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Front Elevation

# Home of the Month

By Contributing Writer Michelle LaPierre

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John Morgan

**Urban Building Group**

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The remodel of November's Home of the Month came with a tall order: finish in five months no matter what. The size of the project expanded and the timeline shrank when the homeowners announced that they were expecting their third child. Urban Building Group was up for the challenge.

"The biggest surprise, fortunately for us, came prior to starting, and that was the news that she was pregnant. Once we knew that, we geared the entire schedule around that due date," says John Morgan, president of Urban Building Group.

Luckily, UBG's largely in-house approach to remodeling allowed them to complete the project with time to spare. "I think we turned the keys over to her about a week and a half before she had the baby," says Morgan. UBG used its own builders and designers to complete the project quickly and with as little impact on the owners' daily life as possible. "They were

living in the home and we were working in and around and above them most of the time," says Morgan.

The homeowners charged UBG with maintaining the Federal style of the Roswell Avenue home while giving its interior some modern twists. They chose building materials and exterior design details that harmonized the new construction with the existing architectural style of the home "so that you couldn't tell that the addition wasn't part of the original house," says Morgan. Though the home's roofline changed, its overall architectural style remained consistent with the traditional feel of the Myers Park neighborhood. UBG's turnkey Design/Build approach guided the interior design strategies as well as the remodeling work. The project was a collaboration between UBG's designers, the homeowners, and Lucy & Company (a prominent local interior decorating firm).

The interior design approach meant putting a fresh take on an overall traditional style. Stainless steel countertops rest on wood cupboards in the laundry room. Clean lines of the square sinks and modern brushed-finish fixtures compliment inset cabinetry in the master bath. And whimsically painted drawers in the children's rooms offset the classical lines of the furniture itself. The remodeling project did not increase the original footprint of the home. Instead, UBG added square footage by expand-

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ing the second floor into unused space above the kitchen and veranda. The resulting play room above the veranda features a ceiling with wood beam details. UBG removed a hip roof over the kitchen to create another bedroom.

Incorporating a more open floor plan while adding rooms to the upstairs presented a unique challenge. "We created an office vestibule central upstairs so that the new hallway to the back playroom, bedroom and the laundry room wouldn't appear really long," said Morgan. "You can access these new rooms off that area."

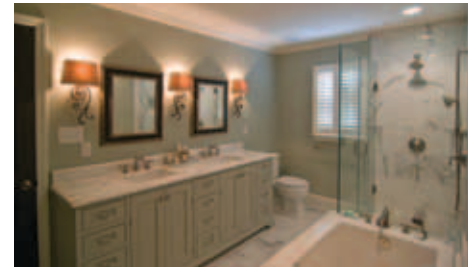
The careful additions to the home left the surrounding tree canopy--one of Myers Park's most prominent neighborhood features--unharmful. "By maintaining the established tree canopy, it helped blend the additions seamlessly into the larger neighborhood landscape," explains Morgan.

UBG is a family-owned business. John Morgan founded it in 2003 and moved it to its current Myers Park location in 2006. Its current location off Providence Road features a kitchen and bath selection center. UBG works all over the greater Charlotte area and specializes in custom remodels and renovations that require close attention to historical architectural detail. "We have a lot of experience working on these older homes," says Morgan. Morgan is a licensed General Contractor and Certified Green Professional.

UBG's community involvement goes beyond remodeling homes. It sponsors Myers Park Trinity Little League team in recognition of the importance of sports in developing children's overall learning experiences. UBG also supports Friends of Music at Queens, which raises funds to provide music education to students of Queens University of Charlotte.



Kids Den



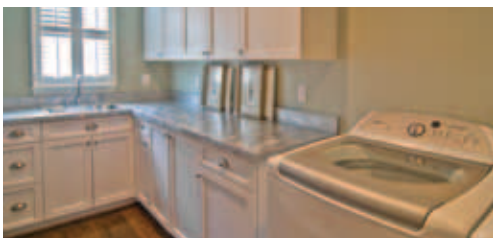
Master Bath



Bedroom



Nursery



Upstairs Laundry



Bedroom

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