

Builder/Architect



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By Evelyn Ganas

Many young people dream of the day when they will turn 16 so that they may drive a car, but Mike Landis, president of Landis Builders, Inc., was getting his private pilot license at 16 in order to fly an airplane, not his license to drive a car. As soon as Mike graduated from high school, he went right into flight school, and later took a position with U.S. Air as a pilot for a number of years.

Right: The formal dining room of the Cover Story home has attractive pocket doors with brass casing, and hardwood floors.

Below: The kitchen of the Cover Story home had maple toffee finish cabinetry by Merillat, Seneca Ridge, supplied by Swartz Kitchens & Baths, with mullion doors and stainless steel appliances.





The luxury bath of the Cover Story home is part of the master suite. The soaking tub, separate shower, twin sinks and adjacent walk-in closet add to the homeowners' comfort.

Another Landis Builders, Inc. custom home in Chestnut Ridge has a side-loading garage. This attractive home has four bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and is 2,100 square feet.





This view is from the living room of the home, through the foyer, and into the formal dining room.

This career of airline pilot fulfilled Mike's dreams and aspirations for a number of years. Although Mike loved flying, the demands of the airline's schedule and being away from home much of the time helped to influence his decision to make a career change. After building two

homes for himself, some friends from his church who saw the quality and attention to detail in his homes asked him to do an addition on their home. Thus, the start of Landis Builders, Inc. Word of mouth spread the news of Mike Landis' talent as a builder. Starting Landis Builders, Inc. with himself, wife Lori and several part-time helpers, the operation soon grew to have four full-time people in the field. Lori Landis functioned as office manager and construction assistant when needed.

From the formal dining room, you can see the openness of the floor plan, looking into the kitchen, foyer, living room and family room.



PHOTOS BY DIMITRI GANAS

Since that time, Landis Builders, Inc. has steadily grown and become known in the Lebanon County area as a builder of fine custom homes and meticulously crafted remodel and addition projects. Currently, Landis Builders, Inc. is the exclusive builder in Chestnut Ridge. Landis has been building there for about two years. Landis Builders, Inc. also builds new custom homes on a scattered lot basis. The Chestnut Ridge community is located in Lebanon County, on Chestnut Street. There are a total of 17 lots of at least one-half-acre in size in Chestnut Ridge. The homes there are all custom.

Sometimes customers come to Mike Landis with an idea of what they want their home to be, and Landis Builders, Inc. works



The kitchen, with eat-in-area, again shows the open floor plan and a view of the family room with its cozy gas fireplace. The kitchen cabinetry is Medallion furnished by Kohl Building Products. The island cabinetry, also furnished by Kohl Building Products, is Candlelight, with a butcher-block top.

This 1,800-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath, custom home, with a three-car garage, has lots of street appeal. Lori and Mike Landis are shown here with their team at Chestnut Ridge.





This custom home by Landis Builders, Inc., is about 2,000 square feet. Brick and siding, with a side-loading garage create an attractive exterior in this country, woody setting near Jonestown. The home has three bedrooms, and two-and-a-half baths and is designed for first-floor living.

with the client to turn their ideas into a plan. Sometimes Mike Landis completes the design work himself, and sometimes he refers the client to Rich Curry of Curry Design Group in Hershey, PA. Whatever design is chosen, it will not be a duplicate of another home that Mike is building. Each design is truly custom, with no two alike. If you take

a tour of homes by Landis Builders, Inc. you will see a considerable amount of stone and brick in the homes Landis builds. The homes all have Andersen windows and either custom or semi-custom cabinetry in the kitchens. Most of the homes have the attractive feature of side-loading garages. The Chestnut Ridge community has sidewalks and

The spacious great room of the home has a cozy gas fireplace and vaulted ceiling.



PHOTOS BY DIMITRI GANAS



The dining room of the home is adjacent to the kitchen. Hardwood floors and Andersen Windows and Patio Doors add value to the home.

curbing. There are plans for a park with a walking trail, Frisbee golf, play equipment, sand volleyball court and basketball court. This recreation area is planned to be located in the middle of the develop-

ment. The typical home in Chestnut Ridge has a package price of \$290,000. This typical home has four bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths. High-quality products like Superior Walls for basements are

The Landises renovated one of the oldest farm houses in Lebanon County. The home was originally constructed in the 1700s, and added to in the 1800s. The total footage is approximately 3,300 square feet, with three bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths. Beautiful, original chestnut logs and hand-made brick within framed walls, and many of the original plank floors are some of the very special architectural details that have been preserved.





PHOTO BY DIMITRI GANAS

This 1,600-square-foot, vintage-looking carriage house, located on a 100-acre farm in Lebanon County, was designed and built by Landis Builders, Inc. to look like it belongs in a “scene from yesterday.” The functional part of the structure includes a three-car garage and future “club room” upstairs. The cupola and weathervane complete the totally charming effect.

standard in the Landis homes.

Mike Landis has always been quality-oriented. Clients began to notice this trait early on in his business. That is why word of mouth helped him to expand his client base without too much effort. Right from the start of his construction business, Mike hired detail-oriented craftspeople who share this passion for creating the best possible home for each and every client. This same care and attention to detail is used by Landis Builders, Inc., whether building a new home, or creating an addition on an existing home or completing a remodel on an existing home.

Mike and Lori Landis’ attractive farm house, part of which was originally constructed in the 1700s and part in the 1800s, must certainly be one of the oldest homes in Lebanon County. The home has been beautifully restored by the Landises, retaining interior brick walls that are framed with beams on the diagonal. Huge, original ceiling beams and beams in the wall with mortar between have been preserved and exposed. Many of the significant historical architectural details have been retained, but some attractive features like a two-story front entry and spacious custom kitchen have also been incorporated in the project.

Whether Landis Builders, Inc. is completing a remodel project like Mike and Lori’s farmhouse or constructing new homes, their job sites are always neat and tidy. This is reflective of a personality that strives to rise above the mediocre and average, and create the “best thing possible,” no matter what the venue is.

In addition to building homes together, Mike, Lori and their daughter, Katie, who is 12 years old, share family life in their newly renovated home in Lebanon County.

Landis Builders, Inc. is an active member of Lebanon County Builders Association, where Mike Landis currently serves on the board of directors. Landis Builders, Inc. is also a member of the

Pennsylvania Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders, and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Lebanon Valley.

It would seem that if people are motivated and successful in one area, it is easy for them to make a lateral move and be successful in another arena. It is apparent that this is certainly true of Mike Landis, succeeding at 16 to obtain a private pilot license, being accepted to flight school upon high school graduation, piloting commercial airplanes for a well-known national company and then transferring his talent and energy to the daily operation of a first-class construction company that builds high-quality custom homes and completes upscale remodel and home addition projects. The bonus is that if you have an opportunity to meet Mike and Lori Landis, you will find them not only very talented, but also “easy to know,” with a friendly, outgoing personality that clients find a pleasure to be with when working on that all-important project, “the client’s very own home.” Our best wishes for continued success for a long time. ■



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