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NEWS

Spring 2014 Vol 10

## Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring!



*"Dream, Design, Peace Of Mind!"*

### Create Your Outdoor Dream Space Today!



#### 3 EASY Steps:

##### 1. Dream!

First, dream and make your "must-have" list.

##### 2. Design!

Next, sit down with Michael and make a plan.

##### 3. Peace Of Mind!

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### Is Anyone Ready For Spring? Quick Tips For Homeowners

Is 80" of snow enough for Michigan? Wow. What a winter it's been! Michigan hasn't seen this much snow since the 1880's. Now that spring is right around the corner, it's time to start thinking about deck maintenance and other outdoor projects that fulfill your home lifestyle dream. Here are a few ideas for enhancing your summer at home.

#### Deck Maintenance

Did your deck take a beating from this year's unrelenting winter snow and ice? Once the snow melts, inspect your deck for any signs of winter wear including cracks, mildew, and water damage. If not sealed properly, water is one of the greatest enemies of wood decks. Leaves, dirt, and pollen that have fallen into the cracks turn into organic material that hold water and seep into the deck, causing dry rot. As water evaporates it contracts, causing cracks to emerge. Wood decks require routine cleaning, restaining and resealing every 1-3 years.



#### Maintaining Composite

Composite decks made of both wood and plastic fibers also need routine cleaning, as dirt and debris can cause some of the same mildew problems. Don't wait until the summer heat hits to maintain your deck, as the high temperatures can put a lot of stress on the wood. The best time to prepare your deck is actually right now, when spring temperatures are milder.

#### Custom Deck Lighting

Once you've got your deck cleaned and ready for use, why not extend the season by installing customized deck lighting? Try to think beyond a flood light mounted



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to the wall: solar lights mounted on railing post tops, lighted steps, LED lights, in-ground lights near a path or hot tub, outdoor ceiling lights over a table, etc. Flipping the on switch can really give your deck that extra pizzazz, especially on multi-tiered decks. Built-in lighting curving around railings and steps can highlight unusual architectural design, as well as add safety in the dark. Motion-sensor lights and lights set to a timer can also help protect your property.



### Outdoor Kitchens

Your yard or outdoor space is an extension of your indoor living space, so why not make it both as functional and aesthetically pleasing as possible? One way of doing this is by installing an outdoor kitchen. No one wants to

be stuck indoors in a hot kitchen on those beautiful summer evenings while your guests lounge on the back deck. With an outdoor kitchen you can move your food prep, cooking, and even dish washing to where the party is. Guests can sit at an outdoor bar or around an open fire.

### Backyard Fun

For added ambiance consider a carefully designed seating area with a covering for the sun: a cloth canopy, wood pergola, or even outdoor shades. And for dinner time, a permanent table surrounded by plants or ferns.

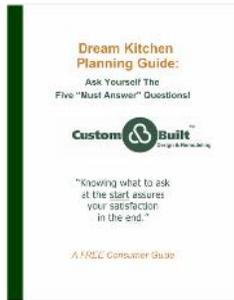


### Pergolas & Sunrooms

Pergolas, which came into popularity during the Renaissance, can also be added as a free-standing structure anywhere in your yard where you might need some shade or design. If you would prefer an extra seating area with shade, consider a gazebo instead.

Landscaping around either of these two designs with native plants, vines, and flowers can really bring your yard into balance. Sunrooms are also an easy addition to add on to your house. Made of at least 50% glass, they're a great and efficient way to soak up the sun's rays while being sheltered from Michigan's unpredictable weather. Think of it as a way to extend your outdoor season to include both spring





## The Five Must Ask Questions When Planning Your Dream Kitchen

and fall.

### Need Help Figuring it All Out?

Custom Built has combined experience of nearly 30 years creating custom dream spaces. Michael at Custom Built can help you sort through the best choices and options for bringing the outdoors in and the indoors out. Just call and share your dreams with Michael today!



**Custom Built Design & Remodeling**  
**"Dream, Design, Peace of Mind!"**  
**517-881-9871**

Thank you! We really appreciate your business!

Chris & Mike



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