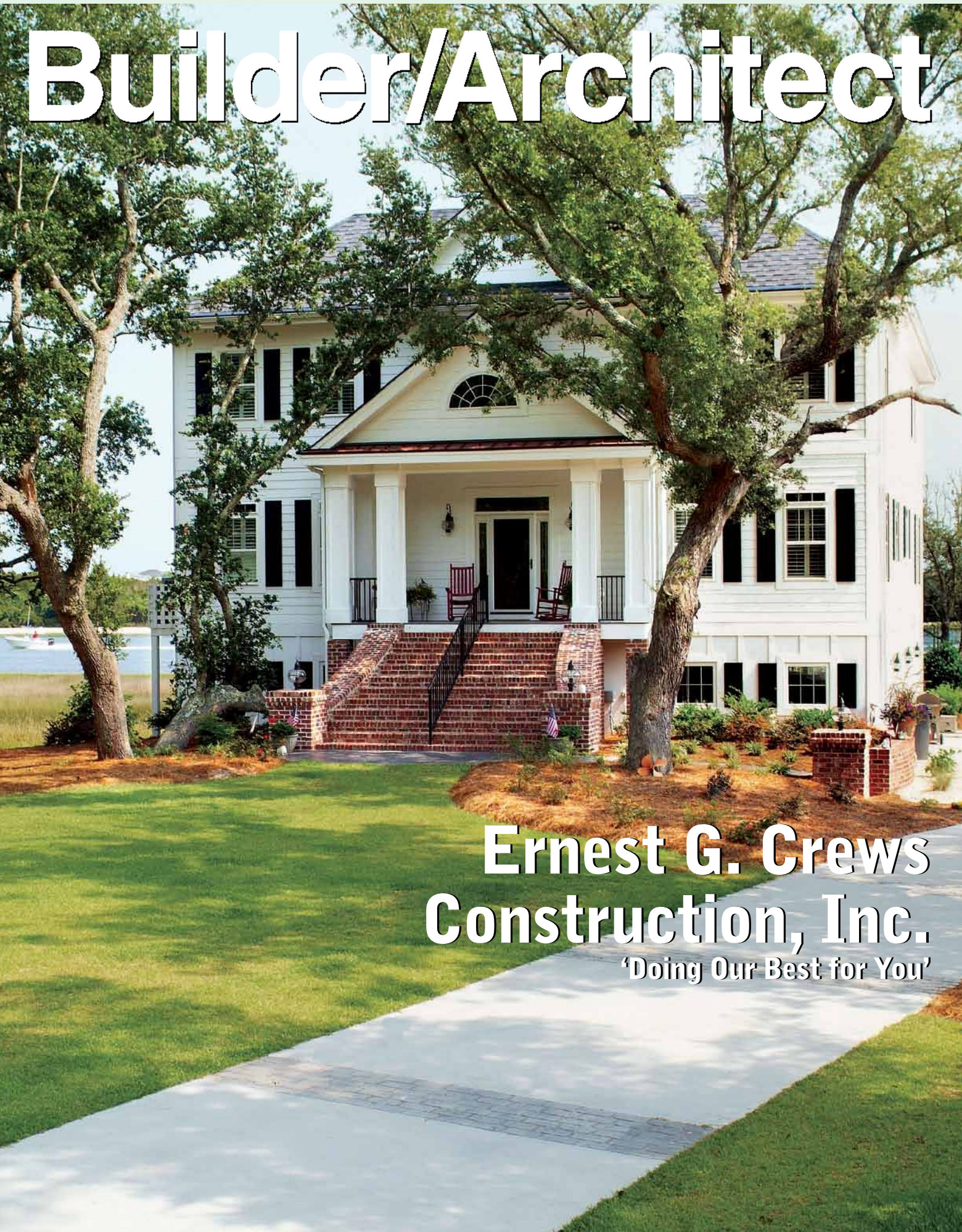


Builder/Architect



**Ernest G. Crews
Construction, Inc.**
'Doing Our Best for You'

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'Doing Our Best for You'

By Peggy Mishoe

Ernie Crews has never wanted to be the biggest builder in Ocean Isle Beach and the surrounding areas. He only wants to build a few exquisite homes and do the best job he can for their owners.

Since founding Ernest G. Crews Construction, Inc. in 1994, Ernie has acquired a reputation as an honest, high-quality builder.

He says, "When I first started, my goal was to build about 10 truly custom homes each year. We are building about 12 now and we are not trying to get any bigger. Our focus is to do quality work."

Because he is committed to offering his homeowners the homes of their dreams and pleasurable building experiences,

Right: The rear elevation of the cover photo on the Intracoastal Waterway in Ocean Isle Beach, NC.

Below: The residence of Todd and Tanya Jackson in Sunset Beach, NC.





PHOTOS BY CHUCK GEE

Above: The front elevation of Mike and Peggy Gildea's home in Ocean Ridge Plantation.

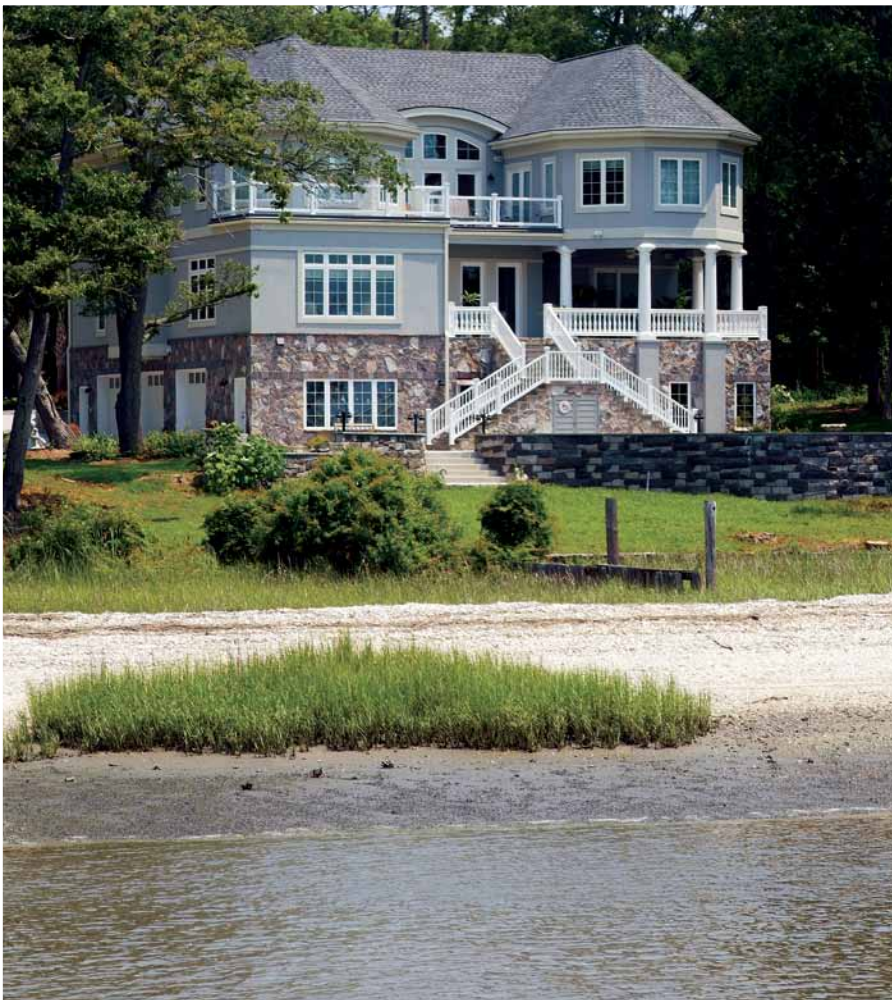


Left: The residence of Dudley and Iris King in Sunset Beach, NC.

Ernie only builds in locations he can get to in about 15 minutes from his Ocean Isle Beach office. His subcontractors, who have been with him for years, also live close by.

Ernie builds custom homes of all sizes for homeowners in various stages of their lives. His homes can be found in Sea Trail Plantation, Ocean Ridge Plantation, Bent Tree Plantation, River's Edge, Brick Landing, along the Intracoastal Waterway, Ocean Isle Beach and other prestigious neighborhoods in his area.

Todd and Tanya Jackson were newlyweds when they purchased a home from Ernie, while it was under construction in 1996. They wanted to make changes, and with Ernie and the professionals who work with him, they found that easy. Todd says, "Ernie never did say 'no.' We gained trust in him. He is an honest builder and did everything he told us he was going to do."



After the Jacksons had a child, they wanted a larger home. Todd says, “We had full confidence Ernie would do a good job the second time, and he did.”

Cathy Brown, construction coordinator, has worked with Ernie for years. Among other things, she assists homeowners in making choices. Her knowledge, creativity and experience make her an invaluable asset to homeowners. Todd says, “Cathy was a joy to work with.”

Homeowner Peggy Gildea says, “Cathy was outstanding. She has wonderful taste and she gives a lot of suggestions. She’s kind of a step ahead of you.”

When Peggy and her husband, Mike, decided to build a home, Peggy was ill and not looking forward to the stress of building that she had experienced when they built their first home. However, with Ernie, she

Left: The rear of the King residence as seen from the Intracoastal Waterway in Sunset Beach, NC.

Below: The Kings’ custom indoor pool that was designed with their grandchildren in mind.





PHOTOS BY CHUCK GEE

Above: The residence of John and Pat LaFebvre in Ocean Ridge Plantation.



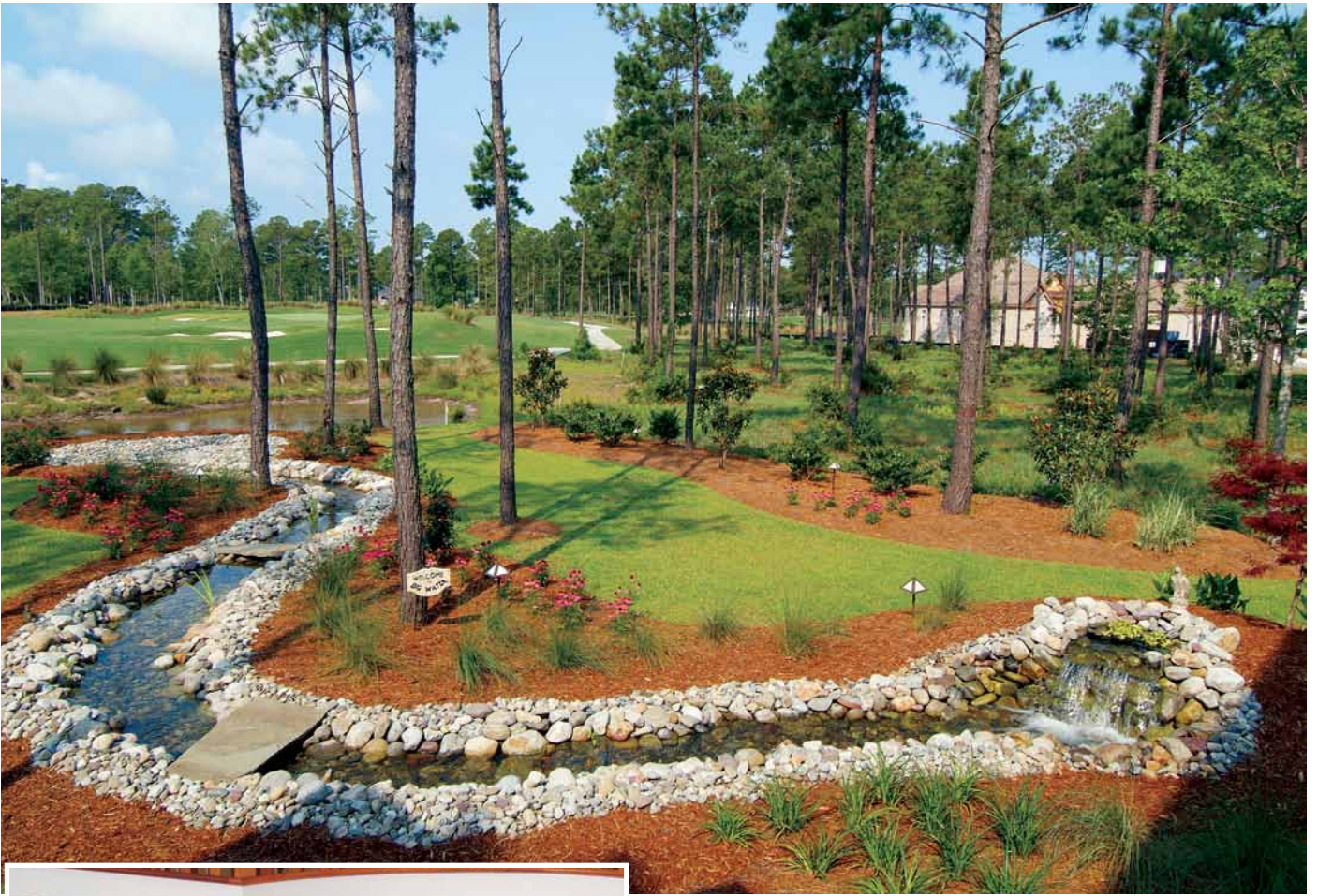
Left: The LaFebvre study features custom built ins, leather chair rail and cork flooring.

says, “There was not one problem. It was the most pleasant experience we have ever had. Ernie has very high standards. His office staff was terrific. His subs are very nice. They couldn’t have been more helpful.”

She adds, “It’s a lovely house and it’s everything we wanted.”

Homeowner Sharon Simon was reluctant to go through the building process when she and her husband, Bob, were choosing to build their home. Her concerns were unwarranted. Bob says, “I can’t imagine a custom home builder being any better. Dealing with Ernie and Cathy made the whole experience excellent. They’re just so good and cooperative in working with you and understanding what everyone’s wants and desires are, and making sure those wants and desires are incorporated into the house.”

Ernie and Cathy made the decisions the Simons faced easy for them, and they made suggestions and recommended options. Bob



Above: The rear of the LaFebvre residence features this beautiful, winding water feature and a view overlooking the green on the first hole of Leopards Chase Golf Links in Ocean Ridge Plantation.

Left: Ernie Crews (middle) and construction coordinator Cathy Brown (left) always enjoy the relationships they build with their homeowners long after the completion of each home, as evidenced by this visit with John LaFebvre (second from right) and his wife Pat in their home.

is glad he and Sharon accepted some of those suggestions. He says, "If they had not helped, I don't think we would be as happy with our house as we are."

Dudley and Iris King chose Ernie to build their retirement home on the Intracoastal Waterway in Sunset Beach. Dudley says, "Ernie Crews is one of the best guys I've ever worked with. He absolutely wants to satisfy you. It's what you want that he wants to build, not what he wants."

"Ernie is a very good listener. If we were going to build again, we would certainly get him to do it," Iris says.

The Kings enjoyed working with Ernie's staff and subs. Iris says, "This was quite an undertaking, and we did not have one bad experience, and that's saying a lot. Ernie's trim person is the best I have ever seen. He built our curved stairs. I showed him some pictures from magazines, and he said, 'I can do that,' and he did, and the stairs are fantastic."

The home, with a swimming pool on the first level, is everything





PHOTOS BY CHUCK GEE

The residence of Bob and Pam Callihan in Ocean Ridge Plantation.

the Kings wanted and it reflects their love for their two grandchildren, who visit them often and have rooms there. Their grandson chose trains as the theme for his room, where a model train runs on a track around the ceiling. Their granddaughter chose a flip-flop theme.

The dining room in the Callihan home.



John and Pat LaFebvre chose many innovative features for their home, including cork floors and leather-chair railing in his study, and a “winding stream” water feature located in their backyard overlooking the golf course. John says, “Ernie built us a really nice house, an outstanding house, and we have had no problems at all. We are super excited about the house. We are super excited about the whole experience. It was a wonderful experience. Working with Ernie was a real pleasure. I would do it again. I love building houses.”

John and Pat chose Ernie because of his reputation. Another important fact to John was that Ernie’s subs have been with him for a long time, are very respectful of Ernie and careful about his reputation and their own.

When the company built Bob and Pam Callihan’s home, Ernie and Cathy were so impressed with Pam that they asked her to work with them. Pam was not looking for work, but they kept asking and she finally agreed.

She does the marketing, website updates and other jobs. She says, “I’ve been able to free up Cathy and allow her more time with the homeowners, which is a really important component of Ernie’s business.”

Pam says, “However good Ernie is as a builder, he is that and more as a human being and person. It just does not get much better than Ernie Crews. Building is not just a job with him; it is a way of life. He is so easy to get along with, but yet his standards are so incredibly high. He takes his jobs as well as the owners’ wishes and dreams seriously, and his cup is never full.”

She adds, “Ernie has got tremendous people working for him. He and Cathy can see things that might go wrong, and they are so pro-



Above: The residence of Vince and Susan Coppolla in Ocean Ridge Plantation.

Right: The screened-in porch area on the rear of Bob and Sharon Simon's home in Ocean Ridge Plantation.



active that those things don't go wrong."

Ernie's wife, Donna, teaches school and works part time with the company. Their two sons, Alan and Billy, also help, doing whatever is necessary.

The experienced staff at Ernest G. Crews Construction, Inc. includes site supervisors Rick Lachance and Keith Gunther. Jack Echard and Mitch Volpe do quality control and punch items.

Ernie is dedicated to his business, his homeowners and his profession. He served as president of the South Brunswick Islands Home Builders Association in 2006 and was Builder of the Year. One of his homes was a Diamond Award winner in the association's Parade of Homes.

By always doing his best and bringing only people who do the same into his business, Ernie became a sought-after builder of some of the finest and most beautiful custom homes in the area. He says, "We've worked real hard to get a good reputation and we're working real hard to keep it." ■

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Custom Home Builders**

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