The Noel House
2012 Build Wisconsin Awards
DESCRIPTION

This stunning 29,838 SF Hampton-style home is located in central Wisconsin. Revealing old world style with modern technology and amenities, the home features a master suite with fireplace, walk-in closets with dressing areas, and separate his and hers toilet rooms; a master guest suite; eight bedroom suites with full bathrooms; boys and girls bunk rooms each including play area, closet, and full bathroom; a two-story entrance foyer that opens into a main gathering area with a large, stone, wood-burning fireplace; a circular office and library with floor-to-ceiling shelving and rolling ladder; a preparation kitchen with walk-in pantry; a large presentation kitchen with stone pizza oven, two commercial grade ranges, and two wall ovens; a formal dining area with adjacent full bar; a grill house with commercial exhaust system and a moveable commercial grill; a wine cellar; a sunken home theater with bar; a family room with full bar and large, two-sided, stone, wood-burning fireplace and entertainment center; an exercise room with bathroom and shower; hot tub room and steam room; a four season porch with spectacular views of the Wisconsin River; river-side patio; a large wrap-around porch for outdoor entertaining; and three full-scale mechanical rooms with coordinating decorative flooring and ceiling. This home is designed with entertaining at the forefront and the four car garage is no exception with its ceramic tile floors, heating and cooling systems, and finished wood trim designed to double as a large entertaining room.

WHY DESERVING OF AWARD

In addition to the grand size and style of the house, unique design and craftsmanship is evident throughout the home including high main level coffered ceilings; customized built-up molding; stained and painted woodwork; a circular wood stair; hand-scraped hardwood floor that reflects warm, old-world charm; elegant marble floors, walls, and counters; exterior cedar shingle siding with stone veneer highlights; cedar shake roofing with large built-up painted wood trim; and copper chimney pots designed to bring style and functionality to often overlooked chimneys. The geothermal HVAC system will cut the owner’s energy costs in half and the state of the art security, temperature, and lighting controls (controlled through a computer or iPhone) present a safe, efficient and comfortable environment.

Extensive planning, coordination, quality construction management, and quality control resulted in this showcase home. Also notable, is an excellent project safety record as up to 70 people worked at any given time with no lost-time accidents for the entire duration of the project.
SPECIALTY CONTRACTORS

American Vacuum & Sound Systems - Central Vacuum System
Audio Video Environments - Home Automation System
Bay Lathing - Drywall
Blenker Building Systems - Panelized Walls, Floor/Roof Structure
Cedar Roofing Co. - Roofing
Central Door Solutions, LLC - Overhead Doors
Central State Electric Corporation - Electrical
Double D Masonry - Masonry/Stone Work
Great Lakes Stair & Millwork - Wood Stairs
GO Loop - Drilling/Installation of Geothermal System
Haessly & Haessly, Inc. - Excavation
Hillside Dampproofing, Inc. - Waterproofing
H.J. Martin & Son, Inc. - Carpet/Tile Installation
Home Insulation, Inc. - Insulation
Latarski Construction - Exterior Trim Installation
Lewis Construction, Inc. - Concrete
Molding & Millwork Specialties - Wood Trim Supplier
Tetra Tech - Testing
Modern Builders - Exterior Wood Trim Supplier
Nick's Welding and Fabricating - Structural Steel Supplier
Omni Glass & Paint, Inc. - Painting
Pacific Columns - Exterior Column Supplier
PGA, Inc. - Plumbing and HVAC
Ralph’s Hardwood Floor Co. - Hardwood Floors
Shulfers Landscaping - Landscaping
Snowbelt Fireplace & Stove - Copper Chimney Pipe Supplier
Solid, LLC - Wood Trim Installation
Spancrete Industries, Inc. - Precast Plank Supplier
Waupaca Elevator Company - Elevator
Western Erecting - Steel Erection
Woodcraft Specialities - Casework
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

SUSTAINABILITY
The Samuels Group places great importance on lessening the impact that structures have on the environments in which they are built. In adhering to this philosophy, The Samuels Group implements certain sustainable practices such as mandatory on-site recycling on all of its projects.

GEOTHERMAL HEATING/COOLING
The Samuels Group, along with its consultants, researched various HVAC systems and performed energy analysis to show how the owner could pay a little more up front, but save big money in the long run. Through these studies it was realized that by utilizing a geothermal heating and cooling system the owner could pay less than half of the energy costs than they would for a conventional residential HVAC system per year. These yearly savings, along with applicable incentives, made for an estimated payback period of less than three years.
There are several reasons this project was unique and should be considered for this award:

STYLE, SIZE AND PURPOSE
Hampton-styling and cutting-edge technology, as well as the size of this home, is uncommon for residential construction in central Wisconsin. Furthermore, the Noel’s did not just build the house for themselves. They built it for the future of the community too. They have set up a trust and plan to convert it into a lodge (on 68 acres with 150 acre island) for the children of Portage County through an organization that helps youth.

UNIQUE DESIGN
Unique design characteristics are evident throughout the home. From first arriving, guests can see that this home is anything but usual. The front of the home features a 50-foot high circular stair tower ringed with over 60 windows, a rustic stone base, white wood trim, curved cedar shake roof sections and a copper cap with decorative finial. Great work was taken to create an exterior that had interest around every corner. Uniquely shaped second floor dormers add usable space to the interior and create interest and beauty to the exterior of the home while repetitive styling elements tie the design together. Natural cedar shingle siding, shake roofing, natural stone walls and chimneys with copper chimney pots bring style and increased functionality and lend to the authenticity of the home’s old world design qualities.

The interior’s unique characteristics include large build-up wood moldings and trim, main and lower level stone wood-burning fireplaces, and a west-facing wall of windows and glass doors to enjoy views of the Wisconsin River from all public entertaining spaces. High main level coffered wood ceilings and hand-scraped hardwood floors add to the warmth and old-world charm of the home. Additionally, a preparation and presentation kitchen and grille house (with capacity to serve hundreds) allows guests to experience the art of the food being prepared just feet away at the stone wood-fired pizza oven, stainless steel commercial grade ranges and commercial grill. Decorative wood hoods, lined with stainless steel, ventilate the areas as make-up-air units supply outdoor fresh air to keep the area comfortable and clean. The master bathroom, complete with a large marble encased shower, features a 19-foot high curved ceiling with a high arching window to allow natural light to span the room.
TECHNOLOGY
State of the art technology systems are utilized throughout this home for controlling HVAC and electrical systems. Temperature and lighting is adjusted through manual control at home or remotely via computer or iPhone. A unique system feature includes programmable scenes (for temperature and lighting) that the owners can choose from to meet specific desires for welcoming/entertaining a large crowd or simple every day living.

The home theater is designed with sound and interactive furniture (butt kicker seats) that rumble in coordination with the movie...similar to a 3-D experience at Disney World.

Lastly, advanced technology is utilized in the security system for the home to give the owners peace of mind whether they are home or away.

SAFETY PROGRAM
The Samuels Group Safety Program was a big part of the successful completion of this project. With safety as one of our first and foremost goals, it was very important that our teams were safe at the end of the day. There were no lost-time hours from an accident, which kept intact The Samuels Group’s record of more than nine years without a lost-time accident. Daily stretching and pre-task planning, weekly tool box safety meetings, and constant monitoring of site conditions were techniques used to accomplish this safety record.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Utilizing Primavera, a web-based project management system, allowed everyone involved in the project to access a single source for all project communications. The system website contains the following information: schedules, budgets, meeting requests, RFI’s, daily progress logs, updated drawings, pay requests, and other related project materials. Constant communication between team members assisted The Samuels Group finishing this project on-budget and in a timely manner.
DIFFICULT CHALLENGES

PRE-ENGINEERED BUILDING COMPONENTS
The desire to complete this project in the most timely manner required the utilization of pre-engineered building components, but the unique design made the design of the structural system anything but your typical truss and wall panel home. Project engineers incorporated materials such as LVL studs, steel substructures and an elaborate system of girders and trusses that made this home a great accomplishment for the entire engineering team.

COMPLEX HVAC SYSTEM
The geothermal HVAC system incorporated a mixed design of in-floor heating and forced air units that required special attention. It was crucial all set points were programmed and coordinated with each other. The Samuels Group worked closely with the mechanical engineer and contractor to provide a system that met the owner’s needs whether they were entertaining 200 people, hosting family at the holidays or having a quiet night at home.

CONCEALMENT OF MECHANICAL SYSTEMS
Great care was taken to conceal the mechanical systems within the structure of the home to avoid unsightly dropped soffits and lost headroom. The design team worked closely with the truss manufacturer, mechanical engineer and mechanical contractor to find locations to house exhaust fans, make-up-air units, ductwork and piping that could meet the owner’s expectations.

ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND WOODWORKING
This is the Noel’s dream house…so it was important to the entire team that their house was what they envisioned. During progress of the project modifications were incorporated to insure the vision was captured in the completed product. This, in combination with the extensive and customized woodwork throughout the home, presented challenges with maintaining the schedule. The Samuels Group worked closely with the owner to revise the schedule with a completion date that was acceptable to both parties.

WEATHER
Construction throughout the winter months required alternative, and often times, accelerated schedules.
The foundation of The Samuels Group’s approach is experience, attention to detail, and most importantly, customer satisfaction. Employees at The Samuels Group are passionate about achieving 100% customer satisfaction the first time. They are over achievers and this project proves that employees of The Samuels Group are not only builders of structures, but builders of relationships as well.

John Noel had worked with The Samuels Group on a previous commercial project and was very pleased with their professionalism, quality of work, budget management, and their ability to construct the project in one year (when in his opinion it could have easily taken two years). For these reasons, The Samuels Group was selected as the design/build contractor for this project.

After almost a year and a half of construction, John and Patty Noel are enjoying their new home and are very happy with the services they received from The Samuels Group. In fact, John mentioned that they felt so good about the people that worked on their project, they consider many of them their friends. At project completion John and Patty held a party for the entire design/ construction team to celebrate this great accomplishment.

We are very happy with our new home. Every construction project has its challenges and The Samuels Group did a great job of working with us to resolve any problems that arose throughout the duration of our project. Tim Harmann, the project superintendent, was exceedingly helpful with problem solving and identifying potential issues before they became a problem.”

John Noel
Owner