

At Home with QMA

SUMMER 2010

Photo: Courtesy of ClosetMaid (www.ClosetMaid.com)



At Home in the Office

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Design+Build

Affordable Secrets

for a "Priceless" Home at the Shore

Ever dream of having a beautiful home on the Jersey Shore? There may never be a better time to realize that dream and create the perfect gathering place for relaxed weekend getaways and fun-filled family summers at the shore now, plus a wonderful retirement lifestyle down the road.

Why is now the time? Because—for the moment at least—shore properties, construction services and financing are more affordable. For example, properties in Ventnor, Margate, Longport and other areas where **QMA** works are priced lower than they have been in years and many more properties are available than in the past. Since building and remodeling costs are also lower, you have more opportunity to buy a home—or land—simply for its potential. Plus, properties closer to the ocean that once rarely came on the market are not only available, they're being offered at great prices. That



can leave room in your purchasing budget for updating and modernizing the home or expanding it to include plenty of room for friends, kids, grown children, grandkids and extended family to join you in savoring the laid-back life at the shore.

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QMA is the winner of numerous regional and national awards including:



At Home in the Office

Do you often dream about working from a professional office space located in your own home? A home office has many benefits, such as a short commute and a premium parking spot. One its challenges, however, is how to keep your productivity up amid all the distractions of home.

To be successful in a home office, it is best to plan both your work space and your work day carefully.

If possible, locate your home office in a dedicated room with a door for privacy. If you will be having clients visit, a separate outside entrance is desirable. You could have your porch enclosed for this purpose, or your garage converted. A seldom-used guest room could do double-duty.

Make sure your office furnishings provide an adequate work surface, along with sufficient space for office equipment. You will want some file drawers close by, and drawers with dividers to store smaller items like pens, paperclips, staplers, scotch tape, etc.

Plan storage space for various office supplies, such as reams of paper, envelopes and notebooks. This might mean having a separate closet built with shelving, or a wall of cabinets installed in the office.



Photo: Courtesy of ClosetMaid (www.ClosetMaid.com)

Believe it or not, your chair is one of the most important considerations for your home office. You will be spending a lot of time at your desk, so you want an ergonomic chair that adjusts for height, seat tilt and lumbar support. These adjustments can help protect you from developing back and neck pain, as well as carpal tunnel syndrome.

Make sure your surroundings contribute to a comfortable work environment. Windows provide invigorating natural daylight, as well as a connection to the outside world that can lend visual inspiration. Include plenty of ambient light to illuminate dark corners, as well as task lighting at your desk.

Calm wall colors, such as light grey, blue and green, create a professional atmosphere. If you wish, add snippets of brighter, more intense colors through decorative accessories. Make your home office inviting, so you personally will feel welcome when you come through the door.

And when you do come through that door, it is a good idea to be prepared for work by setting regular office hours for yourself and dressing for the occasion. Try to avoid the habit of sauntering in whenever you feel like it, still wearing your pajamas. It has been shown that the success of a home office often depends on one's willingness to adopt professional business habits at home.



Photo: Courtesy of ClosetMaid (www.ClosetMaid.com)

Photo: Courtesy of Parasoleil (www.parasoleil.com)



Cabinet MEETING

Euro-style cabinetry entered the scene in a big way several years ago and began a whole new emphasis on clean minimalist kitchen design. Now many American cabinet companies are offering the long, lean look as well. Are you confused as to what actually constitutes Euro-style (Frameless or Full Access) as opposed to traditional cabinetry (Framed or Face Frame)? Here in a nutshell are the basic descriptions of each:



Photo: Courtesy of KraftMaid (www.kraftmaid.com)

Frameless cabinet by KraftMaid

Frameless:

After World War II, resources in Europe were limited, so this type of cabinet construction was developed to conserve materials. In better-quality construction, $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick panels are doweled, glued, then case-clamped together to form a box. The doors are secured directly to the sides of the cabinet box with hidden hinges. The doors are usually constructed without molding or trim and they cover the entire cabinet box. This gives them the smooth, seamless look that fits well in a contemporary style kitchen. These cabinets are often called "full access" because there are no obstructions blocking use of the interior. The drawer box is typically wider than that of a framed cabinet.

Framed:

Framed cabinetry is constructed in much the same manner as traditional furniture. A frame—resembling a flat, empty picture frame—is attached to the face of the cabinet box, giving it structural rigidity. The pieces of the frame are usually $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick by $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. The cabinet doors are hinged to the frame. The cabinet doors or drawer fronts may overlay the face frame, with varying amounts of the face frame showing, depending on the size of the door or the drawer front. Another option is for the doors to be inset, which means they are in line with the face frame. The doors will often have recessed or raised panels, some kind of decorative trim, or glass inserts.



Photo: Courtesy of Timberlake Cabinetry (www.timberlake.com)

Framed cabinet by Timberlake

"The Art of Shade"

An exciting new product, Parasoleil received a lot of buzz at the 2010 International Builders Show. Designed by Colorado artist, Uriah Bueller, Parasoleil is a decorative panel in any one of five patterns inspired by cultures around the world. The standard 3x8 ft. panel material is solid 16 oz. copper that is green-certified with over 90% recycled content. Custom panels are available in aluminum, acrylic, steel, composite and nauf wood.

Uses for the panels are as varied as your imagination: shades and awnings, drop-ceilings and canopies, curved arches, privacy screens and doors, etc. The panels are designed for indoor and outdoor use in all types of weather.



Photo: Courtesy of Parasoleil (www.parasoleil.com)

At Home In The Office

Affordable Secrets

Cabinet Meeting

The Art of Shade

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Affordable Secrets

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Did you know it's sometimes easier to build new or start with a virtual tear-down than to remodel? Either way, since **QMA** is both a remodeler and a custom home builder, we can help you turn a “bargain property” into a fabulous home that's perfect for you today as well as an asset your entire family can enjoy long into the future when shore property once again becomes impossibly expensive to buy.

When thinking about remodeling or building a new custom home, you have the opportunity to take advantage of many energy-efficient products and designs as well as utilizing new low-maintenance products. **QMA** is certified as an Energy Star builder and can guide you through the process of designing and



selecting the most effective and efficient energy-saving products. Because we also specialize in water-oriented homes, we can help you explore “green” ways to cut energy costs and eliminate costly upkeep with weather resistant materials such as fiber cement siding or Azek synthetic exterior trim materials that are impervious to moisture and salt. Plus, we can create a home that “lives well” for you year round—or that is a snap to winterize when the season ends.

Remember, this window of opportunity may not last much longer. In fact, sales of vacation properties are showing signs of “life” and we're keeping an eye on National Association of Home Builder statistics that track prices for building supplies like lumber. If you're thinking that now is indeed a great time to realize your own dream of living on the shore, call us and let's take a look at how **QMA Design+Build, LLC** can help you do it.

