

# Hot Off The Plotter

THE NEWSLETTER OF STYCZYNSKI WALKER & ASSOCIATES

Spring Newsletter • April, 2001

## Millennium II House now under construction

Styczynski Walker & Associates has again teamed up with Sevconco, Inc. to define the latest in luxury home building. The Millennium II House, located in Glen Ellyn, demonstrates the assets of “green” construction on a grand scale. The home is nearly 8,000 square feet in size, with another 2,700 square feet of space around the built-in swimming pool and lanai. But despite the size, this house incorporates many ecologically aware features. For example, the house uses panelized construction, meaning it is built off site and then the panels are shipped to the site and assembled. The roof structure is also pre-cut and delivered to the site. This method of construction allowed the builder to frame the bulk of the house in much less time, and significantly reduced lumber waste. In addition, it is a



The indoor pool under construction at the Millennium II House

“healthy” house, meaning that the materials chosen for construction are more friendly to an allergy sensitive occupant. The ranch-style floor plan features an elevator and wide doors and halls to provide full accessibility by wheelchair to the entire

house. For more information on this home, visit [www.housingzone.com](http://www.housingzone.com) and click on GreenHouse. Look for upcoming articles in the Daily Herald and Chicago Tribune. It is also featured on the Professional Builder Magazine website.

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### Website launch

Styczynski Walker & Associates is proud to announce that our new website is up and running! Log on to [SWA-ARCHITECTS.com](http://SWA-ARCHITECTS.com) for a tour of our portfolio, photos of projects under construction, and lots of tips on design and construction. You can also link to other useful websites, and view this newsletter online, or e-mail it to someone else. This is the last issue of “Hot off the Plotter” that will be mailed, so if you wish to have our newsletter e-mailed to you, go to our website & click on “more info”, then “contact us”, and fill in your e-mail address.

### A Note from Bill



It's hard to believe we just completed our 21st year, providing services to hundreds of clients through the years. A larger staff has required us to move into a new, larger office this coming May. We have also unveiled our new web site, which looks great. Another thing to look for-

ward to is the Millennium II Showcase Home being built by Sevconco, Inc. (see article above). It will debut this summer with several open house events. We will keep you informed about the schedule as the time approaches. Technology is also moving so fast. We now look forward to upgrading our CAD software with the latest 3D features. E-mailing drawings and documents is now a daily routine. Soon we will begin e-mailing our newsletter to clients rather than mailing it. I look forward to these changes as our business continues to grow.

**WE'RE MOVING!!** As of June 1st, 2001, our new office address will be 535 Plainfield Road, Suite B, Willowbrook, IL 60521. Our phone numbers will remain the same.

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## Styczynski Walker Celebrates 20th Anniversary



After 20 years in the business, Bill Styczynski can look back with a great sense of accomplishment.

From a modest beginning in an office space in one of the "less scenic" parts of Chicago, Styczynski Walker & Associates has consistently grown in scale and quality to the successful firm it is today.

From the beginning, Bill was committed to keeping up with the latest technology. Thus, in 1988 the firm decided to go 100%

computer, phasing out all hand-drafting. Though it involved a tremendous amount of time and effort to make this transition, the results have been extremely worthwhile. The advantages of using CADD, versus hand-drafting, are innumerable, and include increased accuracy, time-savings, and much more legible drawings. "Although using computers requires constant updating of software and addressing glitches in the system, the resulting quality of our drawings has been noticed and commented on by

**"...the resulting quality of our drawings has been noticed and commented on by builders we work with for years."**

builders we work with for years," said Bill. In their current location in Willowbrook, Styczynski, Walker & Associates has consistently grown from two employees to nine currently. They have won three prestigious Crystal Key awards from the Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago, in addition to many Gold, Silver, and Bronze Key Awards. In 1998, the original Millennium Home, in Lincolnshire was chosen as the Showhome in conjunction with the Custom Home Builders Show at McCormick Place, and published in Custom Home magazine. The firms' work has been featured in a number of other publications.

## The Murgas Addition

This home in LaGrange Park, began as an undistinguished tri-level, with a combination of brick and siding on the exterior. After being enlarged in several directions and getting a total face lift the home presents an attractive and welcoming face to the community.

Initially, the owners just wanted to add a family room onto the rear of the house, and expand the upper level to provide a comfortable master suite, including a private master bath.



Front elevation—before renovation.



Front elevation—after renovation.

As the project progressed, the project expanded into a full blown overall of the exterior. In order to transform the exterior look of the house, cultured stone and EIFS (commonly known as dryvit) were added to the entire home. The addition of a EIFS band above the stone and EIFS trim around the windows added another touch of detail. The front porch was also reworked, with round columns added to dress up this area.

The new family room features a soaring vaulted ceiling centered on the fireplace, which has the added bonus of an exterior fireplace opening (see photo at left) that can be enjoyed from the patio in the backyard.

## Employee Update

Styczynski Walker & Associates is happy to introduce you to our new associates, and update you on the activities of those you know already.

**Tom Fend** joined Styczynski Walker in August of 1999 as a project architect for the firm. Tom is responsible for the full range of architectural services from preliminary project feasibility analysis, through design, design development and the production of construction documents, including construction phase services. Working in the profession since 1979 with firms in Columbus, Ohio and the Chicago area, he has a wide range of experience on many types of projects including residential, commercial and civic. Tom has received numerous industry awards including a "Gold Key Award" and "Best in American Remodeling" award from Professional Home Builder Magazine.

Tom has also served as a speaker at the Northern Illinois Home Builders, Custom Home Building Seminar. He is a member of the Northern Illinois Home Builders. Tom graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a Bachelor of Environmental Design Degree and Study for a Masters in architecture at the Ohio State University.

**Raymond Gutierrez**, joined the firm in October of 1999. Ray brings 30 years of architectural experience as project architect, designer and the production of construction documents as well as having received design awards for residential & commercial architecture. Before joining the firm he worked with various well-known architectural firms in the Chicago area.

We are also happy to welcome **Andrew Pickett, Rob Hudson, and Diana Kestly** to the firm. They all join us as architectural interns.

**Kim Haig** celebrates 10 years with the firm in April. Kim continues to work as a project architect and newsletter editor for the firm.

**Tess Kliros**, the office manager, celebrated 3 years with the firm in March.

**Jun Ragasa** celebrated 4 years with the firm in March.

## •Book review •

### "Creating the Not So Big House"

In this new book, Sarah Susanka has expanded on her best-selling book, "The Not So Big House", by giving us a number of examples of how to accomplish the goals for an ideal house set down in the original. In this beautifully illustrated volume, she gives us a full tour of 25 homes under 3000 SF that demonstrate how to build a "not so big" house.

Especially revealing is the comparison of two similar but different houses in the back of the book. In 1999 LIFE Magazine chose Susanka's former architectural firm, SALA, to design a "dream home" that would be accessible to more people than just the typical custom home client. Since, she reports, only 2% to 3% of all houses built today involve an architect, the reasoning goes, that by providing good quality home book plans more people will have a chance at a well-designed home.

What is so interesting about the comparison between the "Back to Basics" plan (BTB), and its modified version, the "Whole Nine Yards" plan (WNY), is that the WNY plan is only 400 SF bigger, but is almost twice as expensive to build. The differences between the two houses include higher and more complex ceilings, a full

basement and elaborate custom woodwork in the WNY house. It is these kind of details that escalate the cost of a house and it is these details that make a house transform into a home.

Susanka's primary argument is that the qualities we desire in a home are not to be found in the size of the house, but in the character the house expresses through unique details. These details add cost, but the resulting quality of the living space more than offsets this negative. In fact, she claims, by cutting out superfluous spaces that never get used, like a formal living room, we can reduce the size enough to offset the cost of these special details.

The book is full of examples of how to make your own home unique and efficient by overlapping the functions of rooms so that all the rooms get used, and all the rooms are comfortable. The biggest impediment to the concept of smaller size homes is the fear of a house being too small. In fact, when rooms get too big, we lose our sense of shelter and proportion to the human body. This book illustrates how beautiful and spacious a "Not So Big House" can be.

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## Sprinkler Systems

*Necessary precaution or overkill?*

In recent months, several newspaper articles have come to our attention about the rapid spread of sprinkler systems as a requirement for new homes and large additions in the suburbs. A January 6th article in the Chicago Tribune reports that in December, Park Ridge became the 14th town to require sprinklers in new homes. Last summer Clarendon Hills passed a similar motion, and according to a local plan official, more villages in the immediate area are soon to follow.

With the scarcity of fires in the suburbs (according to this official there was *one*

major house fire in Clarendon Hills last year) it seems hard to justify the expense. One builder who recently got bids for a sprinkler system in Clarendon Hills reported a range of bids from around \$10,000 to over \$16,000 for a 3,400 square foot house.

Besides the cost, getting sprinkler plans drawn, reviewed, and the system installed can add eight weeks to the building schedule. And, the possibility of your kids setting off the system by accident makes the whole system seem a little precarious. The National Association of Home Builders is "vehemently opposed" to these new requirements, and based on the evidence, we would have to agree.

# Racing News



Bill Styczynski on the winner's podium at Road America

## THE LAST WORD

This is the last issue of *Hot off the Plotter* that will be mailed out. Future issues will be sent via E-mail, and these issues will also be available on our website @ [www.swa-architects.com](http://www.swa-architects.com). If you would like to continue receiving our newsletter via regular mail, please let us know. Please fax or e-mail your preference on this form to Fax 630-789-2515 or e-mail [WWW.INFO@SWA-ARCHITECTS.COM](mailto:WWW.INFO@SWA-ARCHITECTS.COM).  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preference: regular mail  e-mail

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Last year was the most successful year of racing ever for the Styczynski Motorsports team. The highlight of the year was a victory at the prestigious Kohler June Sprints at Road America. The victory came on a last lap when Bill Styczynski kept his foot on the throttle as the current leader crashed in front of him on the back straightaway. "I was setting up for the draft to the finish line, and when we came through the high speed kink, the leader spun, the two cars in front of me lifted, and I took the lead," said Bill. "After trying to win this race for over 20 years, it was the biggest thrill in my racing career." It was a popular victory, with champagne sprayed from the podium in celebration.

Bill Styczynski finished in the points in every regular season race in 2000, finishing 6th in the very competitive Central Division. Unfortunately, his luck turned at the National Championship race in Mid-Ohio, where a crash nearly destroyed the car on the 1st day of practice. Although he managed to put the car back together, it was never competitive for qualifying or the race.

The 2001 season will begin the last weekend of April at South Haven, Michigan. The final schedule will be announced in the next month, along with the announcement of new sponsors. The date for the June Sprints race will be Saturday, June 23rd. If you are interested in attending any of the races, e-mail us at [info@swa-architects.com](mailto:info@swa-architects.com) and we will notify you of the final schedule.



Bill Styczynski at Phoenix, Arizona



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