

# THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

## INSIDE SHOWCASE



**HARDWOOD**  
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Preserving Houston's Heritage

Gifford Construction | Houston, Texas

# Gifford Construction - Preserving Houston's Heritage

By Mary Lynn Mabray, ASID

It isn't often that we feature a construction company that specializes in protecting Houston's historical past. KC Gifford's company is well prepared to take on any project that requires historical preservation as well as renovate historical homes to bring them into the twenty-first century.

"The mission of the historical society is to encourage, advocate and administer the discovery, collection, preservation, and publication of historical information relating to Harris County and to educate the public about the important history of Harris County, Texas."



KC is one of the few remodelers on a first-name basis with Harris County inspectors and the board of HAHC. His company has renovated historic homes in the Heights, Memorial, Montrose, Southampton Place, and the inner city's 6th Ward. There is quite a process to gain the approval of the thirteen-member board to receive a certificate of appropriateness. Because Gifford Construction has been in business for the past fifteen years, often remodeling historic homes, he's earned a vast amount of credibility as an expert in the field.

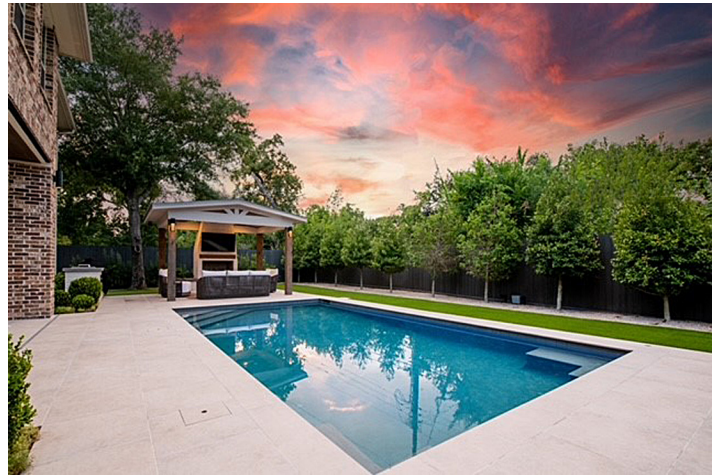
Prior to forming his own remodeling business, Keith KC worked odd jobs starting when he was sixteen. Doing so taught him various talents such as tree trimming, the skill of roofing, and knowledge of complete construction. He went on to work with Lennar Homes, HHN Homes building townhouses, and Crawford Renovations. His interest in historical renovation was piqued after he established Gifford Construction and began receiving referrals in the historic area of the Heights.

All builders must adhere to the rules and regulations for renovating a historic home, and there are many. Potential buyers and homeowners need a seasoned builder who can guide them through the mountains of requirements and paperwork. Alteration, to name one area, includes: replacing historical material such as siding, railings, columns, beams, walls, porches, steps, balconies, painting, adding or eliminating doors or windows, or removing any and all existing structure.

Rehabilitation means returning a building, structure, or site to a state of utility that makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving portions or exterior features that are historically, architecturally, and culturally significant.

KC mentioned that current homeowners are leaning toward transitional style - design that straddles the line between tradition and modern. Potential buyers should know that all





changes must be approved by the 13-member preservation board, even if another structure must be removed before construction begins.

Clients who own or are contemplating the purchase of a historical home need a seasoned renovator who has an innate understanding of a city's history and how a city strives to protect the integrity of historic structures. KC Gifford is a builder that understands both remodeling and the problematic constraints of historical renovation.

*KC Gifford can be reached at  
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and/or  
KC@GiffordConstruction.com.*

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