On February 18, Tim Ellis, President and founder of T.W. Ellis, is being sworn in as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Association of Home Builders Remodelers’ Council (NAHBR). The ceremony takes place during the International Builders Show in Las Vegas. Being given this responsibility by his peers is a duty he doesn’t take lightly and is one he has spent years preparing for.

For over a decade Tim has been passionate about building a remodeling company that is professional and uses the best practices to be found in the country. He has also taken advantage of professional development opportunities offered through the NAHBR. His professional designations—CMR, CGR, CMGP, and CAPS—are the result of educational courses he has completed. But, more than that, his expertise in each of these areas (best remodeling practices, high performance/green remodeling, aging in place/universal design) has been incorporated into the very fabric of his company.

Not only has he learned through his association with NAHBR members, he has given back by spending countless hours working on subcommittee tasks that seek to address national issues. He has participated in policy development in response to EPA and OSHA legislation. In Education & Designations he worked to address the shortage of qualified people working in the industry. In Green Building he was instrumental in developing the National Green Building Standard. The list goes on.

His peers recognize the value of Tim’s contribution to the remodeling industry nationally and in 2015 recognized him as NAHBR Remodeler of the Year. And, as a member of the Board of Trustees, they have given him increasing leadership responsibilities. Now, as Chair in 2019, he plans to address the following 3 goals:

- Increase membership and the involvement of remodelers in NAHBR
- Address the labor shortage in our industry (involvement of the younger generation through construction degrees, certifications, accreditations).
- Emphasize to the younger generation that there can be a good career in the construction industry.

If you are considering having a remodeling project completed by T.W. Ellis—you can be confident that it will be handled in a manner that follows the industry’s best practices by our professional team. That’s the kind of company Tim has built. Now he is giving back and is helping to raise the level throughout the country.
THE BENEFITS OF A SCREENED PORCH

It’s spring! Homeowners are beginning to imagine all the fun they could have this summer if they incorporated an outdoor living space at home. Decks, patios and screened porches can all provide a wonderful place to entertain friends and family in a fresh and invigorating environment. What type of outdoor living space are you visualizing for your home?

A very popular option among homeowners today is the screened porch. It offers a convenient space to enjoy your natural surroundings, savor meals, play card games and watch TV all while protecting you from rain showers or pesky insects. Unlike a standard addition, a screened porch expands your home’s living space without requiring the extra expense of a foundation, insulation or HVAC system.

One of the first things to consider when designing your screened porch is what direction it will face. Your screened porch can connect to your home at different locations—which works best for you? At the front of your home you can keep an eye on your children playing in the front yard. In the back it is more private, secluded, and the view may be preferable. In addition, sun, wind and rain affect the comfort level. A western exposure may be too hot in the summer if you like to spend the evenings on your porch. A windy location can make the screened porch feel too chilly in the fall. Tucking your porch into a more protected area of your home helps guard against rain entering through the screens when it storms. An awning, exterior Bermuda shutters or even some dense shrubbery can keep most water out of an exposed area of your porch.

Now think about how you plan to use your screened porch. This all depends on your personal preferences and the space available. Perhaps you are dreaming of a quiet retreat where you can relax, nap, read favorite books and reflect on the beauty of your natural surroundings. Or maybe you picture an intimate space for outdoor dining with a few close friends and family members. During the warmer months your porch could become your everyday dining area. In this case, be sure to include built-in storage for plates, cutlery, drinking glasses and napkins.

If you want to accommodate big family gatherings and other social occasions, be sure the size of your screened porch will comfortably seat a large number of people. Think about incorporating outdoor ceiling fans, excellent lighting, a fireplace, a flat screen TV, outdoor speakers, and possibly electrical outlets as well as plumbing for an outdoor kitchen and wet bar. If this generous space will be used as an outdoor game room for all ages, construct a knee wall around the porch’s perimeter to provide safety for young children and pets. Use a heavy-duty type of screening and include additional electrical outlets.

Your screened porch should be a seamless addition to your home’s exterior architecture. Match the roof lines and the roofing materials on your porch to that of your home. A gable roof creates the possibility of a beautiful cathedral ceiling for your porch. The shape of the screen frames can vary from the standard rectangular, to arched or triangular. Use trim, fancy balustrade details and decorative skirting to make your porch blend nicely with your home’s existing architecture. This adds curb appeal. Make a smooth transition between indoors and outdoors. Build the porch level with your home’s threshold, and keep the flooring materials consistent from inside to outside. This also increases accessibility. Bring some interior elements outside, such as furniture, cushions, area rugs, and lamps. For easy maintenance, choose weatherproof fabrics.
Do you love to entertain friends and family in your home, but sometimes feel overwhelmed by all the tasks you must keep up with? When it comes to serving wine, for example, you could ask a trusted friend to pour each guest’s requested amount and type of wine. Or you could hire a professional bartender. Or you could consider purchasing Dacor’s Discovery WineStation.

This amazing appliance is an automated, temperature controlled, four-bottle wine dispensing and preservation system for your home. With a simple touch of the finger, your guests can choose just the right wine and the exact amount they prefer. The LCD screens and touch control panel display wine varieties, vintages, temperature settings and pouring volume.

An argon gas preservation system prevents oxidation and allows the wine to remain fresh for up to 60 days. You may open multiple wine bottles and enjoy the freshness without any loss of flavor or natural aroma. The patented CleanPour head simplifies bottle changing and is easy to clean. With the WineStation there are no fixed tubes or plumbing to be flushed with chemicals or cleaning solutions every time you change a bottle. Each WineStation may be built into cabinetry or freestanding on the counter. It is supplied with a locking door to protect it from curious children when it is left unattended.

When you are remodeling your home, you will be asked to approve the colors, styles, patterns, materials, and finishes that will be used in each space. This can be challenging. For example, when you visit the tile store, will you remember whether the cabinets you chose a couple days ago complement the tile colors you are currently selecting? Will your paint selections today enhance the new upholstery you ordered last week? Does a situation like this make you hesitant to choose anything other than a simple, off-white color scheme where you can be sure everything matches?

A color board is an important method for helping you make these decisions with certainty. It displays the actual samples of tile, fabrics, paint colors, cabinet hardware, and wood finishes that are being recommended for your remodeling project. With a color board you can more easily determine whether or not the various products are the perfect arrangement you are looking for in your home.

Houzz and Pinterest offer a huge variety of online color boards that offer inspiration as you are envisioning your upcoming remodeling project. Certified remodelers and interior designers often use color boards to present ideas to their clients. They may put these online so you can view them on your smartphone or tablet. But it also can be advantageous to have the real thing right there in front of you to compare and contrast the colors, designs, and the feel of products against your skin.
A Backyard Patio for Entertaining

This incredible 750 square foot outdoor patio and living space that Barry Ellis and our TW Ellis team has completed will serve our clients well. Stone pavers in Tuscon textured surface, along with an Old Towne Cobble charcoal border, provide an attractive patio.

This space is designed for the homeowners to entertain their family and friends outside in beautiful natural surroundings. Everything has been provided for this living space; Big Green Egg ceramic grill, stainless steel grill, granite countertop on stone base with built-in task lighting and stainless steel drawers, fireplace with dual storage bins for wood, comfortable seating and refreshing hot tub. A 2’ x 18’ seating wall offers seating for large festivities.

Our clients have already enjoyed their outdoor fireplace and are very pleased with their new patio. They definitely are prepared for some major fun when the warmer weather arrives.

Visit us online at twellis.com for more outdoor living space inspiration