

THE BERRY GROUP

THE CAMPBELL HOUSE
CASHIERS, NORTH CAROLINA

You might say Ken Berry has sawdust in his veins. Both of Berry's parents were licensed builders, an unusual combination in the small town of Lexington, S.C., where he grew up just outside of Columbia. So naturally Berry went into the construction business, earning a degree in civil engineering from Clemson University.

He began his career as a professional engineer working mostly on large-scale projects such as hospitals. Some of these projects, including research labs and educational buildings, he built for his alma mater, Clemson.



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But iron and concrete construction did not have the same allure as building with wood and stone. Berry formed his own company to build upscale homes in some of the most beautiful locations in the U.S. - the piedmont and upstate area of South Carolina.

"My first love is custom residential," Berry said. "I take great pride in performing high quality work and bringing the visions of the client and architects to reality."

The Berry Group LLC, is located in Six Mile, S.C., population 553, about 12 miles north of Clemson, where Berry lives with

his wife, Durema, and four children. "We love this area and are proud to be raising our family here," he said.

In just a few years, the Berry Group became known as one of the premier builders of fine homes in the state, and they have the awards to prove it. Berry took home the 2007 and 2008 first-place Pinnacle Awards, presented by the South Carolina Home Builders Association, for homes in the \$2 million to \$5 million range. Both award-winning homes were built at The Reserve at Lake Keowee, home to some of the most breathtaking homes in the region.

The Pinnacle Awards don't just recognize good looks. They were created by the Association to honor builders who have achieved the highest standard of craftsmanship, innovative problem solving,

and high customer satisfaction.

"To make each project a success, I have hand picked and assembled a team of highly qualified managers and craftsmen," Berry said. "All of my staff have

an excellent work ethic and are dedicated to delivering the highest quality workmanship to my clients. I am committed doing all that is necessary to make their work environment a positive one.

This insures my team will be strong today and for many years to come."

The Berry Group is one of very few builders that employ their own crew of carpenters, allowing them



work together year after year as a well-oiled machine. “Having a staff of skilled carpenters allows our company to better control the quality that is our trademark and provide it at a competitive price,” Berry says.

With 15 people now in the Berry Group, the company builds homes typically in the \$1 million to \$4 million range. They take on five to seven projects a year, ensuring that they can maintain a personal, hands-on approach necessary to ensure top quality from start to finish.

In October, 2009, The Reserve at Lake Keowee announced a new Builder Showcase Program, a partnership with eight selected builders to offer some 20 new home plans available in the Lake Keowee area exclusively at The Reserve.

Berry said he “collaborated with several quality architects to ensure that the homes would be well designed and well-built. We are excited to make the home building process easier so that a client only has to pick out minor details and then can begin to enjoy the building process. The Reserve has been great for our company. We have a strong connection to The Reserve and look forward to continuing the partnership with this new program.”

Working with nationally known architects is nothing new for Berry, who has a longtime working relationship with noted Atlanta architect Keith Summerour. Together they have completed many homes in the

area. “They are one of the country’s and the Southeast’s premier architects for luxury homes,” Berry said. “Summerour Associates never fails to amaze us with the quality homes they design and the professional way they do business.”

“We develop a lasting relationship with the architect and the client that extends far after the home is complete,” Berry said. “We love our collaborative team approach of working with the client and architect/designer to create someone’s dream home. We encourage potential clients to talk to our previous clients about our work,” he said. “They are our best advertising.”

A Word From Summerour Architects

The clients came to us wanting a home that harkened back to the family camps and lodges from the early twentieth century. That charge informed all the design decisions for the house. We worked closely with the client and the interior designer, Liza Bryan, to incorporate all the unique features that were important to them for their second home, including his tub with a view from a dormer window, the wine cooler tucked in under the hidden stair to the master suite, the Dutch doors in the mudroom to accommodate the dog, the day beds in the playroom for their



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Keith Summerour*



son's sleep overs, and the handicapped accessible bath for her father when he visits.

The 180 degree views and the topography of the the site compelled us to design a house that is one room deep. Each of those rooms on the main floor has access to the rear porch that runs the length of the house, and hiking trails at the rear of the property can

be accessed from either end of the porch. The wings of the house are angled to nestle into the site and to provide panoramic views from inside. The porte cochere reaches out to welcome visitors and draw them into the foyer.

The foyer overlooks the heart pine paneled family room which is anchored by a terrific stone fireplace. We worked with the stone mason to find incredible stone slabs to serve as the hearths for both the fireplace in the family

room and on the screened porch. The fireplace obscures the long range view that is hinted at through the French doors on either side. A few techniques were employed to minimize the scale of the house and to make it more accessible to the property.

Because the house is situated on an incline, the entry is set three feet above the main living level. This creates a dramatic experience as you enter the house with the added benefit of bringing

the rear porch closer to the land at the back of the house. The bedrooms are tucked into the roof line so from the driveway the house looks only one story tall.

The clients' joy and enthusiasm for the project was motivating and inspired us to create an enduring family retreat.

A portfolio of projects by The Berry Group can be seen by just visiting www.theberrygroupllc.com