



On The LEVEL

we listen. we learn. we perform.

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◆ CAPALDI ◆
Building Company
Since 1945

We build people's dreams.

P.O. Box 996
Birmingham, MI 48012
248.288.5500



www.CapaldiBuilding.com

Trends in Home Living Spaces

BY FRED CAPALDI

It has often been said said that if you stand still, you're going backwards. That goes for trends in housing. Over the years we have all seen changes in housing. From design to textures, housing never stops evolving. It's not just because of product innovation either. Family size, environmental concerns and economics also drive new directions.

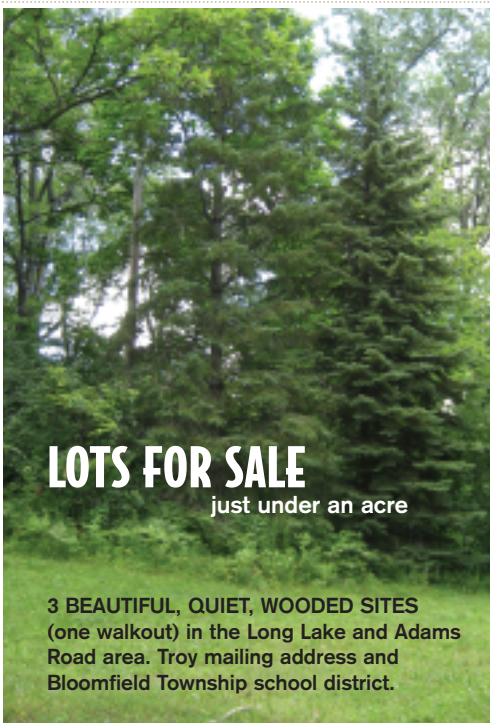
We recently attended a seminar that dealt with housing trends. "Green Housing" was the buzz, and it's for real. In short, this trend involves the use of environmentally friendly products that, when properly integrated into a home, not only consider the environment but also reduce energy bills. Through the years, technology has assisted builders to build tighter, more energy efficient homes by optimizing the use and installation of insulation. For instance, by simply duct sealing and properly insulating your home, you can reduce ex-filtration of heated or cooled air by approximately 40 percent. This investment delivers dividends in the years to come and also reduces energy consumption. (Green is much more than just energy usage, though. See the article on the inside of this newsletter for other Green ideas.)

Other trends that we see coming in the years ahead are based on family lifestyle changes. Tomorrow's home design will be quite casual. Rooms will flow together more freely, and the doors and walls that once separated living areas will be removed. Rooms will have mixed use purposes. Open space will integrate kitchen, dining and family living areas. The grand foyer will flow into the open design of the kitchen-dining, family room area. Rooms that once were thought of as essential to design, such as formal dining and the den, will be combined into living areas that are open and inviting to all family members. The so-called den will become open space that incorporates a computer station or study area for the children, and a work desk for the homeowner. Even the once large, spacious master bath will be reduced and become functional and spa-like in appearance.

Design will be softer, with arches that replace doors and volume ceilings. Interior design will incorporate exterior elements such as covered patios, cooking areas, audio and video components or fireplaces which will help to extend the time that a family spends outside. "Outdoor Living" is becoming more and more popular, not only in "warmer weather" climates but in the Midwest areas as well.

These are just some of the trends that we see coming in the not-so-distant future. Some of them will be incorporated into houses and remain, and naturally some will fade and be replaced by new trends.

If you are dreaming about a new home or an addition or remodeling project, perhaps these ideas will stimulate your creative side. For more information about what we have learned about trends, please feel free to give us a call! —◆—



LOTS FOR SALE
just under an acre

3 BEAUTIFUL, QUIET, WOODED SITES
(one walkout) in the Long Lake and Adams
Road area. Troy mailing address and
Bloomfield Township school district.



BUILDING GREEN

Building green or remodeling green involves materials, and good, smart building practices. Builders and homeowners can work together to research sustainable products, and you can also be green just by planning ahead.

Often you can use the surroundings to incorporate the environment:

- Consider existing trees that may lend shade to cool the residence
- Position the addition or new residence on the site to influence the amount of sun exposure and how the space might be heated and cooled naturally
- Orient the structure to help ventilate the space depending on the wind pattern
- Seal the gaps around windows and electrical outlets to help air infiltration or leakage.

By setting aside time during the design or planning phase to consider a few of these items you'll be able to improve your home environment, while helping the natural environment. —◆—

What's this new code requirement for an Arc Fault Interrupter Circuit (AFIC) for all bedrooms?

Do I really need this?

The Arc Fault Circuit became a requirement for all new construction and most remodeling work on January 1, 2002. The purpose of this Arc Fault Circuit is to detect any arc which may occur along the wiring. Too small to be detected by the regular house circuit breaker, this arc could cause a fire.

These small arcs may be caused by any number of typical activities, such as a nail striking a wire when you're hanging a picture or leaving an appliance (such as a vacuum) in the "on" position when you unplug it. Loose wires in the electrical box can also cause these arcs. Quite often, the homeowner has done nothing to cause this arcing.

How likely is this to happen — do you really need to worry about this? Yes. While this type of circuit, along with the GFIC we discussed last issue of *On the Level*, can be a nuisance, they prevent damage, protect us and, perhaps, even save lives. Additional requirements to install AFIC in other rooms of our homes are expected during the next round of code revisions. —◆—

For some time now, Capaldi Building Company has been working with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that helps to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness in Oakland County and around the world, to build and renovate houses in order to put a roof over the heads of families in need. Capaldi Building Company regularly donates gently used building supplies that will go to build homes for poverty-stricken families in Oakland County.

Habitat for Humanity accepts gently-used building materials, furniture, appliances, lighting fixtures and furniture. So the next time you want to redecorate, remodel or simply replace an old appliance, think of Habitat for Humanity; you will be both helping families in need and reducing waste in our landfills.

All donations are tax deductible and they will even send a driver out to pick up your belongings. —◆—

Contact
Habitat for Humanity
of Oakland County
248.338.1843



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Building Company

P.O. Box 996
 Birmingham, MI 48012
 248.288.5500



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On The
LEVEL

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How often do I clean the air cleaner?

If you an HVAC system that is equipped with an electronic air cleaner you should check it on a semi-annual basis. If the plates and wires appear to have a buildup of debris on them, then it's time to remove the air cleaner, thoroughly clean and dry it, and replace it. It is best to attend to this when you turn off the heat in the spring, and when you turn it back on in the fall.

a closer look:

RAY ELECTRIC and LIGHTING CENTERS

STERLING HEIGHTS | TROY | ROSEVILLE | NOVI

Capaldi Building Company partners with construction

suppliers that have worked with Capaldi for years — some for over three decades! In this issue, we introduce you to Ray Electric.

Q. *Your contractor client base is facing a tough market right now in Michigan, how are you able to help them?*

The obvious answer is “by providing competitive prices.” But that doesn't really tell the whole story. Ray Electric has always been and will always be focused on looking out for the best interests of our clients. We look for ways to help them find better solutions and we deliver what they need to be successful.

Over the last 70 years, our firm has been through tough times before. The relationships we enjoy have lasted through those tough times. We are in business to look out for the best interests of our customers. They know that. —◆—

Q. *Another big issue today is rising energy costs. What trends are you seeing in the lighting industry as a result?*

“Green design” has been increasing quickly in popularity. Commercial developers have been more and more interested in sustainable design and LEED™ accreditation over the past few years, but now this trend is hitting the residential market as well. I think rising energy costs have gone a long way to increase our social conscious — everyone is looking for ways to use less energy and save money. —◆—

Q. *Seventy years is a long time to be in business. What makes Ray Electric different?*

We are truly focused on our customers and our employees, and we do whatever we can do to build a healthy long-term relationship with them. Of our 60 full-time employees, over 25 have been with us over 20 years, and 10 have been with us over 30 years! This consistency gives our customers access to very experienced, dedicated staff to assist them. We work hard to give our employees respect and attention, and they extend that to our customers. —◆—

The DeSteiger family has been providing electrical supplies and lighting to Southeast Michigan contractors and homeowners for over 70 years



Interested in learning more?

Go to www.rayelectricsupply.com
or www.raylightingcenters.com
or contact Pete DeSteiger at 586.739.9700
or pdeste@ray-electric.com

Seasonal TIPS

To Be Done October 1 - December 1

- Make sure humidifier is in the winter position or turned on after the AC is turned off.
- Have furnace checked for winter heating season by a reputable HVAC contractor.
- Check exterior caulking.
- Clean out gutters and valleys.
- Turn off faucets to the exterior.
- Wash your windows.
- Blow out the sprinkler system.
- Check door weather strip.
- Clean the dryer vent.
- Look in the attic for any signs of water intrusion.
- Clean the gas grill.
- Prepare for seasonal decorations.
- Seal any cracks in the concrete flat surfaces.
- Plan now for any additions or alterations contemplated for next summer.
- Inspect the roof and flashings for any signs of possible damage. (use binoculars)
- Replace any burned out bulbs in the exterior light fixtures.
- Clean out the window wells.
- Conduct a family "fire drill".
Select a meeting site in case of fire.
- Test all smoke detectors.
- Conduct a test of your burglar alarm system.
- Lubricate all hinges on garage doors and exterior doors.



featured project:

KITCHEN REMODEL • LAUNDRY ROOM + FRONT ENTRY ADDITION



kitchen before



front entry before



This remodel impacts the livability and modernization of this Northville home tremendously! Working with the homeowner, Capaldi assisted with a complete renovation of the kitchen (top left) and the addition of a new laundry room and front entry (shown at right).

Wow! Critical to the homeowner was our ability to match the new bump out brick with existing brick. Working with a company that specializes in brick staining, we were able to match the texture, size and color of the existing brick.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

Capaldi Building featured on Oprah

Capaldi Building Company was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show this Spring. In April we were contacted by the producers of the show for a segment they were doing on Mud Rooms. One of our newspaper articles was discovered online by producers and that led to contributing information and photographs for the taping of the show, which aired Friday, April 25th.

Planning a construction or remodeling project? Now is the time to call Capaldi!