

STUDENTS AT KING'S RIDGE SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY

For the Communities of North Fulton

August/September 2003

North Fulton

LIVING

WHAT MAKES A NEIGHBORHOOD HOT?

Homes in North Fulton County Continue to Sell

NORTH FULTON'S 911
Response to 9/11/01

AUTRY MILLS

BROOKFIELD WEST

COUNTRY CLUB OF THE SOUTH

CROOKED CREEK

DOUBLE GATE

EDENWILDE

GLEN ABBEY

HORSESHOE BEND

MEDLOCK BRIDGE

PARK BROOKE

SEVEN OAKS

ST. IVES

SUGAR MILL

TUXFORD

WHITE COLUMNS

WINDWARD



Extend Your Living Space and Create the *Perfect Getaway*

Looking for a perfect hassle free getaway? Consider extending your living space into your own backyard. The right porch or deck makes the perfect spot to entertain friends or family and "happy spot" to unwind. Adding a special retreat is daunting for most but with the right planning and team, rewards easily outweigh the "remodel" hassle.

OPTIONS

Outdoor amenity options vary in size and function. They include gazebos, decks, open and screened-in porches, plus pools and spas. Decide how you want to use the space and pick the option(s) that best match your living style. Is that a new living area to entertain and cook or a nook to relax and read? Or how about both! Today's trend is expanding the deck and/or adding a screen porch.

My deck expansion created a sunny spot for my hammock out of an un-usable slope and my screen porch created a bug free environment to relax, read, and when a book gets boring — to nap in. I waterproofed the area under my upper deck, for my screen porch, by using Undercover Systems, then hired a local contractor and electrician to complete the project. Off my basement, my room stays cool in the dog days of summer, and has a wonderful garden view. The ceiling fans, lights, electrical outlets, and benches add comfort and charm. By putting my porch below my original deck, my feathered friends stay in view from my kitchen window. And if I win the lottery, my next expansion will be a metal roofed open front porch with several welcoming Brumby rockers positioned to catch sunsets.

DESIGN

Once you have decided what you want, your next step is design planning. Deck contractors and/or landscape architects can help. To add special character and charm focus on details like pathways, benches, gates, privacy walls, planter boxes, and/or a trellis. Adding these details

combined with finishing touches like decorative copper post caps, painted decorative deck rails, and stained diagonal deck boards increases the value of your investment. According to deck designer, Kurt Patterson, with Kellogg Construction, "Designs need to consider how you want to use the area. Home owners need to think about entry and exit, traffic pattern, plus sitting and outdoor kitchen areas. It is important that the finished project looks as if it was part of the original home, blend in with the landscape, and not just a rectangular add-on."

THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry provides advice for homeowners to consider when selecting a contractor. And YES there really are contractors out there that do show up on time and are focused on 100% customer satisfaction.

I can appreciate Brad Kellogg's comments when we talked about how they approach the different part of a screen room project. Brad, a deck building professional and owner of Kellogg Construction, said, "We stick to what we do best and hire the best to do the rest. We work with top-notch roofers and leave the painting and electrical work for the pros. But when it comes to anything wood we go the extra mile to ensure that customers get old world craftsmanship with today's best quality materials."

Once your perfect getaway is complete you will wonder why you waited!

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