

# Creating Something SPECIAL



## Panoramic Views Abound From Every Level

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**t**he homeowners of the West Lake home interviewed seven builders before deciding on Dan Mowry and Bob Straatsma of the Paramount Building Group. They describe their experience as “fun, stress-free without pressure,”—certainly an unusual repertoire of adjectives to describe the building process.

The winning combination of builder and homeowner created a waterfront home that is uniquely filled with a plethora of creative ideas, engaging their living requirements for today as well as the future.

For these homeowners, West Lake offered the luxury of all sports and it has only one public access for launching the boats of lakefront residents. Best of all, the homeowners found an exceptional lot with an elevation much higher than the others—a perfect site for their new home.

The 50-foot lot with 40-foot setback and sewer easement challenged the creativity and ingenuity of the Paramount Group. However, the culmination of efforts resulted in a home that stands as a beacon, silhouetted against the skyline with multiple rooflines, five balconies and patios, square columns and an arched covered walkway. On the port side, it appropriately integrates and replicates the design of an old boat that once stealthily fought the seas returning repeatedly to the harbor.

The exterior design dictated the interior by mimicking the square columns and integrating artful stonework over the cook top. A hallmark mantle with stone corbels in the great room is undeniably an attention grabber. The gracious open stairwell beckons you to discover yet



another landing, another level and spectacular view.

The form and function of this towering beauty is to transition over time. “We wanted a design that worked well for us now as well as when we retire,” shares the lady of the house.

Today’s needs meant accommodating seven children—along with their families—and having a space for everyone during the holidays. A large office away from the hustle and bustle that comes with a waterfront lifestyle was essential. Adequate storage was also high on the necessity list.

For future living, all doorways and hallways are handicap accessible. A space has even been reserved for an elevator and the home is void of any steps entering the garage.

The homeowners describe their landscaping as “amazing.” Their meandering drive is outlined with hostas and a wall of flowering shrubs. Lilies encircle and adorn an assortment of trees. A clematis-covered arbor frames the walkway, welcoming your arrival. Peonies and flowering plants abound in every direction. An azure walk meanders through tiers of boulders and slabs of stone. Clusters of foliage vie for attention, while an assortment of grasses blow forever in the wind. Every season brings a new discovery. The setting sun only enhances its beauty with artfully placed illumination. From the water, a glance is held by its mesmerizing beauty.

It is a dream home with endless creativity. “We were fortunate enough to find the right builders who worked to incorporate ourselves into the house. It has the space we need, but even more.... each space has a part of us infused into it,” state the homeowners. □



These Are a Few of my Favorite Things

**PAGE 111**

ABOVE: Multiple rooflines, trim and balconies define the Craftsman-styled cottage exterior.

INSET: Creativity inspires nautical detailing.

**OPPOSITE PAGE**

ABOVE: Throughout the home, an artful combination of aesthetics and function provide just the right balance.

BELOW: Lighted cabinets are one of the homeowners’ favorites.

**THIS PAGE**

Hickory and painted cabinetry showcase the design creativity of the builder/homeowner team.



**THIS PAGE**

**ABOVE:** The master bedroom offers exceptional beauty and comfort with its fireplace, cathedral ceiling and private entrance.

**BELOW LEFT:** Double vanities, combined with a view of the lake, make this the perfect master bath.

**BELOW RIGHT:** The master bathroom shower—with its six shower heads—is the perfect venue for relaxation.

**OPPOSITE PAGE**

Simplicity and a cool color palette are all that is needed to create an inviting master bedroom.



**ABOVE:** Multiple levels of landscaping and architecture showcase this towering beauty. Inset: The view is as mesmerizing from the inside as from the outside.

**INSET:** A waterfront home wouldn't be complete without ake access!



- Cabinets & Counters: **DIGS CABINETRY**
- Carpet, Hardwood Flooring & Tile: **MIGALA CARPET ONE**
- Garage Doors: **OVERHEAD DOOR CO. OF KALAMAZOO**
- Landscaping & Irrigation: **WOODHAMS LANDSCAPING**
- Painter: **QUALITY TOUCH PAINTING**
- Showers & Mirrors: **DAVE'S GLASS SERVICE**



## Paramount Building Group

### PRINCIPAL OWNER (S):

Dan Mowry and Bob Straatsma. Partner Dan's math/science background and great communication skills combined with Bob's people networking and local knowledge and you've got Paramount Building Group. Both partners have a strong sense of design/space and an eye for quality.

### NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

7

### YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

2005

### EDUCATION:

Dan Mowry has a Master's in education from Western Michigan University and 17 years experience in the building industry. Bob Straatsma also attended Western Michigan University and has 29 years in the local building and construction trades. He has been awarded numerous certifications in the trades and real estate.

### BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Our philosophy is to support our clients and to manage every aspect of the building process for them. From design to final walk-through, we focus on customer service. We only use quality materials, and our sub-contractors are the best in the business. You can be confident that your new or renovated space will be built to the same standards of excellence that we would want in our own homes.

We intend to go beyond expectations during the building process to deliver a quality product, meet schedules, provide detailed quotes, engage in transparent communication, and to contribute improvement suggestions along the way.

With every home, we build a relationship.

### WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

We don't just want to build "houses". Our goal is to build quality homes that reflect the homeowner's style and individuality. Paramount brings a dynamic energy to the building industry – and we want the buyer to be an integral part of that process.

We love to build homes, but we also specialize in demolition and reconstruction, remodels, office space and disaster reconstruction. We are willing to work with the client on any portion of a project or manage the entire process from start to finish.

### HOBBIES:

We have been standing members of the Home Builders Association and recognized as members of the Presidential Who's Who Among Business and Professional Achievers.

### CONTACT PHONE NUMBER/WEB ADDRESS:

For information, call Dan Mowry at (269)744-2637 or Bob Straatsma at (269)760-7379. Visit [www.paramountbg.com](http://www.paramountbg.com).