

Building a DYNASTY

JOHN KRAEMER & SONS EARNS AN UNPRECEDENTED FOURTH BUILDER OF THE YEAR AWARD.
BY KATIE DOHMAN



PHOTOGRAPH BY COREY GAFFER



When it comes to making a house a home, John Kraemer & Sons has learned that the secret to success is family. Three generations have amassed a wealth of hard-earned industry knowledge to become the only firm to claim four Builder of the Year awards from the Builders Association of the Twin Cities.

“It really is the most coveted award, and we’re extremely proud,” says vice president John Kraemer. The timing couldn’t be better: 2018 brings with it a celebration of 40 years in business. It’s a business that has grown through recessions and maintained a 99-percent referral rate. John and his brother, Jeff, work alongside the patriarch and president, Gary.

“I experienced this company first as the son and now play the role my father played back then,” Gary notes. “The construction gene has been passed on.”

The strong commitment to collaboration, quality and attention to detail continues on. And the intense focus on ethics and transparency — the company maintains an open-book policy by making bids and receipts available to clients at all times as well as passing along any and all discounts — keeps customers coming back.

Recently, word-of-mouth referrals led the builder to create a French-Mediterranean home in Edina. To bring the vision to life, the Kraemer team tapped Murphy & Co. Design, an architecture firm that’s particularly talented at authentic period architecture. Sandy LaMendola of Twist Interior Design married rich textural detail, vibrant color and modern takes on the historically based design. Scott Ritter of Topo, LLC planned the plantings, trees, retaining walls and pool, creating a beautiful backdrop for the home.

“The clients wanted something that felt like it had always been there, but with modern amenities and styles,” John explains. The resulting property features a slate roof, a pool and pool house, a sport court, an enormous workout space, and a bar in the family room. It’s a formal home that manages to have ease and fun, with casual areas perfect for entertaining.

The company’s 40th year in business is shaping up to be its best one yet, John forecasts, with projects already on board for much of the year. “That feels really fantastic,” he says, “and we’re incredibly excited to continue the Kraemer legacy.”