



one-stop-shopping. In the past, architects used to receive an even larger percentage than they do today – often more than the builders. Now the situation is reversed. We handle both the architect and designer's fees in one package."

"I work with two notable architects: Elliot Dudnik in Evanston, also professor of architecture and engineering at UIC (University of Illinois at Chicago); and Sol Gonnella in Chicago," adds Muscarella.

Claire Construction caters to North Shore residents - from Evanston to Lake Bluff, and as far west as Milwaukee Avenue.

"I need to work in the same general vicinity, and eliminate travel time. Otherwise, I can't stay on top of things," explained Muscarella. "My goal is to build quality, finished products – ones that cannot be identified as an addition. It should always fit in with the flow of the house."

"There are priorities," adds Muscarella, "and every village has its own style. For example, the cottage style is popular in Skokie."

"The Great Room has replaced the living room and, in some cases, the dining room. Additional bedrooms are always in demand, as well as up-scale kitchens with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and wood or tile floors. Bathrooms range between \$10,000 and \$75,000, depending on the number of amenities. The Adult Water Park, also known as the master bath, has a host of 'requirements,' including body sprays and steam rooms."

As a remodeling contractor, Muscarella knows the importance of using the finest materials and superior craftsmanship.

"The future is always promising because someone is always remodeling. Now, my three sons – Anthony, Frank, and Nicholas – have joined me. They contribute to the design end of the business - and clients particularly appreciate their youthful ideas."

Rick Glickman, president of **DREAM KITCHENS, INC.** in Skokie, credits his business's success to his team approach. "We work as a coherent team; no one is the be-all and end-all. Each employee handles his or her task, plus each can easily track the information of other employees," says Glickman, who leads daylong seminars throughout the country on his team strategies.

Thanks to today's high technology and a CAD system— computer assisted design – clients can view their future kitchen on a large TV screen. Better yet, the system can translate the customers' hand drawings into computer drawings, and make customer data readily available.

Kitchen designs make the full sweep from the sleek and sophisticated contemporary look to those filled with country charm and those that are an eclectic mix. In dealing with different various cultures, Glickman goes out of his way to treat everyone with respect. Ethnically oriented kitchens often require additional cabinetry and specialty equipment to produce menu items specific to that

culture. Glickman focuses first on what's practical or functional – the necessities of their cooking environment - and then builds on the aesthetics and ways to celebrate their heritage in the design. This keeps tradition alive at Dream Kitchens.

A rabbi's son, Glickman knows well the demands of a kosher kitchen, his specialty. Based on Jewish law, a kosher kitchen needs two of everything: sinks, ovens, dishwashers, and even storage and workspace because of the separation of meat and dairy in the diet. Holidays are many: 52 Shabbats (Sabbath), each of which can entertain a dozen or more family members and friends, and 13 holy days and celebrations - including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover and Chanukah. The kitchen may even need extra workstations to accommodate the number of people who help with holiday preparations. Since there are many variants to "keeping kosher," Glickman designs the new kitchen according to the client's specific needs, as well as safety concerns for children in the family, who inevitably like to shadow the busy cooks.

Dream Kitchens also specializes in bathroom remodeling, which ranges from very basic to luxurious styles and includes quality cabinets and vanity furniture from name-brand companies. His team of experts handles everything from designs of efficient space plans and tile layouts to professional installations.

For the past 22 years, Glickman has worked in

RICHARD M. SWANSON, AIA



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