

# THE BUILDER'S JOURNAL

South Central Michigan Edition



From left to right: Chad Nestor, Shawn Baker, Charlotte Fisher, Randy Baker, Brian Bristol and standing in the back is Kim Sherrard. Not pictured Jason Spink, and Steve Holt.

**R. L. Baker Construction**  
Designing Homes Around Lifestyles



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# Designing Homes Around Lifestyles

by: Lynn Baldwin

Embarking upon a major remodeling project or building a new home can be daunting. With plans and budgets developed in-house, R.L. Baker Construction ensures customers have a satisfying sense of design and cost.

While the project size may vary, the starting point remains consistent: "We design most of what we build." Therefore, having a firm grasp of the customer's thoughts from the beginning enables the R.L. Baker Construction team to design the project within their parameters.

The primary focus is to develop innovative and creative designs tailored to the individual, using the first meeting with a new client to "get to know the family a little bit." Their way of living, preferred method of entertaining, hopes and concerns all provide insight that help develop "the right kind of plan."

As final drawings are committed to paper, specifications and products that will go into the project are translated from budgets to actual costs. This predetermined approach leads to "designs that end up being built" rather than

plans that are difficult to translate from paper to reality.

Most of R. L. Baker Construction's projects are renovations of homes along one of Brooklyn's many lakefronts. Sometimes, a home purchased as a cottage requires a complete "facelift" to be used as a full-time residence when the owners retire. A customer purchasing an older home may want an addition, design update or renovation so the home better reflects the owner's lifestyle needs and preferences. Creating additional space, expanding kitchens and

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have built several of his neighbor's houses. "It's very satisfying to be able to build in my own neighborhood."

Besides residential work, R. L. Baker Construction has built a number of large-scale commercial projects. Within the last year, the remaining parcels of a company-developed and -owned industrial park were sold to a manufacturer of concrete landscaping and paving products. R.L. Baker Construction was also the builder of their manufacturing facility located just West of Cement City on US-127. Other recent commercial projects include a medical clinic in the village of Brooklyn.

Whether he's remodeling, renovating or building homes, Randy clearly enjoys the creativity of designing and building distinctive projects with unique features. To enhance the individualized look and quality of his homes, Randy relies heavily upon his staff to provide thought and insight to the work in progress as well as creative details. Client interaction with onsite personnel has led to many well-received suggestions that "make a huge difference in the look and style of the house, but don't always add that much to the total cost of the project."

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baths, and updating or enhancing the exterior look of windows, siding, or roofing are examples of the comprehensive scope of services offered by R. L. Baker Construction.

All of their services come together when the company designs and builds custom homes. Recently, a planned renovation project turned into demolition and construction of a new home when Randy and the homeowner came to the mutual decision that this approach would be the most effective way to arrive at the best use of the site. Other times, customers come to R. L. Baker looking for distinctive homes that reflect their tastes and personality. Randy is proud to





Contact R. L. Baker Construction  
517-592-4167  
[www.rlbakerconstruction.com](http://www.rlbakerconstruction.com)