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## Cook Builders Adds Personal Touch to Homes throughout the Region

BY MICHELLE KRUEGER  
Times Correspondent

Having earned a reputation as custom homebuilders flexible enough to do a variety of things, Cook Builders takes nothing for granted after 35 years in the local building industry.

For starters, every home that Cook builds is a one-of-a-kind project from start to finish. The same attention to detail, quality products and experienced group of hand-selected subcontractors will make your dream a reality, regardless of budget.

Their current list of projects demonstrates the broad spectrum of opportunity with Cook Builders. Starting at \$180,000 for the replacement of a flood-demolished home in Munster to a custom showplace valued at nearly \$1,000,000 with a little of everything in between, you'll find them at work in Schmidt Farms and Ellendale Farms in Crown Point, Wysteria Gate in the Gates of St. John, Stone Gate at Lake Hills in St. John and Emerald Crossing in Dyer.

"There are always prospects. People like new homes - it's still the American dream," Richard Cook, the company's founder and hands-on leader, says. "We work hard with and for our homeowners, and it seems to work out well for everyone. The fact that we are able to build such a wide range of homes for people with such varying incomes is an indicator of that fact."

As a result, Cook Builders can show you any number of different custom homes they have built, in a variety of price points and locations throughout the region, further demonstrating their flexibility to build the home of your dreams on the home site of your choice. Since past clients consistently have high praise for Cook Builders, they are almost always willing to show off their beautiful homes and talk about their personal building experience.

If you don't already own property, you can consider one of the neighborhoods where Cook has reserved a few select home sites. These include Lake Hills in St. John, Feather Rock and White Hawk Country Club in Crown Point and Emerald Crossing, a brand new and more affordable neighborhood on the state line in Dyer.

To complement the single-family homes of Emerald Crossing, Cook Builders and Kelly Construction Inc. recently introduced maintenance-free Cottage homes here as well. Featuring incredible custom quality, the Cottages at Emerald Crossing also offer the benefits of



ROBERT WRAY | THE TIMES

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To learn more about how the personal touch of Cook Builders can make your new home dreams a reality, contact Brad Ericks of Cook Builders at (219) 322-3303 or e-mail [Brad@CookBuilders.com](mailto:Brad@CookBuilders.com).

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## Coolman

a maintenance-free lifestyle including complete landscape care and snow removal starting at \$194,900 for a 2-bedroom ranch home.

Cook Builders can also assist you in evaluating all of the best possible locations for your new home based on your personal needs. They can provide the expertise necessary to ensure that your home plan not only meets all your needs, but compliments the surroundings.

“Whether you are looking to create an original design or tailor-make adjustments to an existing plan, as a true custom home builder, we go the extra mile to meet all the unique needs of every individual client,” Cook says. “I always enjoy sitting down with people to find out exactly what they want in a home. It’s fun talking with so many different people and going over their plans.”

Steadfast in their commitment to build homes that are beautiful, solid and efficient, Cook Builders routinely includes custom design and 3D rendering for their homeowners.

“Our ultimate goal has always been to provide a home that is equally as beautiful as it is comfortable,” he says. “Many people don’t realize that you can incorporate green building principles into a home by making the right choices with-

out significantly driving up the cost of construction. With our energy-conscious building practices, which consistently earn the highest possible ratings from ENERGY STAR®, homeowners enjoy measurable savings in their gas and electric consumption.”

A true leader in the local building industry, Rich Cook, who is the recent past president of the Building Industries Association of Northwest Indiana (BIA), became one of the area’s first Certified Green Professionals through the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). As a result, Cook Builders offers the very latest in green building technologies and energy efficiency.

Along with precise design and quality, energy-efficient construction, Cook Builders provides expert guidance and advice on selecting just the right finishes, color schemes, products and personal touches to ensure that you’re creating a home that compliments your individual lifestyle while maintaining a careful eye on your budget.

“Recently, we’ve seen a long line of positive indicators that the confidence level is coming back. Six months ago people generally didn’t want to even think about building a new home,” he says. “Now, they want to sit down and talk. Some have gone so far as to put their house on the market, and, surprise, surprise, it sold. All of the sudden, they need to get busy building.”