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**HEALTH-WISE HOMES:**  
The Grand Strand's  
Leader in Healthy Home  
Construction





A gorgeous Japanese soaking tub with teak surround, highlighted by an ornamental Japanese parasol chandelier in the Cramers' master bathroom

# HEALTH-WISE HOMES: The Grand Strand's Leader in Healthy Home Construction

By Peggy Mishoe

**S**TAN BUDZINSKI, OWNER of Health-Wise Homes, is committed to designing and building exquisite custom homes. He is also dedicated to building healthy homes, and his experience more than qualifies him to do just that.

Stan's approach to health-conscious building incorporates features such as whole-house water filtration; metal ductwork rather than fiber duct board; electronic and high-density media air filtration; paints and finishes that emit minimal or no volatile organic compounds; formaldehyde-free cabinetry; and

direct-vent gas fireplaces, which use no inside air for combustion.

Since 2002, he has been building homes on individual sites and in prestigious communities in Horry and Georgetown counties. His wife, Carol, works closely with him, assisting clients as they make numerous choices, offering a woman's perspective on his designs and sharing her knowledge of products.

Before building their home in DeBordieu Colony, Steve and Lynne Cramer looked at homes there.

"Two of them were built by Stan and had a lot of the features we were looking for,"





The residence of Steve and Lynne Cramer. A stunning French entry welcomes everyone to the Cramers' home in DeBordieu Colony. "Stan was great to work with," Steve says. "His contractors are just absolutely wonderful people, and they are very skilled."

Steve says.

For them, building healthy was not a high priority.

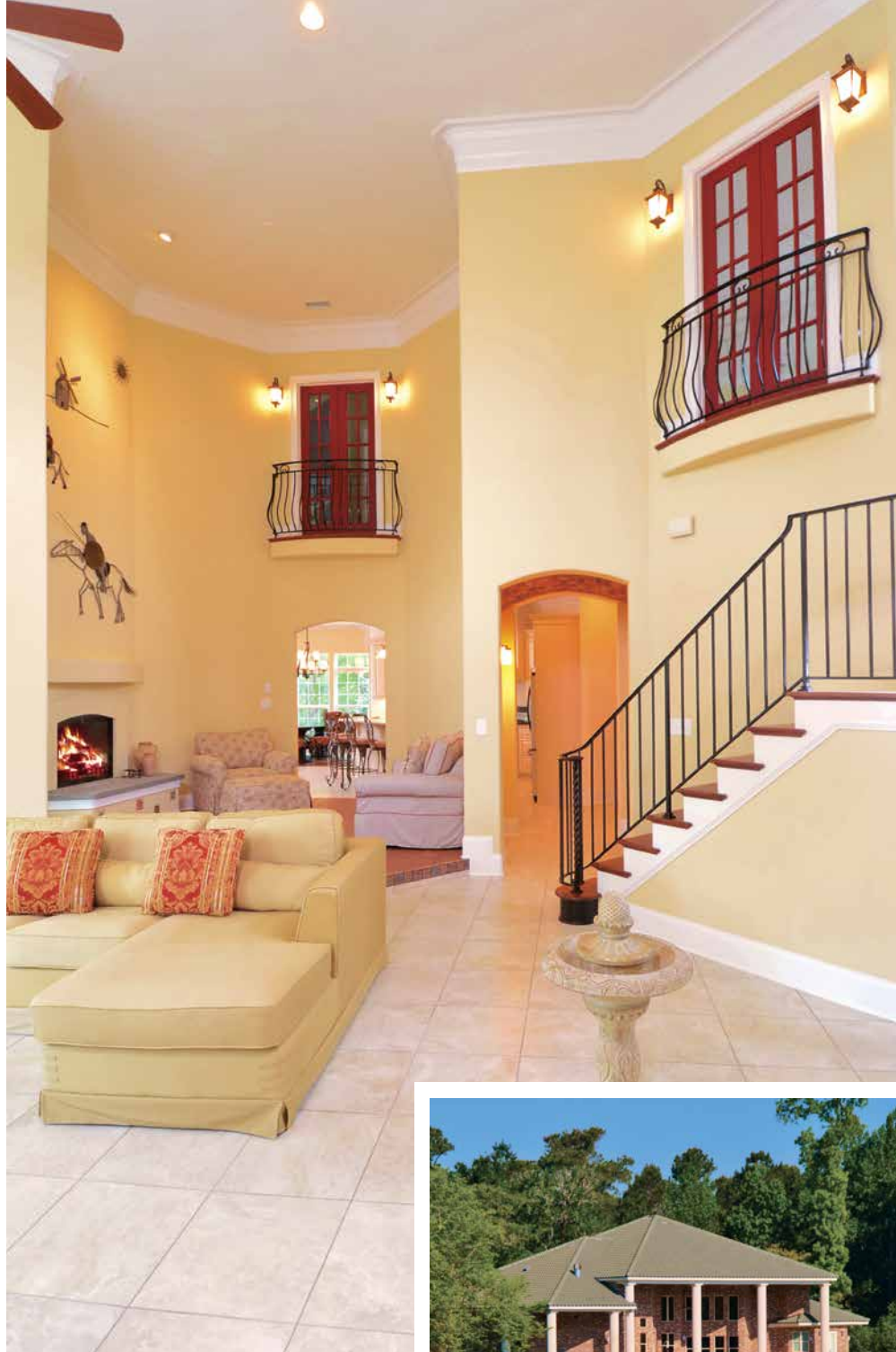
"There were some features we used, such as the mosquito suppression system," Steve says. "My wife had a short list of things that were non-negotiable, and suppressing mosquitoes was on that list."

He adds: "Stan was great to work with. His contractors are just absolutely wonderful people, and they are very skilled. I was dreading it at first, but it was actually an enjoyable process."

The fact that Stan works only with highly skilled subcontractors who are pleasant to deal with made the process much easier.

"All of them were superior," Steve says.

He continues, "Stan and Carol have been very gracious, not only in building the house, but in introducing us to the neighborhood as well."



The Cramers' restful great room features ceramic tile, as well as paints that emit minimal or no volatile organic compounds.

For Bill and Marzella Comeau, building healthy was a high priority.

In 2006, they purchased a home in Pawleys Plantation.

"We fell in love with it," Marzella says. "We were so happy with that house. I cannot tell you one thing about it we did not like."

They did not know Health-Wise Homes



The rear of Bill and Marzella Comeau's residence in DeBordieu Colony. The Comeaus' Health-Wise home is enhanced by its tranquil outdoor spaces. "Stan did exactly what we wanted," Marzella says. "He is a phenomenal builder. He's there with you every step of the way."



**Above:** The Comeaus' formal dining room displays lovely travertine stone floors and a flowing, handmade glass chandelier.



**Left:** Beautiful does not have to be unhealthy! A unique sink and drain adorn this powder room in the Comeau residence.

had built it until years later when they started planning to build in DeBordieu Colony. After learning who had built it, they visited another Health-Wise Homes residence that happened to be for sale in DeBordieu.

"I looked at that house and thought, 'Oh wow!'" Marzella says.

Because they wanted a home reflecting their personalities, they chose Health-Wise Homes as their builder.

"Stan did exactly what we wanted," Marzella says. "He is a phenomenal builder. He's there with you every step of the way."

Bill, an anesthesiologist who is very knowledgeable about respiratory problems, says he was concerned about health risks to Marzella, a cancer survivor who became more sensitive to allergens after chemotherapy, and to their granddaughter, who has asthma.

"Stan's priority is a healthy house, which I didn't understand until I built with him," Bill says. "When we visited another home he had built, he showed us what systems to use. We loved the idea and really appreciated his expertise in building not only well, but healthy."

That system, along with other healthy features, has proved to be a tremendous benefit for Marzella and their granddaughter. Bill says their granddaughter constantly coughs and has allergy attacks at night when she is at home in North Carolina but has no problems at their home.

"It's excellent," he says. "It's just one fewer thing you have to worry about. As a result of the HVAC system that Stan implemented, we've never seen pollen in this house."

As much as Bill and Marzella love their home, in early 2013, they were planning to build another one because Bill's work required them to move. They were not certain if they would build in North Carolina or on the North Grand Strand, but they were certain Stan would build the home for them.

"We are going to build with Stan just because of his concept of the Health-Wise home," Bill says. "He has already said he will build it."

Bill says some of his friends have had horrible building experiences. They've told him their builders did not want them on the sites during construction. Stan encouraged him and Marzella to visit the site as often as possible, he says.

Stan offered them many great choices, was willing and able to make changes throughout the building process, and remained available to them long after their home was finished.

"He just doesn't leave you in the lurch after building your home, which is a fantastic thing," Bill says.

Stan retired after 28 years as a



Maryland state trooper. During those years, he worked in the building industry part time in different areas, including framing, trimming, electrical, plumbing, flooring, roofing and more. He also built some homes for his family there.

After he and Carol moved to the Grand Strand in 1998, he owned a ceramic tile business.

“By doing that, I actually ended up meeting a lot of subs,” he says. “None of them were interested in hiding anything from me, so I saw who was skilled and conscientious and who was not. When I started building here, I already knew which subcontractors I wanted to work with me.”

In the 1990s, Carol became ill due to exposure to chemical agents tested at her workplace and overuse of pesticides and

common household cleaning items. She developed serious respiratory problems, and the journey between her exposure and a correct diagnosis was a long one. It came with advice from a world-renowned specialist at Johns Hopkins University: “She told me to build a new home on the ocean and to build it chemical-free,” Stan says.

Stan had no idea what that would mean. Carol has a condition known as multiple

chemical sensitivity syndrome and is highly allergic to petroleum, which is in many products.

Because Stan was a builder, he thought building a chemical-free home would be easy, but he had a lot to learn — and he did.

“He really stepped up to the plate and learned a lot about what makes people healthy,” Carol says.

Stan built that home near the ocean

An antique, Tibetan door greets guests as they choose from Bill Comeau's wine collection.



Viking appliances and filtered water are among the features of the Comeaus' kitchen. Granite surfaces and formaldehyde-free cabinets adorn the kitchen as well.







From inside to outside, Stan and Carol Budzinski's residence is the model of a healthy home.

in DeBordieu Colony, where the couple enjoys life among families who live in several of the homes he has built.

According to another homeowner,

Janie Dunn, as important as it may seem to keep the relationship between you and your builder on a business level, every one of Stan's homeowners she has met is

**The residence of Mark and Janie Dunn in DeBordieu Colony. Health-Wise Homes' practices infuse all environments at the home, including the outside, where organic pesticides and lawn care products are utilized. "Stan absolutely builds a quality home, and he has good subs who work with him," Janie says. "He's really easy to work with. He built my home as if he were building his own."**



now his friend. That includes her and her husband, Mark.

When Mark and Janie chose to build their home in DeBordieu Colony in 2004, they knew Stan would build it.

"Stan had built two homes for my son," Janie says. "He absolutely builds a quality home, and he has good subs who work with him. He's really easy to work with. Stan built my home as if he were building his own."

Years later, Health-Wise Homes did extensive renovations and additions to their home, including enclosing their swimming pool, turning their existing garage into an exercise studio and adding a three-car garage.

They loved their home but wanted to live closer to the ocean. By 2013, they had purchased oceanfront property. Janie says of her existing home, "If I could move this house to the beach, I would."

As Mark and Janie began another building process with Health-Wise Homes, they were confident about their builder.

"I didn't even put it out for bids," Janie says. "I know Stan is fair. I know he's honest, and I know he does quality work."

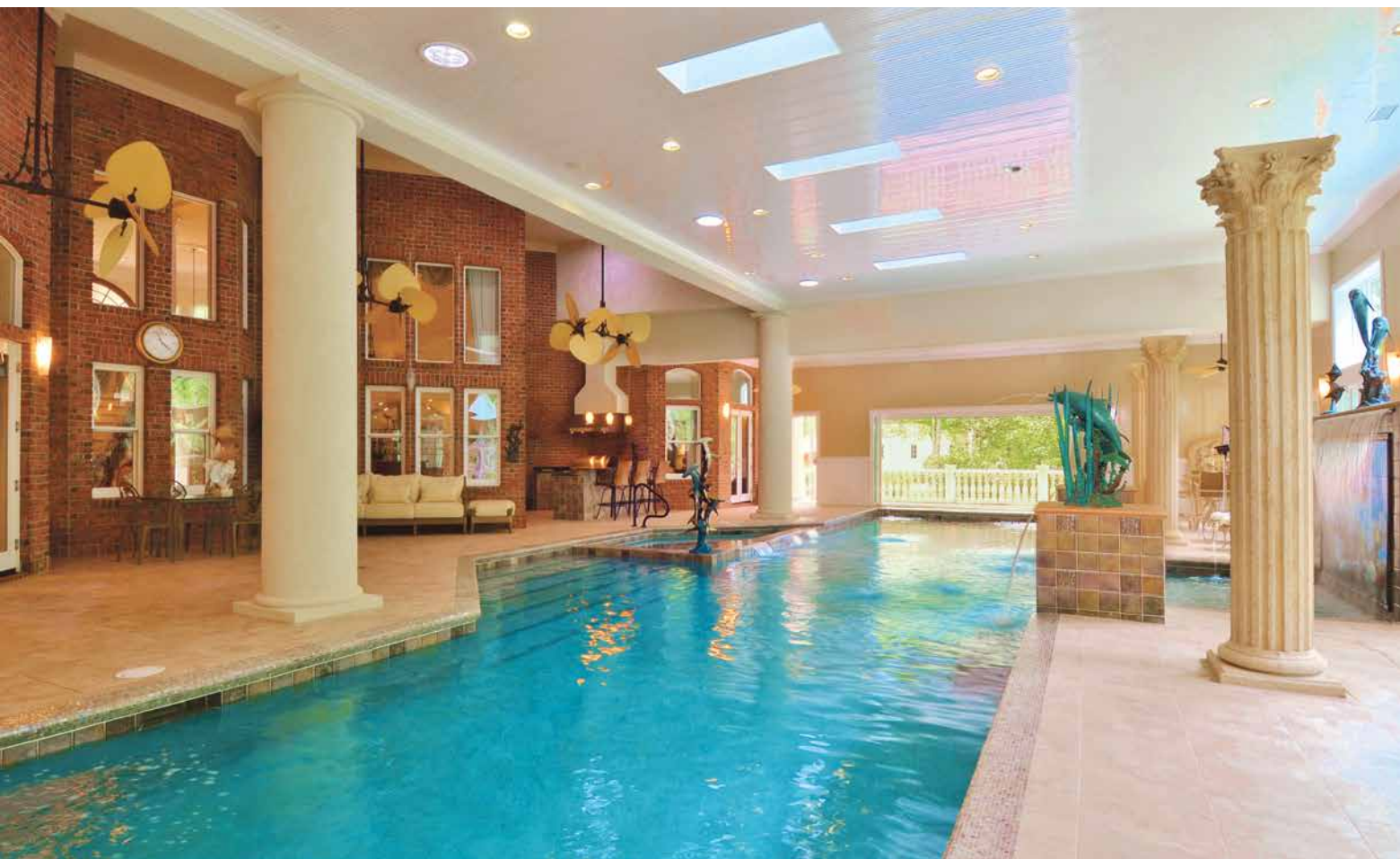
Homeowner Larry Simon agrees.





Above: The Dunns' natatorium is climate-controlled and features a saltwater pool.

Below: The Dunns' natatorium also features an outdoor kitchen (seen in background with three bar stools), where gourmet meals are prepared after a healthy swim.







Stan and Carol Budzinski with their most precious family member, Gator, in their home in DeBordieu Colony. Stan's health-conscious building is on display throughout the residence. The home incorporates features such as whole-house water filtration; metal ductwork; direct-vent gas fireplaces; formaldehyde-free cabinetry; paints with minimal or no emissions of volatile organic compounds; whole-house air filtration systems; geothermal heating; a central-vac vacuum system; organic pest control; and ceramic tile, to name just a few.

"Stan is a good guy. He bends over backwards to please you," Larry says.

Larry and his wife, Rose, closely watched their Health-Wise home being built in Waterway Palms in 2012.

"Everything went as smoothly as I could imagine," Larry says. "We were very happy with the way things worked out. I think it's one of the nicest-looking homes in the development."

He says they faced a challenge from the beginning: Their lot was only 42 feet wide, and they needed their home to be no more than 30 feet wide. Stan designed the home to fit the lot and to fulfill Larry and Rose's needs and desires.

"Stan pretty much designed our whole plan," Larry says. "He is a true custom home builder. He designs the house around what you want. There were a lot of features he came up with that we had not even considered."

Larry was interested in saving money, and Stan came up with different ways to do that, including building all their decks with concrete, which turned out "really nice."

To save additional money, Larry told Stan he would clean up the building site in the evenings.

"Stan's contractors were very good, and they were also very neat," he says. "There was really nothing for me to do when I was over there."

Stan likes to watch the hammers swing, and he stays on his worksites as much as possible. His dedication to clients and his passionate desire to make homes as healthy as possible are part of what makes him a preferred builder and a new friend. ■



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