

Passion for Excellence

Todd Glowka's dedication to quality has garnered a strong reputation in the high-end homebuilding industry in Texas. **BY STACI DAVIDSON**

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TODD GLOWKA, PRESIDENT



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Plato is well known as one of the most vital figures in the development of Western philosophy, but one doesn't often see him cited in the construction industry. Todd Glowka Builder Inc. takes its work very seriously, however, and if one of Plato's ideas fits, it goes with it. The company cites Plato's thought that "excellence is not a gift, but rather a skill that takes practice" in its description of how it operates because excellence is one of the builder's guiding principles, and has been since it was founded.

Todd Glowka grew up in the construction industry because his dad had spent his career there, but after graduating college, Glowka spent about 10 years working with Union Pacific Rail Road. He enjoyed the work, but couldn't get homebuilding

PROFILE

TODD GLOWKA BUILDER INC.

tgbuilder.com / Headquarters: Kendalia, Texas

/ Specialty: Luxury custom homes



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out of his head. “I decided I really wanted to build homes, even though I didn’t have a formal education in it,” Glowka says. “I’ve been building homes since 2000 and I have a passion for it – I wouldn’t want to do anything else.”

Glowka’s love of the homebuilding industry lead him to earn his master builder certification in 2008 and continue with ongoing education at the local, state and national levels, but his passion is also shown in the company’s extensive project portfolio. Focusing on luxury custom homes in the Texas Hill Country, Todd Glowka Builder wants to deliver homes to clients that are beautiful, as well as functional and original.

“At the end of the day, the luxury market is different than the traditional market,” Glowka says. “The homes are much more detailed and they are more of a challenge. It’s just an attraction to me to really craft something. There’s an artistic challenge that goes into luxury.”

SINGLE-SOURCE RESPONSIBILITY

Todd Glowka Builder has been recognized in various ways for the quality of its work: The company constructed the first-ever Certified Green Built residence in the city of San Antonio, and has won awards for its craftsmanship, quality, landscaping and for exceeding industry benchmarks in real estate, among many other categories. And while the company is pleased with its extensive industry recognition, it takes the greatest pride in seeing satisfied clients.

As a custom homebuilder, Todd Glowka Builder retains single-source responsibility for its clients’ homes, from start to finish. The company believes a careful balance of ideas, creativity, communication and organization help to make clients’ dreams a reality, so it has developed a homebuilding process that is productive and less stressful than what many other builders offer.

“We put a lot into our projects on the front end in terms of

design, materials and pricing,” Glowka says. “We’re like a boutique builder, and we strive to build five to eight homes each year. All of them are highly detailed and we blend our ideas, creativity and organization into each project in a way that guarantees the continued quality and management of the project.”

Beekman Creek Ranch is an example of Todd Glowka Builder’s dedication to excellence. To start, this home’s property demanded a home that exceeded expectations. Located on a 400-acre, high-fenced game ranch that is stocked with various exotic species of African antelope, the home overlooks numerous spring-fed creeks that provide a year-round source of live water and run from one end of the ranch to the other. Glowka notes deep swimming holes lined with massive boulders create waterfalls.

The 11,380-square-foot residence serves as a weekend and summer getaway for a growing Houston family that has two pre-teen boys. It was designed to be a Texas Hill Country Reclaimed Resort-style home, and contains everything necessary to be the ultimate entertainment setting for family, friends and guests with four bedrooms and five-and-a-half bathrooms. It features large family gathering rooms, which are accented with interior walls of stone. A massive see-thru fireplace separates the home’s trophy room from the family/dining area and kitchen. The master wing





was designed for maximum privacy by being located the furthest distance away from the main living areas.

Todd Glowka Builder accomplished the home's finish-out through the use of historical timbers reclaimed from 100-year-old barns. A standing-seam metal room complements the board-and-batt exterior siding application. Dry-stacked stones were field-blended in custom mixes to highlight the home's bronze wood windows. The home's porches help capture the breezes during hot Texas summer nights.

Currently, Todd Glowka Builder is bidding work for the Oakland Hills residence, which is a 10,308-square-foot mid-century modern home. The four-bedroom home will sit atop one of the highest elevations in Cordillera Ranch, and features porcelain and wood floors, his-and-hers California closets, steel windows and doors, walnut wall finishes, a see-thru climate-controlled wine room and a state-of-the-art home automation system.

"This will be one of the finest homes I've ever built," Glowka says. "We will be using all of our creative abilities on the finishes, delivering exquisite finishes and millwork. With the architectural style and interior design, it's going to be really over the top."

CONSISTENT QUALITY

Glowka has created a system for most of the homes the company builds. He believes it is important for the firm to be involved early in the process, so it can work on the design from start to finish. The company starts by designing the house and the floorplan elevations to meet the client's needs. Once the design is done, Todd Glowka Builder works with the client through the specifications and materials phase. He explains it then remains "a driving force behind the plans" while determining the interior finish out, the windows, cabinets, custom features, lighting controls, home automation and appliances.

"Each set of specifications and materials is customized for each project," Glowka says. "At this point, we have already been working with a client for several months on the design, so we know what they want and know what their tastes are. We meet with every sub and vendor to review the plan, bid on the plan, put





together a proposal and then provide it to the client. Upon that, we execute a contract.”

During the building process, Todd Glowka Builder involves an interior designer and decorator to ensure everything is built according to the plans, specifications and materials desired by the client. Glowka explains he works with his team of engineers, designers, subcontractors and vendors, and we put the project together as a whole because that’s the best way to deliver these types of houses.

“We have had the same subs and vendors for the last 19 years,” he stresses. “We have a certain expectation of quality, and by using the same vendors and subs we can guarantee we will get the same quality on every job. They are aware of my expectations, and my expectations are the same on every job. Do it right with a high level of quality. Everything is quality driven, and there are no short cuts. This focus allows us to stay around and warranty the product, and we will even go back one to three years after we are finished and take care of any issues that have come up.”

Glowka believes his dedication to excellence will propel the company forward. “Our reputation is solid,” he says. “The fact that we can deliver the same level of quality over and over again – our customers don’t have to worry if the floorplan or price point is different, we are going to deliver the same quality consistently.” ■

