



**Cruickshank**  
REMODELING

*For A Home You Are Proud Of*

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**Cruickshank**  
REMODELING

*Founded in 1980*

## A POSITIVE PICK-ME-UP



*Brad Cruickshank, Founder*

It's surprising how some distance from the everyday perspective can bring into focus what is important. This past August, I finally took the Alaskan wilderness trip that I have planned and saved for over the past two years, and it truly opened my eyes and helped re-align my priorities here at home.

You can read about my trip on the interior of this newsletter ("An Alaskan Adventure"). But what's really important is what happened upon my return home—I returned with a renewed appreciation of family, friends and nature. I also returned with the conviction that I was not going to let the current social and economic uncertainty totally derail my business, my family and my life.

While this trip was delayed a year, we made it happen through perseverance and self-discipline. I'm doing that at home, too. I'm cutting the things that don't matter in order to update my college-age daughters' rooms. And I've vowed to complete my landscaping project we had put on hold at the start of the recession. These are the things that matter to me and make me happy.

For me, the psychological lift and near daily "return" on my trip and these projects are essential to keeping me in a healthy, positive and productive frame of mind. Knowing how these changes have positively affected me, I would encourage you to re-assess your priorities, and make moves to creating a happier life for yourself as well.



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NEWS

Fall  
2011

## FUN WITH FOLLIES

*By Brad Cruickshank*

**H**ave you ever walked through a garden or other designed landscape and noticed small gothic ruins or other building structures that seem to serve no purpose other than providing a romantic, decorative accent? These wonderful little design features are called "follies" and Cruickshank Remodeling recently had the opportunity to incorporate one into a large garden/landscape project we designed and built.



The project, located in the Brookhaven neighborhood, was a unique and exciting challenge to create wonderful outdoor spaces rather than indoor rooms. Jen and I had as our design goal to create a variety of landscape experiences. To accomplish this, we created a sweeping grassy lawn, a woodland path, a formal garden, an

enclosed courtyard with a fireplace, an open garden-viewing pavilion, a greenhouse and more. These garden experiences are all linked by walkways allowing a variety of paths through the gardens.

But most wonderful for us, was the temple folly we designed to terminate the major vistas of the garden. The Haddonstone structure we selected was inspired by the Temple d'amour created for Marie Antoinette and the Jardin de la reine at Versailles. Smaller than the Temple d'amour, our folly is nine feet in diameter and stands alone in a far garden corner. Both interior lighting in the dome, and accent lighting from outside, ensure that this structure can be seen both night and day.



We see few follies built today, but these curious structures have a long history as garden décor beginning in the late 16th and early 17th centuries when existing-but-ruined structures were incorporated into formal landscape design; especially in Europe. Perhaps, as the economy gets better, artistry and whimsy will once again take their places in our everyday lives and we'll see more of these fanciful structures.

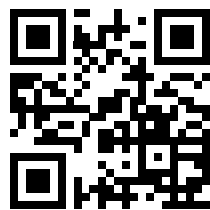
## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This summer, Bill Torp, a Cruickshank Remodeling Superintendent, and his family celebrated his 10 year anniversary with the company by going on a dream vacation to Disney World! Everyone had a great time meeting Mickey and his friends, and came back all smiles.



CRUICKSHANK REMODELING

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## DAMAGED HOMES, INSURANCE COMPANIES & CRUICKSHANK REMODELING

While Cruickshank Remodeling is not an insurance restoration contractor, as home renovators we do work with past clients and referrals on putting their homes back together after a disaster strikes (flood, tree fall, wind storm, plumbing leak, etc.). Using our professional expertise, we act as advocates for our clients, working with insurance companies to make certain our clients receive fair and accurate settlements that reflect the actual cost of the repairs required, within the limits of their policy(s).



We begin the process by independently identifying all of the damage and consequential repair work needed. Once complete, this assessment is then compared with the insurance adjuster's estimate. Typically, we have uncovered items missed in the adjuster's estimate resulting in significant upward revisions in the settlements. In addition to seeing that all of the correct line items are included, we also carefully review the estimated quantities and unit costs of materials required for the repairs and advise our clients accordingly.

While large home equity-funded remodeling projects have diminished in number, extensive insurance restoration projects can rival the former in scope



– particularly when one of our large old drought-damaged oaks in in-town neighborhoods comes crashing down. As experts in home remodeling, it's natural that Cruickshank Remodeling applies its expertise to more and more of these type projects.

If you've recently suffered home damage, whatever the cause, don't hesitate to call on us for help. We're here, working for you.

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## MY ALASKAN ADVENTURE

As many of you may know, I'm an avid fisherman and out-of-doors type of guy. This past August, I finally made it out to Alaska—a trip I've been planning and eagerly anticipating for over two years.

The trip started when five of my very close friends (most are remodeling contractors) from around the country met me in Minneapolis, MN. After several plane changes to successively smaller planes and two overnight stops, a Cessna 185 on floats finally landed us on Walker Lake in the Brooks Mountain Range of Alaska.



For the next 11 days, led by our Russian guide, we paddled the Kobuk River, camped and fished entirely above the Arctic Circle. Great drama on the second day when our main raft suffered a 12' long rip down the right tube while running the upper canyon (our able guide worked by torchlight until 3 AM to repair this). We saw eight grizzly bears, two golden eagles, and saw and heard timber wolves.



We stood among hundreds of spawning chum salmon and caught Eskimo tarpon and arctic grayling until exhaustion. We had long days of arctic sun, and marveled at the northern lights during the brief darkness. Mercifully there were very few bugs. All was against the backdrop of sweeping vistas of the Brooks Range to the north.

Along the way our guide treated us to fresh salmon and sheefish caviar, fresh picked lingonberry jam, and a Russian banya (sauna/steam bath) we built riverside. Our take-out point was Kobuk village – an Eskimo community of maybe 150 people. There we saw sled dogs and salmon hanging on drying racks the traditional way.

It was another incredible adventure that I've shared with my dear friends. More than just a trip, it brought into sharp focus the things that matter most to me here at home, like family, community and the importance of living in the moment. To that end, I'm making some changes to my home and the way I prioritize my life (see "A Positive Pick-Me-Up").

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## CRUICKSHANK CARE

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### 2011 Projects Since July

Water damage	1
Design/consulting	5
Tree damage	2
Exterior remodeling/repairs	4
Interior remodeling/repairs	4
Roofing and gutters	2
Bathroom/ Accessibility	2
Garden/Landscape	1
Hardwood floors	1
Kitchen	1
Whole house remodel	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>



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CRUICKSHANK REMODELING ~ CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MAKING ATLANTA HOMES BETTER FOR LOCAL HOMEOWNERS.

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