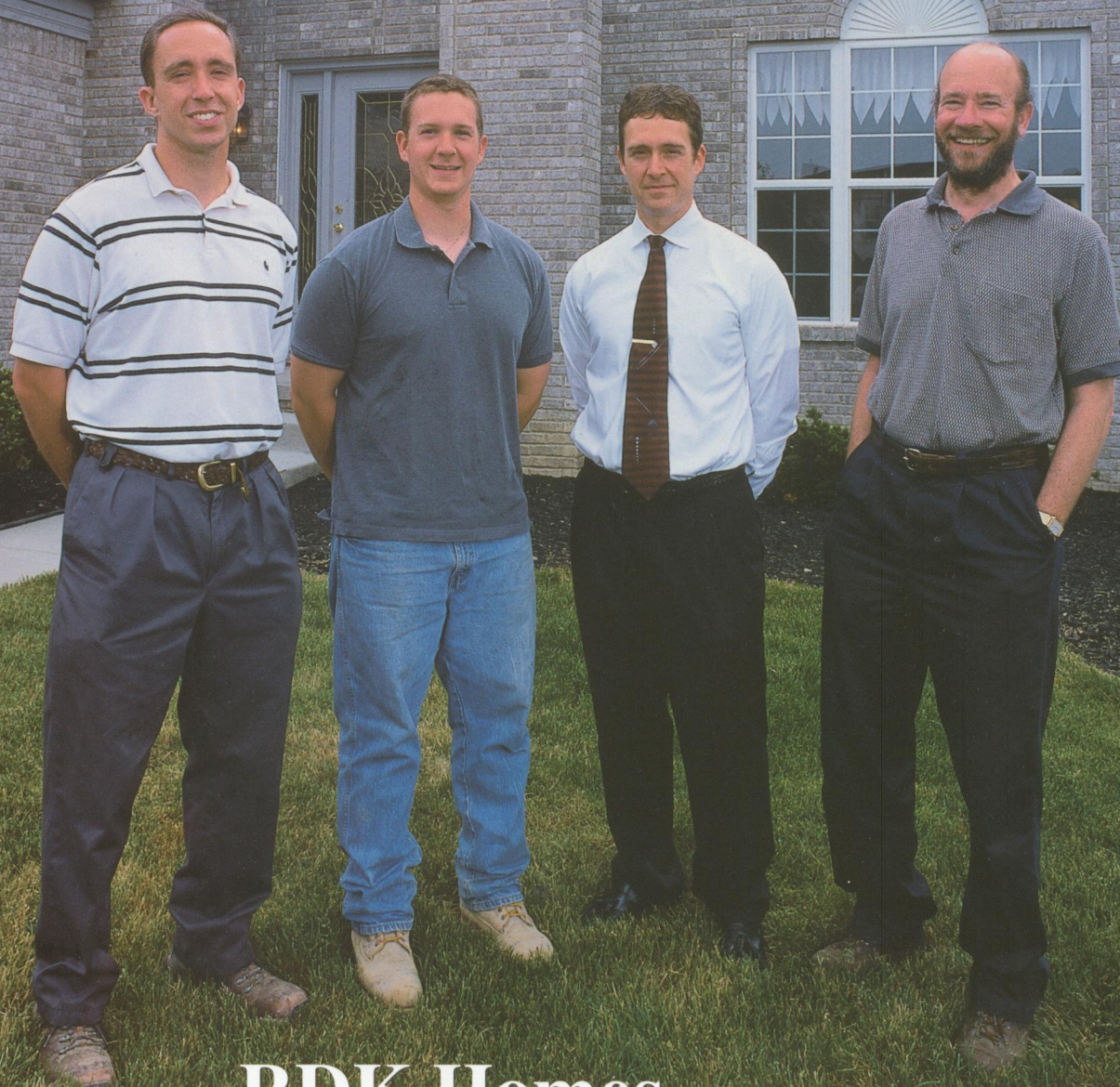


Builder/Architect

Ann Arbor/Brighton Edition

Our
65th
Year



RDK Homes
Experience, Dedication, Quality



This voluminous two-story great room in the Raleigh II model at Walden Woods is accented by a soaring window wall surrounding a central gas fireplace. Photo by Liz Brauer Photography.

RDK Homes

Experience, Dedication, Quality

By Jim Akans

The RDK Homes family is dedicated to making their customer's dream of owning a new home or condominium a rewarding experience. From cutting-edge designs, expert workmanship and value-laden features to personalized customer-oriented service during and after construction, RDK brings a solid history and a strong sense of family values to each home project.

Robert Kime, Founder of RDK Homes, states, "Our philosophy is pretty straightforward. We have three primary priorities: to have happy, satisfied customers; to

make our company a rewarding place to work for our employees; and to be excellent citizens in the communities where we build. When you are part of a family business, you take personal relationships very seriously and carefully, and that concern for people extends to your customers."

Robert Dean Kime began his building career in the mid-1970s working for Pulte Homes, rising to become President of the company's Michigan division before joining forces with his brother Curt in establishing an independent building company in 1982

called Kime Brothers. Over the next 10 years, Kime Brothers created homes in highly regarded subdivisions in the Canton, Westland and Rochester areas, Palmer Place, Westland Woods, Brandon Village, Heather Woods Village and several other memorable communities.

During that time, Robert's three sons, Greg, Brian and Matt would spend weekends and school holidays helping their father and uncle on the building sites. While Greg earned a journalism degree at Central Michigan University, Brian received a civil engineering degree

The upgraded gourmet kitchen in the Raleigh II features granite countertops, maple cabinets and hardwood floors. Photo by Liz Brauer Photography.





One of RDK Homes' popular models, the Merrimack II design offers 2,700 square feet of living space and includes a courtyard side entry garage and a full brick exterior. Photo by Liz Brauer Photography.

at the University of Michigan and Matt graduated pre-med at Kalamazoo College, each had acquired a taste for the family business of home building that would ultimately prevail.

In 1993, Robert and Curt Kime decided to split their existing building operation to create opportunities for their children. Early on in the new venture, Robert's wife Margaret handled the bookkeeping. As Robert notes, "I would work in the field all day then come home, and Margaret and I would do the accounting at night."

Greg joined RDK Homes in 1994 and has directed the company sales ever since. He states, "We build fine quality, affordable homes, typically starting in the mid-\$100,000 range for condo-



miniums and the \$200,000 range for single-family homes. Home buyers look for an attractive exterior, curb appeal and good interior flow, but in residential building, trends and technologies are always changing. Items such as the design of kitchens and baths, styles of cabinetry, moldings and trim constantly evolve."

Brian Kime joined the family business in 1998. Brian brought a

long-held passion for design to the operation. During high school, he had twice won the American Society of Body Engineers design competition, and combining this natural talent with an engineering education, Brian now designs nearly every RDK home. He is also in charge of technical planning, contract negotiations with suppliers and trades, and handles budgeting and cost controls. RDK's long-term relationships with established, experienced trades and suppliers, and the

firm's commitment toward incorporating state-of-the-art materials and systems into their homes have been recognized with the Energy Star certification, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designation for energy-efficient products.

In 2001, Matt Kime brought his ingenuity on computer systems into the RDK operation. Working with Brian, Matt has begun

adapting design and engineering software for construction while also working as a construction superintendent. As Greg states, "We all enjoy what we do and enjoy working together. We all bring different talents and interests to the business."

Greg continues, "Customer service is also very important to us. We feel that our reputation is earned and respected after the home closes as much as it is before the sale." RDK Homes maintains a highly trained administrative staff, including Executive As-

The open floor plan of the Merrimack II allows for easy traffic flow throughout the first floor and provides visibility and access between the family room and kitchen areas. Photo by Liz Brauer Photography.





The master bedroom and bath of the Raleigh II provide the spacious and relaxing atmosphere so many homeowners desire. A cathedral ceiling and oversized walk-in closet accent the bedroom, while the bath provides twin sinks, a whirlpool tub, separate shower and ceramic floor tile. Photo by Liz Brauer Photography.

Hickory Woods in Van Buren Township. The company also has a new community underway, *Elliot Farms* in Ypsilanti, where approximately 200 home sites are in the early stage of development.

Bringing family values to the family-oriented business of building new homes, RDK Homes is deservedly proud of the reputation they have earned and the products



Recently, RDK Homes was selected by the *Detroit Free Press* to serve as a model home builder for a series of articles. After surveying several builders, *Free Press* writer Judy Rose chose RDK Homes based on the company's size, reputation, home quality, geographic location, and their commitment to incorporating new products and design features into their homes.

The *Free Press* followed a single RDK home from groundbreaking to completion and sale, at Walden Woods subdivision in Van Buren Township. For a detailed look at this insightful journey, check out the Web site at www.freep.com/realestate/chronicles.htm.

sistant Kristina MacLean; a skilled field staff, with Field Manager Don Cottrell; Superintendents Stan Savage and John Hensley; Land Development Specialist Gary Kackstetter; and warranty service led by Brian Snyder.

RDK Homes can be currently found in three outstanding communities. Single-family homes are offered in Ypsilanti Township's *Whispering Meadows* and Van Buren Township's *Hickory Woods*. For the home purchaser seeking a maintenance-free lifestyle, RDK craftsmanship is available at

they build. For Robert Kime, it is the realization of a vision that began nearly 30 years ago, and a dream that RDK Homes helps each new customer accomplish every day. Robert affirms, "It's been a privilege and a joy. I think nearly every father dreams of establishing a business that his children can take over. To see that dream come true and to help others realize their dreams is very, very special."

Builder/Architect Magazine congratulates the entire RDK Homes organization on their achievements and wishes them continued success.