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Bob Fate

Jason Fate

Bob Fate Builder, Inc.
“Excellence and Creativity in Quality Home Building”



Well-grounded home that Bob Fate Builder, Inc. designed serves the need for privacy and proximity to businesses. Vinyl sided for low maintenance and energy efficient windows provide a frame for nature and optimize lighting.

Bob Fate Builder, Inc. “Excellence and Creativity in Quality Home Building”

By Marilyn Cauthen

It's perfectly natural for a person seeking to build or remodel a home to enter the office of Bob Fate Builder, Inc. outfitted with questions, expectations, desires and healthy trepidation surrounding a vision of their dream home. After meeting with Bob and Jason Fate, all fears are alleviated, apprehension dissipates and questions are met with honesty and expertise. “Clients know what they want in the end, but not how to get there. We take the time to explain and describe what is involved in building or remodeling a home,” says Bob.

He will initially meet with people

one-on-one in order to ascertain their wants and budgetary boundaries so that there are no discouraging surprises throughout the progression of the project. “I'm really proud of Bob's ability to do this. He believes in bidding a project by line items instead of a lump sum. That way there are no hidden costs, they have a break down of expenses and they know exactly where their money is being spent,” notes Barbara, Bob's wife.

The company was established in 1991, after Bob spent many years working at the construction trade. “In the early 70's, I built my first home and I always had the

dream of going into business for myself.” Once the company was incorporated, it began to grow and became a familiar name in the community. “In 2000, I took a leave for a few years, working as a project manager for a larger, custom builder. But, I missed my business too much, so I chose to return as a company owner. I find it's more rewarding for me to be my own boss because I can make people's dreams become reality.” By 2006, one of the company's speculative homes participated in the Little Traverse Association of Home Builders Parade of Homes. “I started the house within a new



Striking Ebony accents add a snappy visual flavor to the Maple Ginger cabinetry and Maple hardwood floors. Layered task lighting gives focus to the Verde Peacock marble and granite countertops and adds a subtle sheen to the “Touch Free” appliances. Photo by Phoenix Photographic Studio ©.

development in order to generate work when I found out the LTAHB was planning a Parade of Homes. The timing was right, so I was one of the first to sign up.”

Jason, Bob’s eldest son, jumped on board after receiving a Civil Engineering Degree from Michigan Tech and Bob describes him as “a great plus for the business.” He adds, “With his engineering license and AutoCad drafting experience, we are able to offer more to our clients.” Jason has drawn a house, covering the engineering aspect of it, and frequently handles some of the design work for remodels and additions. “We can do small additions quickly with Jason. He has a

natural eye for good designs.”

Barbara Fate, Vice President and Secretary, is proud to be a part of the talent she sees in her husband and son. “We also have some very good employees that enjoy working for us. It’s really nice to see that we can provide jobs that make people happy to go to work every day,” notes Barbara. She describes herself as an “RN by trade” who takes every opportunity she can to work with the family’s building company. “Basically I do whatever needs to be done in the office because I get pleasure out of seeing a project come together with creativity and calculations—especially



Accessible clean modern design in the Master Bath features a seamless glassed tile shower with built-in seating, two bowl sinks, and custom cabinetry. A walk-in closet simplifies storage solutions with organizational shelving and clothes valet that give the “finished custom home” trade mark of Bob Fate Builder, Inc. Photo by Phoenix Photographic Studio ©.

Bob’s expertise includes experience in log cabin/home construction and educational certifications such as CAPS (Certified Aging in Place Specialist), which allows people with special needs associated with aging to stay in their homes. Jason and Bob are Green Build Certified. They are environmentally conscious in order to conserve our natural resources.



A living area of comfort for the discriminating homeowner has a gas insert fireplace with a custom hearth and is flanked by custom built-in cabinets. Security and sound systems can be controlled from several locations throughout the home.

one that I had no idea of how it would work. It's exciting to see."

Innovation and new building techniques/concepts are part of the diversity of Bob Fate Builder. A great example is their use of Insulated Concrete Forms for foundations and exterior walls. "Since my spec house, all of the exterior walls we build are made with ICF, which I take all the way to the roof. They are very energy efficient and can save the customer money on future energy costs." Bob indicated that many other states are utilizing ICF and it is gradually growing in his area. "I am not afraid of challenges in trying out new products and I feel this particular one is an advantage to me as a builder." He desires to learn everything he can about green building, which is why he chose to incorporate ICF into his stan-

"We are thoroughly pleased with Bob's work. It was always started and finished in a timely fashion. Any problems were first discussed with us and with our okay, were resolved. We required specific products and installations, which he successfully produced. No matter what the size or complexity of the project, Bob and his crew accepted and completed to our satisfaction."

—Jay and Marj McMullan

dards. He takes advantage of the training and networking opportunities offered to him as a member of The Little Traverse Association of Home Builders and The Remodeler's Council. "I believe by being involved in these organizations, it allows us to learn from one another and from outside speakers. We are educated on things like green build-

"Bob Fate is a knowledgeable, competent and high quality builder who takes great pride in the workmanship of his projects from start to finish. Our decision for choosing Bob was for his values of honesty and integrity. He focuses on state-of-the-art techniques for energy efficiency such as ICF's, Geo Thermal Heating and Cooling Systems and in-floor radiant heat. His work crew always keeps the job site in a presentable state and is headed by Jason Fate, a Civil Engineer who is always on site working and supervising, which is a bonus to the company."

—Jim and Suzy Howard

ing and its techniques and products. It's important to be an active member as a builder, because you need to be in tune with what's out there so you can grow personally and professionally."

The home featured in the Parade of Homes, with over 300 visitors, was an exciting project for the Fates. Bob had fun giving tours of the home, explaining materials and amenities. He included lots of utility space in the form of closets, storage areas and a beautiful walk-in pantry, all of which were well received by the visitors. "Upstairs, I used attic trusses and installed dormers, increasing the size of the rooms. And, there is a bonus room



A modern design home spotlighting exquisite expressions created by Bob Fate Builder, Inc. The covered front porch consists of a beaded ceiling of Douglas fir, Brazilian Red Wood decking and fiberglass railing. The home, constructed with Insulated Concrete Forms, giving an R-50 insulation value, and maintenance free Fiber Cement siding, result in numerous long term rewards of energy efficiency.



Rich golden hues of the knotty pine walls and ceiling capture warmth and light from the geometry of prow gable windows. The home features a cedar deck that spans the entire length of the home and is easily accessed through double doors. Photo by Phoenix Photographic Studio ©.



A beckoning sense of comfort emanates from the rustic and refined great room with one of the homes two wood burning fireplaces. Under a soaring ceiling the staircase leads to an upper level Master Suite. Photo by Phoenix Photographic Studio ©.

over the garage. Looking at the outside, you don't really see the overall size of 5,700 square footage. It's deceiving and beautiful at the same time." Jason explained, "This home has many nice and unique features. It has a security system, a full walkout basement, exterior wall siding made of fiber cement board with a 20-year warranty, speaker systems throughout and built-in cabinets on either side of the fireplace with a concrete hearth, which is a fairly new type of product construction." Bob refers to the home as "a

showpiece". "We included so many special touches, it's difficult to list them all."

Bob, Barbara and Jason are all reputable professionals who possess a passion for building, a desire to please their clients and the ability to create beautiful homes. Barbara sees the importance of honest, open communication that inevitably leads to lasting relationships with their clients. Bob believes in energy efficiency and creating a special project for his clients. His work philosophy is grounded in his history with The Boy Scouts of America.

"I live and run my business by the morals, ethics and oaths practiced by the individuals in the organization and I treat people with respect—the way they deserve to be treated." Jason thrives on the physical realization of a person's vision. Construction has always been a part of his life and his propensity to build was evidenced in the roads and structures he used to design in the sandbox as a boy. "When I walk into a house, I automatically notice all of the characteristics and unique features; it drives my wife nuts!" All three agree that there is no better feeling than the one they derive from seeing the look on clients' faces when they love what Bob Fate Builder has done for them.

The Builder's Journal is pleased to feature Bob Fate Builder, Inc. this month. For more information about this dynamic company, please contact Bob Fate Builder at 231.347.1295.

After meeting with 3 local builders regarding a covered porch addition to our home, it was clear that Bob Fate's craftsmanship and professionalism were a perfect match for our needs. We were extremely pleased with the end results which were not only exactly what we wanted but also finished on time and under budget. Bob made what could have been a potentially stressful situation an enjoyable and satisfying experience...We will definitely work with Bob Fate and his team again.

—Heather and Marty Engel