referring property management companies

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