



# DOING *It* Right

## Perfecting the Process of Building

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After building five times, Jack and Carol easily honed in on exactly what they wanted and what type of builder they needed to build their lake-front home in Caledonia. Previous experience had given them a wealth of knowledge to proceed with building house number six. The key was finding exactly the right people to create and build a home that was warm, practical, spacious and great for entertaining.

Jack and Carol interviewed three builders. Tim VerStrate, with a reputation for superior craftsman and integrity, was elected for the task of building their dream home. Carol had worked with designer Laura Davidson before and now she could create the visual charm she desired. Home designer Kerry Fitzpatrick took the time to get to know them and their lifestyle by visiting their existing home and scrutinizing how it functioned.

Finding the perfect team proved even more valuable when Carol fell and broke her leg at the building site. A January thaw had re-frozen, leaving icy patches along the walkways. She was laid-up for six weeks. This is where the expertise and responsibilities entrusted to builder and designers proved to be more important than Jack and Carol could have anticipated. The process of building continued via e-mail and personal visits with an unwavering amount of trust. "Tim was very trustworthy and when he offered a suggestion, we knew he had our best interest in mind," explains Carol.

Building this home, with lots of comfort and warmth suitable for entertaining, continued at full speed. Kitchen and dining were at the core. The main floor kitchen has a 13-foot island, providing a workspace for multiple cooks. A serving counter with beverage cooler is perfect for buffets. The lower level kitchen

offers numerous options for entertaining, as well as serving food poolside, indoors and out. Both kitchens offer options for formal and informal dining. When Michigan weather is not cooperative for outdoor grilling, entertaining inside is an easy and simple option. Most recently, the luxury kitchens served a graduation party of 200 guests effortlessly.

There is much to love about the home's two kitchens. However, the pantry is a favorite and Carol says it well when she encourages others to "make room for this luxury."

With fifteen years difference between their youngest and oldest child, it was a priority for everyone to have their own space. A bedroom and family room above the garage cleverly provides a private getaway for the older children and their friends when visiting.

An apartment, complete with kitchen, private balcony and entrance, provides yet another space for in-laws and guests of all kinds.

Jack enjoys a completely different space—the back porch. It is up and away from the pool, outfitted with comfortable furnishings, and provides solace for reading, napping or just relaxing. At sunset, the space offers a magnificent view as well.

The homeowners agree Tim always had their best interest in mind, offering suggestions to improve their standard of living on things they would not have thought of such as their water treatment and hot water return systems, along with the epoxy surface on the garage floor. He took time to research products, scoping out their quality and value. "We never felt Tim was up-selling us or trying to get us to spend more money than he had bid the job," share Carol and Jack. "It was the most pleasant experience building we have ever had."

Of course, the exterior of the home also received the deluxe treatment. The understated exterior is accented with rain chains and beautiful galvanized gutters and downspouts.

All this luxury, comfort and beauty overlook the pool with a view of the lake, woods and a pond, creating an unparalleled visual connection to their surroundings. Jack and Carol say it best, "We did it right this time." □

**PREVIOUS PAGE**

ABOVE: Diverse elements create an interesting but understated exterior.

INSET: Tiers of landscaping and retaining walls take advantage of the exceptional lake, pond and wood views.

**THIS PAGE**

BELOW LEFT: The extremely large island provides ample seating and workspace for multiple cooks.

BELOW RIGHT: The dream team of builder and designers has created a livable, visually captivating home.

Relaxed glamour perfectly defines this Caledonia waterfront dream home.





## Picture Perfect Design in Every Room

**ABOVE:** Soft color palettes combine with fashionable fabrics to create a soothing environment.  
**BELOW LEFT:** A powder room at the front of the house combines clever design with privacy.  
**BELOW MIDDLE:** The uniqueness of these sliding doors is only a small sampling of builder Tim VerStrate's ingenuity.  
**BELOW RIGHT:** The multi-purpose laundry room showcases form and function.

**ABOVE:** A private master suite is situated away from the hustle and bustle of the house.  
**MIDDLE LEFT:** The master bath stays true to the luxury throughout the house.  
**MIDDLE RIGHT:** A lower level kitchen accommodates entertaining poolside for large and small gatherings.  
**BELOW:** This lower level living space provides just the right mix of warmth, comfort and luxury.





ABOVE: The covered patio overlooks the pool, pond, lake and woods.

BELOW: The pool completes the homeowner's desire for the perfect place to enjoy friends and family.

Appliances: **GERRIT'S APPLIANCE**  
Building Materials: **STANDALE LUMBER**  
Carpet: **PROSOURCE WHOLESALE FLOORCOVERINGS**  
Countertops: **TOP OF THE WORLD GRANITE**  
Decorative Hardware: **MODERN HARDWARE**  
Doors & Trim: **PHILLIP ELENBAAS FINE MILLWORK**  
Electrical Work: **ELDER'S ELECTRIC**  
Garage Floor Epoxy Coating: **CONCRETE REVIVAL**  
Interior Designer: **LAURA DAVIDSON / DWELLINGS**  
Insulation: **ADVANCED INSULATION TECHNOLOGIES**

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## Tim VerStrate Custom Homes Inc.

OWNER:  
Tim VerStrate

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:  
23

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:  
1988

EDUCATION:  
Davenport University  
Extensive on-site experience

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:  
I am dedicated to building exceptional homes with integrity, honesty and innovative building ideas.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?  
Tim VerStrate Custom Homes builds homes of exceptional quality, value and style. Each home is built with extraordinary attention to detail, as if it were our own.

HOBBIES:  
Tim enjoys time spent traveling with his family, and many outdoor activities including hunting and fishing. He serves on the board of the Home and Building Association of Greater Grand Rapids.

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