



Capital Home
Builders & Dev., Inc
"Technology Built"

GUNKELMAN FLESHER INTERIOR DESIGN *Partners combine two design styles to create incredible living spaces* p.82

THE ARRABELLE AT VAIL SQUARE
Vail's newest condo development is a hot commodity p.78

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN *A melting pot of ethnic design influences has resulted in a region full of amazing residences* p.1



Experience you can trust

Excellence in Building Materials

Since 1947

Where the Builders Buy

Proud Supplier to:

JEFFCO



Serving Maryland, Virginia & D.C.

Since 1947

23 West Diamond Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

(301) 948-6600

11801 Balls Ford Road

Manassas, VA 20109

(703) 780-7800

Capital Home Builders

GEORGIA BUILDER CREATES
SMART, HIGH-TECH, EFFICIENT
HOMES WITH A PERSONAL
TOUCH

by Sandra Guy

Izzy Bienes had the good fortune to have a hard-working mother who wanted something better for her kids, and the help of an aunt who assisted Izzy's family in leaving Cuba after the revolution led by Fidel Castro. "My aunt arranged the passports and brought us [to the United States]," says Bienes, 43, who was two years old at the time. The Bienes family lived in New York with Izzy's aunt for a short time before moving to Miami, Florida. While there, Bienes soon discovered that he loved building things. "The process of creating something and seeing it come to fruition is one of my passions," he says. Bienes also realized, after living in a drafty, not-well-insulated house, how important it was to live in a comfortable, well-conceived, and well-built dwelling.

Bienes, who worked in construction in Miami, kept these observations in the back of his mind. After he and his wife started raising a family, they decided to move Thomasville, Georgia, where his sister lived. There, Bienes started his own company, Capital Home Builders, in 2005, creating a business practice out of the home quality he valued for so long.

The company soon won media recognition for its advocacy of green building. Capital Home Builders' homes feature expanded foam insulation, air exchangers, an airtight building envelope, and decreased drainage and grading costs by leveraging the site's natural topography. When possible, the homes have tankless or high-efficiency-rated water heaters.

"We create a three-ring binder for each home, filled with diagrams, warranties, wiring-system setups, and other pertinent details," Bienes says. "We look at each project as though we are building a house for ourselves. I feel passionately that a green, energy-efficient home is a better home to live in. We want our homes to be comfortable and healthy to live in."

During construction, Capital Home Builders, which is self-funded and employs three-to-four

luxuryhomequarterly.com



workers, displays many green initiatives. Some of these include saving and reusing the site's topsoil, protecting trees and other natural features, chipping and reusing any site-cleared wood and brush as mulch, replanting or donating live trees from the site, and planting grass types, such as fescue, that require less water than conventional grass. Bienes also gives bonuses to subcontractors for saving wood during the construction process, allowing the company to achieve minimum or zero waste and divert it from being trucked to landfills.

In addition, each custom home boasts Energy Star-rated windows, appliances, and light fixtures; Energy Star- or above-rated air-conditioning units; mold-resistant foam insulation; solar tubes or glass blocks for interior light; and on-demand water-delivery systems or solar water-heating supplies.

Capital Home Builders pays equally excruciating attention to detail to the home's décor and livability. "When you pull up to the home's driveway, you are greeted with a professionally designed, drought-tolerant, beautiful landscape," Bienes says. "As you walk up to the entryway, the homeowner can open the door remotely, providing safety and a speedy entry." Bienes explains that this is possible because of a radiofrequency remote and "smart" front-door lock. He adds that a full home-alarm system is a standard feature, as well, with upgradeable features always available.

"As you enter the foyer, you are taken aback by the 13-foot-high ceilings and custom millwork that extends to the formal dining room," Bienes continues. "The floor plan has an open and spacious feeling—the five-and-a-half-inch Brazilian cherry wood floors (harvested from a sustainable forest) can be seen throughout the home." He goes on to say that the kitchen is equipped with an "electronic unit" that has voice, phone, and video capabilities. The unit allows the homeowner to see and speak to a visitor without opening the door. It also provides homeowners with the ability to answer and make hands-free calls, listen to the radio, or watch TV while preparing a meal. "The kitchen also comes with Internet access so that the cook of the house can download online recipes," Bienes continues. "The refrigerator's location is wired with Internet access in order to support a 'Net Fridge.'" He adds that kitchen includes custom cabinets, GE appliances with four-year warranties, and granite countertops with Travertine backsplashes.

The company's custom-built homes also come equipped with a GE Energy Star front-loader washer and dryer in the laundry room, which also incorporates custom cabinets for storage and a hanger rack for clothes. And the living room, Bienes adds, is "pre-wired for surround sound, with a gas

fireplace that provides a great area for family gatherings." Additionally, decorative switches and outlets appear in every room, and all rooms are wired for fans. Wiring systems for telephones and cable TV are located in two places in each room, with runs straight to a centralized home-wiring system, featuring a cable/router unit that allows the home to go wireless and provide cable-TV access throughout. This centralized home-wiring system also enables the homeowner to remotely monitor the house and access exterior, pre-wired security cameras. Capital Home Builders' homes also boast lever handles and 36-inch-high bathroom vanities and interior doors. The bathrooms have custom cabinets, Moen fixtures, granite countertops, and cast-iron tubs surrounded by porcelain tile.

Bienes seeks to constantly upgrade the technology in the homes that his company builds, and he wants to continue pushing the energy-efficiency envelope. He hasn't yet expanded into homes powered entirely by solar-energy systems, however, because there are still very few people able to service such homes, he says. But the company's custom homes are certainly built with energy efficiency in mind. In fact, its latest promotion is that Capital Home Builders' homes will save the homeowner 30–40 percent on home-energy expenditures, or the company will pay the electric bill for two years.

"We stand behind our home product, and we're able to back it up with documentation on the home's energy efficiency," Bienes says. "When we build a home, we focus on two to five per year. We are in this to create a name and to create the right product." ■

A MESSAGE FROM COZY COMFORT ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Cozy Comfort Energy Solutions is an energy-efficient expert company trained in the latest and most innovative aspects of the energy-saving industry. Working alongside Capital Home Builders using a unique combination of insulation techniques has allowed us to achieve Energy Star ratings. Capital Home Builders is taking an approach toward technological building like no one else in the area. We have enjoyed working with Capital Home Builders and hope to build more quality and healthy homes for the future.



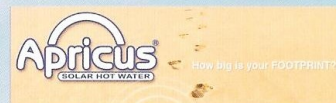
"Let Blue & Yellow save you the GREEN!"

At Cozy Comfort Energy Solutions, we make your home "cozy" while adding "comfort" to your wallet. To accomplish this, we use products that are designed to provide optimal performance with monthly energy-savings. These products benefit the green-minded as well as the fiscally conservative home owner.

Install Spray-Foam & Fiberglass Insulation



Sell & Install Solar Water Heating Systems



Install Radiant Heating/Cooling Systems



Now offering New or Replacement High-Energy Efficiency Windows

**Additional Services Include Inspection:
Energy Star, Earth Craft,
Energy Audits**

"We Can GUARANTEE Your Homes Heating & Cooling Coasts for 3 Yrs."

Slade Mercer Owner/President

Office: (229) 356-0108

Cell: (229) 356-0109

www.cozycomfort.biz