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Reinhardt Homes Build,
Deliver Quality Homes

Reinhardt Homes | Houston, Texas



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By Kathy Bowen Stolz

Few builders know better than Trent Elliott, owner of Reinhardt Homes, what it takes to build a good quality home, whether it's the electrical, mechanical or structural elements of the home.

You see, Trent was licensed through the Texas Real Estate Commission as a residential home inspector and was also certified in the International Residential Code through the International Code Council. As a licensed inspector, he personally conducted thousands of inspections, checking other builders' work for 15 years as the owner of In-Depth Home Inspection while he was also building homes.

But, because he's so busy building custom homes in Conroe, Montgomery and surrounding Montgomery County, Elliott no longer inspects others' work. However, he includes three independent inspections at

the foundation, framing and final stage of every house, allowing his houses to qualify for a 10-year warranty through StrucSure Home Warranty. "I know the inner workings of building. A lot of builders don't know the codes," he pointed out.

He said he encourages the inspectors to find anything they can wrong with one of his houses so that he can ensure the homebuyers they have a top-quality home. Elliott said Montgomery County does not require inspections for homes built outside of city limits, but he's had every house he's ever built inspected. The company motto for Reinhardt Homes is "building and delivering a high quality home with superb customer service."

"We believe in doing what's right because we've got to live where we work, where I grew up. We rely on word-

of-mouth referrals. Not only are the aesthetics of a home important, but we focus on everything behind the walls that people can't see. We try to do a good, quality job. We have integrity," Trent said. "Almost everything we do relies on word-of-mouth referrals. In essence, we are a good, family company that is based on customer service."

Family is important to Elliott. He named the homebuilding division of his company Reinhardt Homes to honor his grandfather, Paul Reinhardt Stichler, who was a hardworking man of great integrity, he said.

His wife Shannon is his partner in the parent company of Trent Elliott Homes, Inc., handling the scheduling and bookkeeping for the company since they started in 1996. They have three children who are active in sports, including travel teams for volleyball, basketball and baseball, which demand much of their focus during their non-working hours.

Both he and Shannon are former teachers. Trent taught physical science and coached football and track for two years after graduating from the University of Texas, where he played football.

His introduction to building came while working on a

framing crew with his brother-in-law during summer breaks. He loved the outdoor workplace, the sense of freedom and the camaraderie of being on the crew. Because teaching didn't pay enough after he and his wife started a family, he left the profession for insurance sales. "I loved working with the kids. I just couldn't make any money at it."

But after the experience of building his own home, he reoriented his career once again, working for Village Builders in Houston for several years to learn the business before striking out on his own. "I always knew that I wanted to work for myself," he stated.

"Building is like making a big 3-D puzzle. Reading the plans, breaking the project down into pieces, creating something from nothing. That all appealed to me."

What also appealed to Trent is the variety that comes in a typical work day. "Every day it's something different; there's always some kind of challenge. I like solving problems.

"I also like dealing with people. The biggest thing is communication. A lot of people aren't visual, so I spend time explaining the changes and stages of their house



through the construction process. It's only when we reach that sheetrock stage that most can get a true vision of their home." He likes to keep in very close contact with the homeowner during construction and prides himself in being on-site daily.

He said he encourages his homebuyers to come to the building site with him. He wants them to ask questions and talk about changes and the building process. He feels communication is key in helping the homeowner have a peace of mind so they can enjoy the excitement of watching their new home being built.

good job for us. They know my expectations, and that helps for a smoother building process. They know I like a clean job site, which always makes our clients happy."

Reinhardt Homes also employs two workers who primarily do touch-up work.

Most of the homes he builds are on or around Lake Conroe, but it's getting a lot harder to find lots in that area, he said, because of population growth. The reputation of Montgomery County schools is drawing people to the area, as well as the appeal of the lake itself, which draws families as well as retirees.



Elliott typically builds eight to 10 homes each year, which range in size from 1,500 to 9,000 sq. ft., although the typical size is 3,500 to 5,000 sq. ft., a size which takes six months or less to complete from the time the foundation is poured. That average house is priced at \$400,000 to \$700,000 and appeals to second- or third-time homebuyers.

He uses subcontractors that have proven themselves throughout the years, who are the best in their trade. "I know their strengths and weaknesses. The guys I've stuck with for a long time are the guys that have done a





“This area is growing so fast, with production builders coming in to Conroe and Montgomery. I’m starting to consider marketing and advertising for the first time because new folks coming in don’t know our reputation. I’m also considering building some spec homes for the first time. I want to get in front of the growth.”

The challenge of finding good lots has Elliott scouting for property to develop himself. “Bigger acreage lots are getting few and far between. Land is getting ‘way up there in price. Lots that cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 two years ago are now \$80,000 to \$90,000.”

But no matter how Reinhardt Homes evolves, the company will stay focused on building and delivering quality homes. After all, that’s not only the company’s motto, that’s its reputation.

For more information, call Trent Elliott at 936-203-1529 or write info@reinhardthomes.com or visit www.reinhardthomes.com. The office is located at 15001 Walden Road, Suite 214A, Montgomery, TX 77356.



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