

Like Father, Like Daughter?

DOMANI HOMES

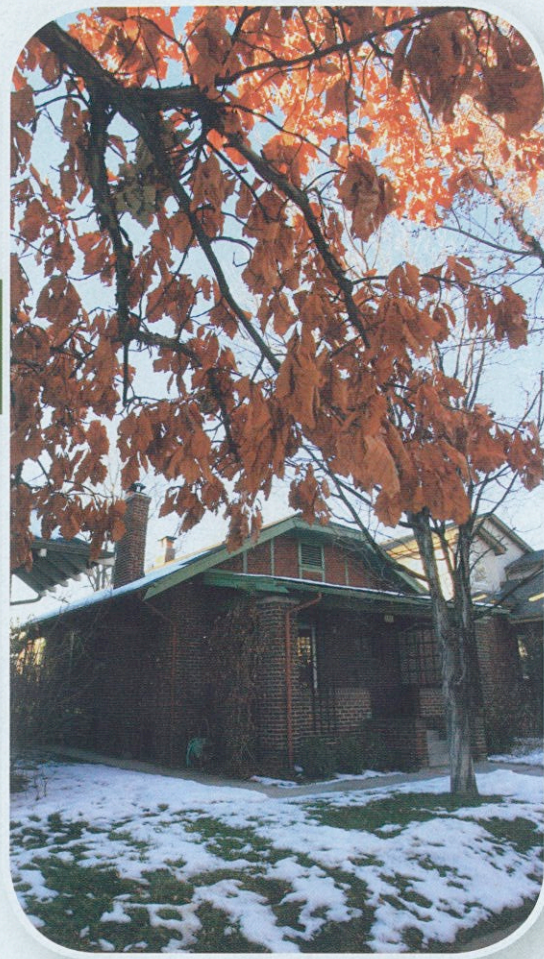
by Kathy Smith
photos by Shelly Donahue

In a world dominated by males – the homebuilding industry – one woman stands out. Chris Regis, owner of Domani Homes, learned the trade from her father and brother, both custom homebuilders on the east coast, and grew up practically wearing a hard hat. Today she is building and remodeling homes in Denver, and garnering awards for her green-built accomplishments.

Regis studied construction science at the University of Denver where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Real Estate Construction Management. Following graduation, Regis joined the corporate world where she signed on with US Home, a volume homebuilder, and worked her way up to an executive level in project management. "I learned a lot from my experience there, but the most important lesson was knowing how to get around hurdles while keeping the project moving," Regis says. She spent nine years with the company before deciding to go out on her own.

In May 2001, Regis launched Domani Homes, and became one of the only female homebuilder owner/operators in Colorado. "My dad encouraged me to go out on my own and told me to always remember to respect the people I work with – the clients and the sub contractors – because we are all working as a team," Regis explains.

Domani, which means "tomorrow" in Italian, is a name that works for Regis, who is meticulous about staying on schedule. "It's a labor intensive business, and staying on top of the minute details that might be potential warranty issues, allows me





to meet the customer's needs and stay on schedule," Regis explains. For Regis and her company, it's about getting the project right the first time and eliminating a post construction punch list.

One client, Barbara Rase agrees, "Chris is so conscientious about scheduling, and when she says a sub contractor will be at the house, not only is the sub there on time, but she is there to tell you what they are accomplishing that day or week." Rase also said that Regis is very detail-oriented and incredibly organized. "Chris is very aware of respecting your space, scheduling and budget. There are no surprises ever, and we weren't in shock over the final price," says Rase.

Regis credits the help of her construction manager Frank Wilcox and administrative assistant Anne Mchugh with keeping customers happy. "We all take pride in what we do and that is to provide the customers with a quality product, in a timely fashion and make it an enjoyable experience for all," Regis explains.

For Rase's remodel of her French Tudor home, she had most of the house under construction, but says, "Chris is so kind to work with and meticulous that in the end it was, dare I say "fun" to remodel?" During the Rase remodel, the family acquired a new puppy that kept taking the sub contractors shoes and tools (Regis insists on their shoe removal), but Regis handled it graciously with Rase to keep the project moving forward.

It's not just the homeowner she's concerned with it's the neighborhood as well. "We work with all styles of construction and try to take into consideration the homes, whether they are Victorian or craftsman style, and make sure the property fits in with the neighbors," Regis says. According to Rase, "Even my neighbor noticed how frequently she was here to oversee the work, but honestly, her subs are so good that they really didn't need a lot of direction."






Some of the sub contractors Regis mentioned, who provide the quality work that Domani Homes demands are: Guy's Flooring, Copperhead Plumbing, Excalibur electric, and Kennedy Construction. "Most of my contractors have been around since the inception, and I keep them because they do quality work and show up when scheduled," she proudly admits.

Quality construction comes from green materials, and a dedication to having clients feel confident they have invested in an energy efficient, and safe home. In 2006, Domani Homes received the "2006 Built Green Custom Home of the Year priced from \$500 thousand to \$1 million" from the Home Builders Association of Metro Denver. And, in 2005 the company was

awarded "2005 Construction Manager of the year".

Engineered wood, low volatile organic compound (VOC) paint and fiberglass and formaldehyde-free insulation, are products she incorporates into construction. "We use framing adhesives that have low off gassing fumes, so there is no lingering effect for the homeowner," she explains. With that said, she will not compromise and use a lesser quality product. "We won't build below a certain level, and that level for us is high, so we are building tighter homes with fewer air leaks that are energy efficient," states Regis.

Regis says the heating, ventilation and air conditioning calculations are critical to achieving energy efficiency. "I work with Mountain Air because they are proficient at making sure the air flow is perfect," she explains.

Regis keeps her workload at a reasonable level so she can effectively manage close relationships with her customers. In the seven years she has been on her own, she has never advertised, as her customers are by referral only. Success is likely attained because she strives to get the job right the first time, and she lives by the mantra "communicate constantly with all". 





Domani Homes, Inc.

New Construction-Remodel-Renovation-Design

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