

# DESIGN & REMODELING

## trends



Above: The Larsen family deck.

## The Larsen Deck

### custom deck design using the SilcaSystem™ and Ipe decking

We gave you a quick snapshot of the Larsen family deck last month, and now we want to show you how it turned out!

The Larsen family knew what they wanted: a way to extend their current living space to the outdoors without sacrificing durability or appearance. They wanted square slate tile flooring for their elevated deck, but traditional building systems only allow the use of lumber or composite lumber products on decks with open space below.

#### The SilcaSystem™

Through researching new building products, we came across the SilcaSystem™, which allowed us to install the tile flooring they wanted. The honeycomb-shaped design of this revolutionary new product allowed us to bring a luxurious look to this outdoor living space.

The SilcaSystem™ connects to the wood floor joists to provide a substructure for the tile - otherwise the space would have to be filled with concrete and compromise cost, appearance, and storage.

#### Ipe Decking

In addition to the SilcaSystem™, we also chose to use Ipe decking on the stairs to improve durability and appearance.

This beautiful, dense hardwood from the Amazon is the longest lasting wood deck surface, and often outlasts composite materials. It is one of the strongest woods in the world and resistant to mold and termites, making it a great choice for decks! We also used concealed fasteners, so there are no visible screws or nails throughout the staircase, giving a seamless, smooth appearance.

#### Additional Features

We also added a few additional features for energy efficiency and comfort.

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# The Larsen Deck Continued...

Pella windows and doors were installed to create a tight seal and ensure energy efficiency.

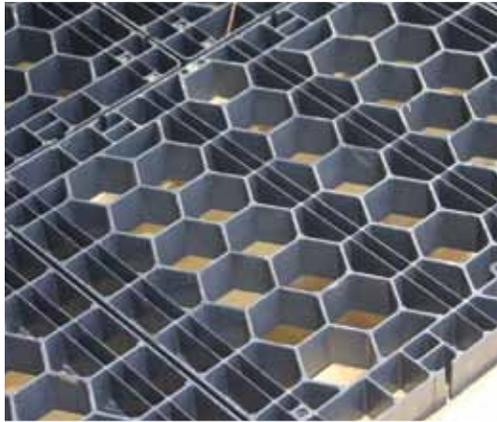
The Larsen's chose to screen in the entire porch to protect from bugs and the elements. And we also installed ceiling fans on the porch so that even in the heat of summer they can enjoy a nice breeze.

## Want to Learn More?

Our lead carpenter John Risch is featured on the Blue Ridge Home Improvement YouTube channel explaining the SilcaSystem™ and deck design.

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to watch the video online!

scan to  
watch the  
YouTube  
video!



SilcaSystem™



SilcaSystem™ installed on deck



Slate tile installed over SilcaSystem™



Ipe Decking



High grade, durable HardiePlank® siding



Screened porch and ceiling fan

# FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Top 5 Fall Projects

- Time to get your furnace and chimney checked: don't wait until the temperatures drop to find out if your heating source works!
- Take a look at your windows: check for drafty windows and any areas that may need to be caulked.
- Winterize pipes: find any pipes that are exposed or likely to freeze and cover them with pre-fitted insulation that is available at home improvement stores.
- Clean out your gutters: a gutter full of frozen leaves can lead to big problems, so make sure to keep them clean before the freezing temperatures arrive.
- Fix a leaky roof: waiting until the winter to fix to fix your roof can be a costly mistake!



# employee *spotlight* **Jim Stade**



Jim Stade has been a carpenter with Blue Ridge Home Improvement for over five years. In his more than 30 years in the construction industry, Jim has built his skills through on-the-job training on a wide variety of builds and with a number of construction teams.

There are many aspects of BRHI that Jim appreciates, but most of all, he values the integrity of the company from the field to the office. While construction crews tend to have high turnover rates, he says the loyalty and dedication to team he has experienced with BRHI are unprecedented, noting that President Tim Lawrence inspires the crew to stick together and help one another out. He also appreciates the team's dedication to the end result and the way inevitable mistakes are handled quickly and efficiently team-wide.

Originally from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Jim moved to Blacksburg with his wife and four children in 1995. Now that his kids have grown up and left the family home, he and his wife spend most of their spare time gardening and doing projects around their home.

## spot the truck contest enter to WIN a \$100 Visa gift card

We have a new truck, and if you see it you can win a \$100 Visa gift card!

There are two ways you can enter when you see the Blue Ridge Home Improvement box truck around town:

**1** Snap a photo of the truck and upload it to Facebook. Make sure to visit the Blue Ridge Home Improvement Facebook page and let us know you posted the picture.

**2** Post on the Blue Ridge Home Improvement Facebook wall where you saw the truck.

We will enter everyone that posts about the truck into a random drawing for a \$100 Visa gift card. The more you see the truck and post, the more chances you have to win! Contest ends September 30, 2011.



[www.facebook.com/  
blueridgehomeimprovement](http://www.facebook.com/blueridgehomeimprovement)

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## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



## PROJECT FILES

### The Owen's Bathroom

#### PROBLEM:

The bathroom and stairway were not easily or safely accessible for an older couple.

#### SOLUTION:

We replaced the existing tub with a walk-in shower, including a folding bench and grab bars, and we installed a stairlift to assist them in getting up and down the stairs.



#### WHAT WE DID:

By installing the walk-in shower and stairlift, we were able to provide safety and accessibility without sacrificing style.



October 10 - 16th  
is National  
Aging-In-Place Week



To learn more visit  
[www.aginginplace.org](http://www.aginginplace.org)