

The creation of this exquisite custom home came to fruition after a harmonious collaboration between MSB, the client and Benchmark Design Studio. The intricate exterior millwork of Benchmark Wood Studio further enhances the client's vision of an enchanting estate that is reminiscent of a bygone era.





Above and below: With the help of MSB's creative team and Benchmark Wood Studio's custom cabinetry, this newly renovated dressing room now presents a cohesive design integrated with custom storage solutions, superior aesthetic qualities and plenty of light come day or night.

## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOM HOME BUILDER

# Mike Schaap Builders Inc.

Mike Schaap, President

Every home has a story, one told through material and design, crafted by hand and imagination. The portfolio of Mike Schaap Builders Inc (MSB) tells many stories, starting with its first creation over three decades ago. From classic beachfront architecture to sprawling estates and modern masterpieces, each tale is a beautiful testament to the natural wonders of the Midwest and stunning proof that the details make all the difference.

Since launching his custom-building firm in 1986, Mike Schaap and his team have delivered residential excellence ranging in architectural style, size and finishes throughout the region. While the company may be best noted for its exceptional craftsmanship and budget-conscious disciplines, it is MSB's hand-picked team of talent and diligent design and build process that really bring it all together.

"We know that the client experience needs to be just as great as the final product, and because of this, we've merged design and construction into one fluid process," says Mike Schaap, founder and president of MSB. "With this program our team also becomes the single point of accountability, opening the door for both a well-designed and well-delivered project."

As Mike Schaap tells it, the firm stresses design as much as the construction, fabricating many of its own project details through its in-house sister company, Benchmark Wood & Design Studios. Together, MSB and Benchmark Wood & Design Studios guide clients throughout every project phase and present a seamless composite of services, incorporating everything from architectural design to interior design, to the finest



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— Mike Schaap*



Above and below: With every exterior and interior detail carefully planned and designed entirely in-house, this handsome lakefront retreat is a perfect example as to the ways which MSB's comprehensive design and build team tie everything together into one beautiful package.





Above: Designed and meticulously executed by MSB and Benchmark Design Studio, the exterior details of this captivating beach residence clearly prove why the difference is in the details. Below: This light and airy beachfront kitchen maintains unobstructed views of Lake Michigan while still incorporating functional workspace and plenty of storage. It is these remarkable details and fine workmanship that have become a well-earned trademark of MSB and Benchmark Wood & Design Studios.



hand-crafted millwork and cabinetry, furnishings, and finishes.

“As one current client stated, we offer everything from site clearing to silverware,” Schaap explained. “It’s a full range of services under one roof, but beyond that, it’s efficient and cohesive for our clients and it ensures our quality standards are always upheld.”

For MSB, collaboration is baked in the DNA of the firm. With a well-rounded team of project managers, estimators, supervisors, designers, and craftsmen on staff, MSB also maintains an enviable roster of trade partners including specialty subcontractors and suppliers. “If I can take full credit for something, it is that I have made the right hiring decisions,” said Schaap. “We have some of the industry’s most talented individuals on our team. They embrace the same principles and stand behind the brand’s promise to clients.”

The success of MSB can also be interwoven in the success of its industry partners. Understanding the relationship that some clients have with their own architect or designer, MSB works in tandem with these professionals, reveling in the strength of each firm and fostering unencumbered collaboration and creativity. “It’s both a dynamic and collaborative culture,” says Schaap. “A client never has to choose one thing over another or feel limited in their opportunities, our tending to the details and hands-on project management is universal across all projects. It’s what makes us so versatile.”

While the firm’s volume of finely crafted work spans a multitude of styles, perhaps it’s the insight, foresight and elevated building practices that also distinguishes Mike Schaap and his team as a specialist in waterfront construction and the go-to builder for lake living.

“We’ve been building on the lakeshore for the last thirty plus years, it’s this experience alongside our team-based approach that make us so well versed in lakefront building. Our solid understanding of waterfront issues, such as narrow lots and DEQ restrictions, be-



Alongside the client's Los Angeles based architectural firm, MSB collectively overcame the challenge of creating an intimate lakeside cottage that was also large enough to accommodate extended family. To ensure minimal upkeep and extra durability for this seasonal residence, MSB utilized a diligent selection of weather resistant materials and energy efficient components.

comes incredibly valuable as clients explore options for turning these challenges into opportunities," Schaap explained.

With a contagious enthusiasm and thoroughness for design and construction, the firm also adds large scale renovations to its impressive list of services. Whether adding a second story, expanding a master suite or cooking up a state-of-the-art custom kitchen, MSB helps clients breathe new life into their existing homes, another value-added service that clients of MSB have come to appreciate.

"Most importantly, we value the relationships we have forged with our current and past clients who continue to place their trust and confidence in us," says Schaap.

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#### Awards:

- 2016 Detroit Home Design Awards - 1st Place Vacation Home in Michigan
- 2016 NAHB Best in American Living Award - Platinum Award Best in Midwest (8,000+ sq ft)
- 2016 NAHB Best in American Living Award - Platinum Award Custom or Spec (8,000+ sq ft)
- 2016 NAHB Best in American Living Award - Platinum Award Custom or Spec (2,501-3,500 sq ft)
- 2016 NAHB Best in American Living Award - Platinum Award Detached Home (4,000+ sq ft)
- 2016 NAHB Best in American Living Award - Platinum Award Kitchen Remodel (\$75,001+)
- 2016 Gold Nugget Award - Best Custom Home (over 8,000 sq. ft.)

