

CUSTOM HOME & GARDEN



the restoration of the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette, and a new community center for the Baha'i Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

The firm served as consultant to developers for the residences at Bloomingdale's, from ground breaking to completion.

Maire remembers drawing houses at an early age. His grandfather supplied him with building blocks and encouraged him to create structures with them. Maire's mother, a professional harpist, introduced him to music, and his musical talent developed simultaneously. Today, Maire's daily retreat at the piano is both respite and release, and it fuels his creative energies. Maire sees similarity between the two disciplines: "I find Bach and architecture are akin. Both are mathematical – and to me, architecture is the music of the spheres."

By the time Maire received his master's degree from Harvard University's School of Architecture, he had distilled those elements that make a building sing – warmth, sense of scale, and proportion – none of which are formulaic. But it is ultimately Maire's relaxed manner, his openness and honesty, and sense of professionalism that seal the contract with clients.

Wedged in with his broad knowledge base, creativity, and love of design is Maire's interest in society. He is acutely aware that in today's world, people are full of anxiety and holding on to the essentials. "The emphasis is now on what's personal to the clients, and they focus on that. It reflects in their taste in architecture. I always incorporate that element of individuality – the core of the client's soul – in my buildings. Man's spirit is meant to soar in these interior spaces," says Maire.

For Maire, building better communities is integral to gaining a better perspective on life. He is a member of American Institute of Architects and serves on the board of many philanthropic organizations.

GIRMSCHIED BUILDERS, INC. has been specializing in the design and construction of upscale custom homes since 1987. Architectural flair, outstanding craftsmanship and customer service have made Girmscheid an award-winning leader in its field.

Tom and Terry Girmscheid credit their company's success to its humble beginnings. Tom started as a trim carpenter with a specialty

in interiors and Terry has a design and business background. Attention to every detail sets Girmscheid's homes on a level above those of most other companies, insuring the satisfaction of their clients.

"People today are not aware of the whole process of building a custom home," says Terry, president. "We discuss wants, needs and budget, and everything is well thought out and priced out even before preliminary plans are drawn. The knowledge of the step-by-step process greatly reduces the stress factor in building and designing a truly custom home."

"It's a team effort with a lot of personal contact," adds Girmscheid Builders' operations manager Dan Tennett. "We spend a lot of time in the drawing phase so every aspect of the home is thoroughly considered -- including the budget. We are a design/build firm using the latest technologies." Tennett specializes in computer design.

Girmscheid Builders oversees the entire construction package, from site selection to interior furnishings. Normally, this entails working with clients for about a year -- three months for design and six to 12 months for construction.

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