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LeBlanc Custom Homes, A Step Ahead of the Pack

LeBlanc Custom Homes | Houston, Texas



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By **Mary Lynn Mabray, ASID**

Todd LeBlanc, President of Leblanc Custom Homes and former GHBA BUILDER OF THE YEAR, isn't just your typical mass market multi-family homebuilder, although he could be if he wanted to be part of a large conglomerate. He would much rather be known as a master builder who takes his time and builds an exceptional home for families. His homes are not only multi-functional; but they aesthetically pleasing, and always a step ahead of the competition.

Although he tends to specialize in new home construction, he has done major renovations in some of Houston's finest neighborhoods such as Tanglewood, Briargrove and the Memorial Villages. Undertaking the build-out of a new home or a renovation of a current home is one of the most stressful events that can ever happen during a family's lifetime. It is time consuming, decision

heavy and a constant educational process. Building is expensive, complex, and can be overwhelming. Products and materials are always changing. It is very important to the overall success of a project that the construction management process be updated and double checked on a daily basis.

A custom homebuilder must have a vast knowledge of construction in general, and the mental database of a computer. Todd understands the importance of a being the kind of professional whose work speaks for its self. It is the goal of LeBlanc Custom Homes, that clients recognize they are leaders within the industry. Todd prides himself as being a man who thinks outside the box; but that he is also personally involved in the day-to-day construction and finishing process. He and his team are always available to answer all questions or implement needed or requested



changes with confidence. A client needs to be able to relax, and also know that their builder as well as his team will take care of their concerns.

Todd's father was a builder; hence, he was brought up by a man who built solid family homes that were functional and followed classical styles. His father was a man with a strong ethical code, who felt the sale price was not as important as a satisfied client. That philosophy obviously rubbed off on Todd.

Todd's undergraduate degree from LSU and MBA from Baylor University was not in civil engineering, or construction management, but rather quantitative business analysis. Along the way, Todd worked as a computer software consultant. Both backgrounds have benefitted his success and understanding as a homebuilder. In addition, he is also a Certified Graduate Builder (CGB), Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR), and has over 20 years of project management experience.

LeBlanc Custom Homes builds three to four custom or spec homes a year. With fewer projects, they are able to provide each client with the detailed personal attention that is expected and required. They focus on traditional, transitional, and modern styled residences.

Although, home building was not an original goal,

construction was always a skill and hobby that he utilized throughout high school and college, and where he found he excelled and felt "at home". Todd worked construction after school along side his father on the various residential projects that his Dad might be building at any given point in time. He was in his twenties, and working as a software consultant when he decided to build a house on his own. The "bug" to build something of substance obviously lasted as evidenced by his lengthy career within the building industry.

Todd's entire family, his wife and their children are involved in some form or fashion with his business. If he builds a spec home, he and his family move into that home with the intent to improve the next home by testing out the many aspects that are involved in this particular home.

Their checklist is as follows:

- 1) Does the kitchen triangle work effectively or does the sink need to be relocated to the working island in the next house? Are the appliances easy to use or too complicated for a harried family? Does the entry introduce a visitor to the personality of the people who live in this home? Is it pleasant and inviting?
- 2) Are the bedrooms a comfortable size, and is there enough closet or storage space for a family of three or four?



3) Is the lighting adequate or do LED wall-washers need to be added to showcase art, and or sculpture?

4) Is the living and dining space serviceable for entertaining, and how does the outdoor space work with the number of functions that are critical to a well-planned home? Is there a place for teenagers to gather and have fun without disturbing the adults? Are these spaces the heart of the home or just a space?

5) Has the architect's floor plan, traffic pattern and flow worked well, or is there dead space? What statement does the house and exterior details make from the street? Is it welcoming?

6) Has the interior designer's color scheme, material selections and or furnishings along with window treatments, flowed throughout the house?

7) Are the materials used to construct an outdoor entertainment area and pool effective? Are they safe? Are they practical? Do they meld together with the home's interior to form an aesthetic bond?

8) Are the bathrooms compatible with the family's

everyday living? Are there enough sinks, showers, tubs, and privacy?

9) How does the garage and driveway function. Is there enough space to park multiple vehicles both large and small? Does the garage have enough storage space? Is it functional?

10) Is the landscaping sustainable from year to year? Will the plants come back after a freeze, or must they be replaced each year?

These are just a few of the important questions that are addressed by the LeBlanc family. This input is instrumental in improving the value of the next LeBlanc Custom Home or spec house.

*For more information about
LeBlanc Custom Homes
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