

THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

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A modern kitchen featuring dark blue cabinets with brass handles, a white marble island with a thick countertop, and a large brass pendant light. The backsplash is made of small, light-colored tiles. A vase with green branches sits on the island. The floor is made of light-colored stone tiles.

Yoder Remodels
Built on Relationships



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By Kathy Bowen Stolz

For Andrew “Drew” Yoder, relationships – whether with homeowners, interior designers, subcontractors or family members – are the key to his company’s success. “I want them to think of me as somebody they can trust in all aspects of the construction process,” he stated.

As president of Yoder Remodels, Drew depends on the relationships he has cultivated to connect with homeowners who are seeking a contractor to execute their vision of a dream home. “Many of our clients are trying to make a house into their home,” he noted.

“My job is to provide experience, guidance and problem-solving, in addition to high quality execution, for the clients [designers and homeowners] I work with. Without

the craftsmanship, the selection of the right materials and a well-managed process, what might be a great design on paper will end up feeling like a low-budget and poorly planned project. Regardless of what level of planning the client comes to us with, we are able to provide the necessary guidance to the clients to help make their visions come to life,” he explained.

Yoder said that because of the value he places on relationships, he has a 75 percent referral rate for his business. “As they say, ‘A referral from a happy customer is as good as a repeating customer.’ We also get a lot of repeating customers,” he noted.

Drew respects the clients’ wishes. “What I try to do is



provide personalized service. I put myself in the position of the homeowner. This is their home, their money that they're investing. I want to make the time and money worth the process. I want to make sure they get the house they want. When it's all said and done, if they want to make a change, it's their home, their decision-making process," he continued.

Unlike many others in the construction industry, Drew Yoder prefers residential remodeling. "I find it to be meaningful work – more than just slapping up a house. Seeing a happy customer, helping them achieve their dream by fulfilling their wants and needs is very satisfying. I like the type of projects that I'm doing, creating something for them and their families that they can enjoy for a long time."

The company's official name is A. Yoder Construction, LLC, but does business as Yoder Remodels because the shorter version explains the work better, he said. No matter what the name is, the company is a full-service general contractor that can revamp a single room or an entire house or update an exterior, including roofs, drives and landscaping. Of course, there are a lot of kitchen and bathroom remodels in the mix.

Yoder focuses on the Memorial area of Houston, near where he lives. He typically has 4-7 projects ongoing but makes sure he never takes on more than he can handle, maintaining a balance by having projects in different stages at any given time. He bids projects in all price ranges, with a whole home interior remodel typically taking 9-12 months and a master bath taking 90-120 days. Each project is a little bit different, and he likes the variety in his work.

Relationships with quality tradespeople are also important in Yoder Remodels. Growing up in Indiana and Georgia doing electrical, flooring, carpentry and saw-mill work, Drew seldom pounds a hammer these days, but he knows



how to do all facets of construction, which makes him selective about hiring subcontractors. “I look for subs that are able and willing to do the work that I want. I know what’s right.”

This family-owned business depends on good working relationships within the business also. His wife Skevi handles the marketing and social media for the company while Drew is president and project manager; their older son Arnold is learning the business from his father as well as subcontractors. Their younger son Anthony, who is still in college, is also expected to join the company, but it’s too soon to tell if daughter Katerina, an eighth grader, will choose the same path.

After serving in the United States Marine Corps, Drew worked 11 years in sales and customer service followed by eight years as a project manager for a commercial construction firm. The devastation of Hurricane Harvey in 2017 led him to self-employment after he took a leave of absence to repair his own flooded home and those of his neighbors. He never went back to work for someone else, starting A. Yoder Construction in October 2017. He just wishes he would have taken the leap sooner.







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