

Project Spotlight



Swale adds appeal and functionality to landscape

Water drainage is a critical factor to consider when landscaping a property. A swale will collect water and divert it to a specific location. During a recent project we were encountered a very deep swale that was too steep to cut with a lawnmower. We consulted with a landscaping company to address this challenge, and they created a custom swale with a sub-surface barrier, river rocks and large boulders. This swale not only provides an appealing look but minimizes erosion on the site.

Maintenance Corner

Wood deck maintenance

The summer season is the perfect time to address deck maintenance. Examine your deck carefully, including the underside of the treads. Untreated woods such as redwood and cedar have a greater risk of rot. Repair or replace rotting boards, then clean with a commercial deck cleaner or tsp-based cleanser. After cleaning, allow the wood to fully dry before applying a sealer, if needed. Consult with a paint supplier for finish recommendations. Depending upon the moisture, foot traffic, and sun exposure your deck may require annual treatment.

The Excitement Is Building!

What Drives the Cost of a Custom Home?

Three Factors to Consider Before Building

The cost of a custom home is driven by three variables: lot conditions, shape of the home, and finishing details.

Rural properties with private utilities (septic, well, underground electrical lines) are typically more expensive to build on than city lots with public utilities. In addition, clearing trees adds expense as does paving a long driveway.

The design of the home directly drives the cost. For example, a plan with multiple corners, extensive roof lines and volume ceilings are more expensive to build than a two-story colonial design. If the design has a dramatic look, it likely has a dramatic cost.

Finally, the finishing details can significantly add to the cost of a custom home. Consider cabinets, countertops, floor coverings, electronics and appliances. These allowances vary widely in cost and can greatly impact the bottom line. Further, the exterior finishing must be considered in your budget. Real stone is much more expensive than vinyl siding.

In sum, gather as much information as possible about costs before you build. Stick to your budget and focus on the details that are important to you.

"Search others for their virtues, thyself for thy vices."

- Benjamin Franklin

