

Designer Profile



Grant & Grant Design Group designed this beautiful home plan above. To see more of this design, please visit www.houseplansandmore.com and search for plan #592-082S-0002.

HDA, Inc. is committed to making your home building journey an easy one. To assist in the process, we compiled questions to ask nationally renowned designers and architects who have designed homes featured in this magazine. This issue we feature our cover home designer, Bill Grant, president of *Grant & Grant Design Group*.

Bill Grant, a professional member of AIBD, designed his first home in his high school drafting class in Ocala, Florida. After working for architectural firms in Florida and Georgia, he began his own design company in 1984 in metropolitan Atlanta. After gaining an appreciation for “high end” homes while working for mentor and friend John Calvin Morris in 1988, he competed in the “Atlanta Street of Dreams”. Grant won awards for “Best Architectural Design” and “Best of Show”. Grant has designed homes from California to South Carolina. Living in the mountains



Bill & Tim Grant

of north Georgia and western North Carolina has given him an appreciation for “mountain style homes”. Recently, his design emphasis has shifted from “Southern Traditional” homes to “Mountain/Lake” homes. In 2003, his son Tim joined the company and quickly put his “spin” on mountain style. Tim has been very successful in this design style and his entry in the 2006 American Institute of

Building Designs annual design competition won Grant & Grant Design Group the “Designers Choice” award for the year.

DA: What does “home” mean to you?

BG: To me, the word “home” has a broad meaning. It spreads out much farther than just the house you live in. It’s an emotional and spiritual connection to family and friends. When we say “I’m home,” what we are really saying is, “I’m in a familiar place with the ones I love”. When we are designing a home for family we try to keep this in mind by creating spaces that are cozy and intimate and encourage interaction.

DA: What is the most important thing for a pre-drawn home plan buyer to know?

BG: Site and geographical conditions. When clients come to our office they typically have some ideas as to what they want in their new home. Often a customer will have photo or a magazine clipping of a home they like in concept. In many cases we have to tell them that the plan simply will not work due to site conditions. Perhaps it is too deep or too wide or the garage placement is unworkable. Geographical conditions are another concern. We all know that you can build any style of house just about anywhere. But, is that the best thing to do? No! Before purchasing a pre-drawn home plan the consumer should consider varying weather conditions, moisture, wind, soil/foundation type, and orientation. All these things should influence the plan you purchase.

DA: What is the most common mistake home plan buyers make?

BG: Cost and site orientation. Not considering the cost of a building project before you break ground can drastically change the scope of your project if you experience cost increases, especially in the finishes. Given our current economic conditions it is especially important to monitor building costs weekly. Both labor and materials can change throughout the course of a building project. It is far better to build less house and be able to finish it properly. Another mistake that homeowners make is site orientation. Simply put, choose a plan that fits! Primary site considerations are topography and views (good and bad). Your builder or local architect/home designer can assist you with any specific topographic concerns. Choose a plan that takes advantage of “good” views whether it be mountains, lake or simply a green space and discourages “bad” views such as other homes, water retention ponds, power lines, etc. If you are building in an urban setting, you’ll want the help of a landscape architect or designer to create atmosphere in your outdoor areas.

DA: What can we expect from Grant & Grant Design Group in the future?

BG: Our primary focus in designing a home is just that; making it “home” and creating for each client a place uniquely theirs. Grant & Grant Design Group is currently working in Asheville/western North Carolina. We are in our 25th year of operation and though we have designed hundreds of primary residences we have spent most of the last 10 years designing “high end” second or vacation homes. Grant & Grant will continue designing mountain homes, but will be promoting our coastal and Craftsman designs as well. We are also experiencing a gravitation towards “green” building. Green building will become, in my opinion, the standard for home building in the next few years. Grant & Grant will be designing “green” homes in anticipation of this change.

DA: Is there anything else you would like us, and consumers, to know about building your dream home or Grant & Grant Design Group?

BG: Most people spend more time at home than any other place. Therefore, the design of your home is very important. When considering whether to purchase a pre-drawn home plan or to commission an architect or home designer to design your new home – remember the word “design”. A properly designed home will elevate value and add aesthetics to your property and make the difference between a house and a home.