

at home in the Pointes

Makos Building Company celebrates 40 years

By Lauren McGregor

This year marks 40 years in business for Makos Building Company. Since 1986, founder and president Steve Makos has built the business into one known throughout the Pointes for its excellence in craftsmanship and carpentry.

For the lifelong Pointer, his namesake business is more than a company, it is a reflection of who he is and a piece of family legacy.

"I did the corporate thing," says daughter Lindsey Makos. "But working for and contributing to the family business means more to me." Today, Lindsey is in charge of (...).

Though Lindsey may be family, the same loyalty to the business is evident among the entire crew.

"We keep a core group of people who have been with us for years," Makos says of the company's high retention of hardworking, highly skilled craftsmen. "We have a team that works well together and has the same work ethic. Their work and their behavior are a reflection on me."

For example, "I trained Andy Linke from the age of 18 when he started an ABC apprenticeship," says Makos. Over 20 years later, Linke remains a trusted employee. "He is my eyes and ears when I'm not on



Photos courtesy of Makos Building Company

artisan finishes



from traditional to modern

site.”

Linke, like other crew members, has done exceptional custom woodwork for countless local families.

“Their work was phenomenal. I especially appreciated the artisan, custom woodwork,” says Nick Rotondo of Grosse Pointe Farms. “Steve did all of the renovations on our new house. We wanted to keep some of the traditional elements but make the space more open concept.”

Makos transformed the flow of the house so the family could walk straight

through the kitchen and onto a new brick paver patio. The new space also opens the kitchen onto the family room and sees the addition of a wet bar.

“The attention to detail, to getting everything right, was really impressive,” adds Rotondo.

The attention to detail even extended to the crew’s cleanliness.

“Every single day, they were vacuuming,” says Rotondo. “When the Grosse Pointe Farms inspectors arrived, they remarked on how Makos trucks and sites are always the cleanest.”

Makos is so intentional about the work that bear his name that the company offers a rare five-year warranty on all projects.

“We are also strict about sticking to our proposed timeline and budget,” says Makos, who is passionate about transparency in business. “You get an itemized list of every cost.”

It is no surprise that most customers end up being repeat customers.

“I hired Steve for a house we bought on Muir Road,” says Kevin Connelly. “He did such great work for us, we hired

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him again for a cottage we bought on Harsens Island.

“That’s why you hire Steve, his craftsmanship,” says Connelly. “The crown moldings, the attention to detail around the windows, his perfectionism.”

Makos is acutely aware of the disruption construction brings to clients’ lives. “Time and quality are everything. When you are remodeling, you are disturbing people’s lives,” says Makos.

To soften the impact of construction, Makos provides a detailed timeline of projects.

“At the beginning of the project, we received a binder detailing every step, week by week. We have young kids and it was so helpful to know when would be best to leave the house,” says Rotondo. “The communication was amazing. It allowed us to plan our lives around the construction. He stayed to the exact timeline over the three-month project.”

Jim and Patti Anderson, who have worked with Makos over the years, echoed these sentiments.

“He did excellent work on our

kitchen, fireplaces, entry and brickwork,” says Patti, whose well known home on Lake Shore presented a unique problem. “We had such a tight deadline and he kept to it 100 percent. His coordination and communication were excellent. Steve was a pleasure to work with.”

“He was on time, on budget and high quality,” adds Jim. “We appreciate that kind of work.”

Makos prefers to work in the Pointes and takes on projects of all sizes. “No matter how much money you make, I want to make sure your dollars are spent properly,” he says. “I don’t cut corners. I want to be the best at what I do.”

One of Makos’s favorite parts of the job is attracting the kind of clients who appreciate the quality his company provides.

“I enjoy working for the people who respect and enjoy great craftsmanship. We do it right and we do it on time,” says Makos.

To learn more about Makos Building Company, visit makosbuildingcompany.com.