Ellis Installed as Chair of National Remodelers Group

In a ceremony at the Las Vegas National Golf Club during the International Builders Show, Tim Ellis, president of T.W. Ellis, was installed as 2019 Chair of the National Association of Home Builders, Remodelers Council. The installation was performed by Greg Ugalde, a builder and developer from Connecticut and current president of the NAHB. Ellis was installed along with fellow-officers Tom Ashley of Baton Rouge, LA, and Kert Sloan of Berks County, PA.

In his position as NAHBR Chair, Ellis is responsible to guide this national council as it develops ways to promote professionalism among remodelers and address challenges that its members encounter in their course of doing business.

We are so proud of Tim and the big steps he helps us, as well as our industry, take to provide professional, high quality remodeling services.
The New American Home 2019

A home with wide open interior spaces, immense sliding glass doors, seamless transition from indoors to outdoors, and dramatic vistas—this is The New American Home (TNAH) 2019. Each year the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) constructs a spectacular home as an educational tool for professional remodelers, designers and home builders during the International Builders Show. The homes demonstrate new construction technology, green building practices, and stylish design trends. Attendees visit the homes and gather all kinds of unique ideas they can use when designing and building their own clients’ projects.

TNAH 2019 is an 8,200-square-foot five bedroom home built on a rock-faced terrace in the hilly outskirts of Las Vegas, NV. To access the home’s front entry, you pass through an extensive covered courtyard that is surrounded on all sides by glass doors. These doors open up to create a smooth flow into a fabulous show garage and lounge on the right, as well as a casita and a study on the left.

Once you reach the end of the courtyard and pass through the actual entry door, you immediately find yourself in the sizable kitchen and great room. This space extends without interruption to the outdoor living patio and infinity-edge pool. The pocketing glass patio doors that are 14-foot-tall and up to 20-foot-wide provide clear openings. Sight lines from the entryway move the eye through the interior spaces out to the breathtaking panoramic view of the Las Vegas Valley beyond. The outdoor area faces north and is designed with deep roof overhangs—therefore protected from excessive heat. It is a comfortable place to relax during the day and on into the evening.

TNAH 2019 includes some very unique aesthetics. The home displays bright bold colors in unexpected locations, which lends that WOW factor. Contemporary light fixtures with dramatic styling present a focal point in every room. A remarkable angled wet bar in the kitchen area juts out into the outdoor patio space as well. The master bedroom suite features an amazing cantilevered bed.

The architecture of this home was developed with the idea of utilizing sustainable building practices and energy-saving components to promote efficiency. For example, the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index score is 45 (55 percent more energy efficient than code); roof and wall insulation are at R-57 and R-46 (both well above minimum standards); and there is a 58 percent reduction in total water use. TNAH 2019 is designed to exceed the requirements for certification to the Emerald level of the National Green Building Standard (NGBS).
When the inside of your home opens up seamlessly to the outside, it can make a big difference in the impression you have of the space. After retracting your lofty glass doors to one side, the exterior wall basically disappears. You can move throughout your home and not be aware whether you are indoors or outdoors.

An outdoor patio or deck naturally becomes an extension of your living space when those huge doors are open. This is a great benefit when you entertain large groups, and it is a less expensive option than building an addition. The amount of fresh air that wafts into your home gives you the sensation that the indoor spaces are actually outdoors. The fresh air and access to natural light energizes your body and increases your positive vibes.

Enormous glass doors are extremely popular today for transitional as well as contemporary styled homes. Some configurations involve multiple sliding doors that stack behind a single fixed pane. Other multi-slide panels stack and slide into a pocket in the wall completely out of view. Folding doors fold like an accordion on hinges and can be stored either to one or both sides.

Many different frame finishes are available for this type of glass door, including the impressive trend-setting matte black. For energy efficiency and safety, double-glazed low-e tempered glass is typically used. If your area is apt to have extreme heat or cold, you may want to consider triple-glazed glass instead. Select impact-resistant glass if your area often experiences high winds. Consider installing retractable screens if your environment is prone to insects.

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Open Your Walls to the Outside

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The Best of IBS 2019 Awards ceremony took place at the NAHB International Builders Show in Las Vegas. More than 300 entries were received and judged by a panel of 31 independent judges. The winning products displayed the best combination of design, functionality and innovation.

The awards were given in nine categories, but the winners in the following two categories are particularly enjoyable for homeowners to know about when remodeling their homes:

**BEST KITCHEN PRODUCT**

CAFÉ 5-in-1 Wall Oven with Advantium Technology by GE Appliances

This versatile built-in saves time and space by uniting convection cooking, warming/proofing oven, microwave, toaster oven capabilities and speed-cooking oven with Advantium Technology in a single 30-inch appliance. Advantium Technology cooks the outside of food like a conventional oven with radiant heat produced by halogen bulbs above and below the food. The halogen-produced heat receives a boost of microwave energy, resulting in food that browns and cooks evenly and fast, while retaining its natural moisture. The oven is WiFi-enabled and features an intuitive, 7-inch, full-color LCD touchscreen display that provides access to hundreds of curated recipes.

**BEST INDOOR LIVING PRODUCT**

Foundation Series Luxury Gas Fireplace by Heat & Glo

Modern in form and luxurious by design, the Foundation Series brings numerous firsts to the luxury gas fireplace category including: flames twice the height of comparable luxury fireplaces; mirrored glass that gives the perspective of infinite rows of flames; multi-colored chromotherapy LED lighting with a remote control to change lights to different hues; cool-wall construction that allows you to install a TV or other heat-sensitive materials just inches above the fireplace; ability to connect to home automation systems; only UL-approved fireplace in this category for the utmost in safety.

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Amazing Kitchen and Bath Update

Our clients’ small kitchen was cramped for space. They barely had enough room to prepare meals or sit down for a snack. The refrigerator was squeezed into the space at the end of the cabinet aisle. When the refrigerator door was open, it was in the way of the kitchen sink on one side and the tiny peninsula on the other. A soffit overhead significantly shortened the height of the cabinets. There wasn’t nearly enough storage and the appliances were outdated.

The homeowners came to TW Ellis with the desire to create an open floor concept that would eliminate walls and expand the kitchen space into the dining room. Our clients desired a clean, upscale look for their remodeled kitchen. The painted cabinets from JH Myers are simple Shaker style fashionably selected in two tones—gray for the lower cabinets and white for the upper cabinets. A large central island provides seating for three, while there is also space for a full size dining table that seats six. Carrara granite countertops and subway tile backsplash, along with a fireclay farmhouse sink, adds to the attractive aesthetic. Our clients are thrilled to have powerful new appliances, including a GE French door refrigerator and a countertop microwave. Beautiful oak flooring ties the room together.

Our clients’ master bathroom was also outdated in tile, fixtures and cabinetry. Their newly remodeled master bathroom displays all the latest trends, such as subway classic wall tile in the shower and gorgeous KENZZI AZILA patterned floor tile throughout. The Shaker style vanity in a rich dark stained wood features a sleek stainless faucet by Delta. A frameless clear glass shower door creates more visual space, making the room feel even larger than it is.

The homeowners are thrilled with their newly remodeled kitchen and master bathroom! Let TW Ellis know if you are needing updates in your home. We are experts on remodeling kitchens, bathrooms, and all other areas of the home. We would love to work with you!