

Wilmington • Cape Fear



3801-5 WRIGHTSVILLE AVE.
P.O. BOX 3101
WILMINGTON, NC 28406

910-799-2611, FAX 910-799-2610
www.wilmingtonhomebuilders.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2010

Contact: Lindsay Fletcher
910-799-2611

Reinventing Home for Empty Nesters

WILMINGTON, N.C. – As the end of August approaches so does the start of the fall semester at colleges across the country. You've dropped your youngest child off at college and are returning back to an empty nest. While it can be bittersweet to see your child leave home in search of independence and adulthood, it can also be a joyous time for you now that you finally have the house all to yourself.

Your home was once centered around your family's hectic schedule. Now that you are no longer spending time carpooling and helping with last minute science fair projects, it's time to figure out how you want to change your home to reflect your new lifestyle and interests.

Here are some ideas from the local Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association (WCFHBA) that might get your creative juices flowing.

Outdoor Rooms

Don't just limit your living space to your home's interior walls. If you enjoy barbecuing and hosting parties, consider the possibility of an outdoor kitchen. Adding a hearth or grill for cooking, a sink for ease in preparing food and a small fridge to keep things fresh will make entertaining easy — keeping you from running back and forth to the kitchen and missing out on the fun.

If entertaining isn't your thing, designing an area to retreat to might be the option for you. Add plants, water features and comfortable furniture to create a space to get away from it all. The options for outdoor rooms are endless and can be specifically tailored to fit your lifestyle.

Home Office

You may be an empty nester, but you are still a very active member of the workforce. An extra bedroom or den previously used for family activities would be a great place to turn into a home office.

Home offices are becoming less of a luxury and more of a necessity with more people telecommuting or running their own businesses from their house. A consumer preferences survey by the National Association of Home Builders found that a home office was the third most desired specialty room.

Breathing Room

Depending on the age of your home, you may find that your master bedroom or bath is too small for comfort. Expand into space that isn't being used to build the master bath of your dreams or to create a separate seating or dressing area in your bedroom.

Incorporating these changes will not only create a home that suits your new lifestyle, but according to WCFHBA president John Lancaster, "they are ones that may increase the value of your home for the time when you decide to finally sell."

For more information on remodeling a recently kid-free home, visit www.nahb.org/remodel and contact the WCFHBA at www.wilmingtonhomebuilders.com or (910)799-2611 for a list of reputable remodelers.

The Wilmington – Cape Fear Home Builders Association is a 1,100 member-firm trade association that provides services to its more than 9,500 individual members which enhance their success and stability. The largest trade association in eastern North Carolina, the Association serves as the voice of the building and development industries that strives to advance professionalism and promote community involvement. WCFHBA is recognized as a positive influential force for responsible growth by protecting property rights and the privilege of homeownership.

-#-