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a passion for home building

BY REBECCA NEWSOME, MIRM

When an individual consistently receives glowing reviews from clients and business associates, you know that person must be doing something right. Such is the case with Rick Wyatt, president of local custom building company Zenith Homes. Rick's passion for creating custom dwellings uniquely designed to fit the lifestyles and needs of his clients is clearly evident in his work.

"Rick's homes are extremely well built," says Myriam Harvey, owner of a Zenith home in Apex. "I have a construction background, so I scrutinized every nook and cranny before I bought my home. I was totally impressed with Rick's attention to detail. So was my home inspector ... He said Rick went over and above the standards in building the house. Although I already felt really good about it, it was satisfying to get that third party confirmation that I was buying a great home."

"Rick has a fantastic ability to add dramatic yet warm and inviting features to his homes," Myriam continues. "I have a catwalk with a circular platform that everyone comments on when they visit. I also get compliments on my kitchen and open floorplan. I give Rick all the credit. But perhaps the best thing about working

with him is that he's so responsive and personable. After I moved in, I had a few minor things that needed a little tweaking. Rick was just as terrific to work with on these items as he'd been before I bought the house ... Never once did he make me feel like I was a nuisance. He's just a very talented builder and a great guy ... I have no hesitation in recommending Rick to anyone thinking of building a home."

Dr. Todd McClain agrees with Myriam. "My wife and I toured one of Rick's homes a few years ago and fell in love with it, but we wanted a different location," says Todd. "We met Rick, talked to him at length, and liked him. We asked about the possibility of him building for us in Chapel Hill. The rest is history ... We love what he did for us, and we've been very happy there since 2006. A couple of years ago, and we had an opportunity to build a farmhouse in Caswell County. We called Rick, and last year he completed an absolutely wonderful weekend home for us. He made some recommendations that we probably would not have included had it not been for him ... We're very pleased with the house."

Prudential York Simpson Underwood Broker Seth Roberts has



Rick Wyatt's passion for creating custom dwellings uniquely designed to fit the lifestyles and needs of his clients comes through in his work.

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worked with Rick many times. "What impresses me about Rick is his 'can-do' attitude," says Seth. "He works tirelessly with his customers to find the very best ways to accommodate their needs. Years ago, for

example, when hardly anyone knew about low-emission paints, Rick researched options for one of my clients with severe allergies. I've seen him do this type of thing time and again ... He just wants to do the

right thing, and he finds the ways and means to do it."

With accolades like these, you might wonder how Rick got involved in the building industry.

"I was intrigued with the outward appearance of structures and the process of how they came to be from an early age," says Rick. "I was born in Japan and raised around the world. Maybe the opportunity I had to see beautiful international architecture as I was growing up influenced my curiosity; I just know that I've always been drawn to elegant design."

Rick chose NC State University to pursue studies related to his keen interest in the building process, graduating in 1989 with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. After working in commercial construction for five years, Rick moved into residential construction, where he discovered his true passion. Acting on this passion, Rick founded Zenith Homes in 1997, with a goal of pleasing home owners with outstanding value and design.

Pleasing homeowners is precisely what Rick has done over the past 13 years. Although he enjoys belonging to builder teams in new home communities throughout the Triangle with homes ranging from the \$150,000s to more than \$800,000, Rick also works with customers to find a home site suited specifically to their needs. He then works with these customers to create homes based on their unique desires.

"I worked with production builders early in my career," says Rick. "What I learned is that I wanted to be able to offer flexibility. I wanted to be able to say 'yes, I can do that,' so that my clients' homes would actually be their homes. I want my customers to truly love their homes. It's my pleasure to work in this industry ... And I plan on working in it for a long time to come."

Call Rick at (919) 868-7486 or visit www.zenithhomesnc.com.

