

# AS SEEN IN *House Beautiful*

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN | **ASHEVILLE/HICKORY**

## BUILT BETTER

**Living Stone Design + Build** crafts homes that honor the Asheville area's stunning beauty while nurturing the health of the people inside.



Growing up in a military family, Sean Sullivan lived all over the world. Exploring beautiful environments led him to a career building homes that are not just inspired by nature, but that live and breathe it. The resulting projects, he says, interact organically with their surroundings while sheltering the people inside with the healthiest materials available.

"We practice biophilic design," says Sullivan, president of the Asheville-based Living Stone Design + Build. "This refers to the art of combining architecture and home building with elements of the natural world—wood and stone, of course, but also windows that open easily and wrap-around porches that extend living areas into the mountains. Living in a serene home that interacts with nature not only feels good, but it has proven health benefits."

Sullivan is equally committed to green construction. Typically, when framers lay a subfloor, he explains, they glue it down to prevent squeaking. "Most homeowners don't know that standard adhesive will off-gas for seven years. There are healthier alternatives, and we use them in all our homes."

Since its founding in 1995, Living Stone Design + Build has built and renovated



hundreds of custom homes, often overseeing site selection as well as collaboration with architects, builders, and artisans. Many clients put the finishing touches on their new home by working with Sullivan's wife, Laura Sullivan, owner of ID.ology Interiors & Design. "Laura's passion for line and balance and her knowledge of nontoxic furnishings and accents create a holistic synergy that transforms a home," says Sullivan.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** A newly completed Asheville-area home mirrors the colors and lines of its magnificent site. Casually elegant furnishings in a muted palette offer a serene interior. A wall of windows ushers the outside in. Stunning wood beams accent the vaulted ceiling of this nature-themed great room, underscoring the dramatic entry of the home's exterior.