



## CHOOSING THE RIGHT DECK FOR YOU

Adding a deck to your home expands your living space and creates outdoor comfort and elegance that can be enjoyed year-round here in the South. But with an array of decking material options to choose from, it can be difficult to know which is right for your home, lifestyle, and budget. Popular options and considerations are listed below. Note that with redwood and tropical hardwoods there are environmental/sustainability considerations as well.

### DOMESTIC REDWOOD, CYPRESS AND CEDAR

**Pros:** Beautiful color, straight grains, and some natural resistance to rot and insects. Expected lifespan is about 20+ years with regular maintenance.

**Cons:** Both types of wood are expensive and require frequent maintenance and waterproofing.

### DOMESTIC PRESSURE-TREATED PINE

**Pros:** The standard for decks for many years. Protected from insects and fungal decay due to chemical treatment. Life expectancy of about 15 – 20 years when properly maintained. Initial investment is relatively low compared with other options.

**Cons:** Boards can warp, crack, and splinter. Left untreated, boards turn grey. Requires frequent cleaning, resealing, and restaining to maintain appearance.

### TROPICAL HARDWOODS (Ipe aka Brazilian Walnut, Lapacho, Ironwood or Pau Lope)

**Pros:** Offers natural resistance to rot and insects. Extremely dense and durable, it has a life expectancy of 40+ years.

**Cons:** Installation is labor intensive as the wood is difficult to work with—this translates to higher cost.

### COMPOSITES (e.g. Trex®, TimberTech®, MoistureShield®, Fiberon®)

**Pros:** A range of colors and textures are available. Boards won't splinter, crack or rot, and will last for years if cared

for properly. Most manufacturers offer 20 – 25 year warranties. Less maintenance than wood alternatives.

**Cons:** Resemblance to real wood can vary between manufacturers. May fade, scratch, and stain. Darker colors can get really hot in the sun and smooth textures can get slippery when wet. High initial cost.

### PVC (e.g. Aeratis, Azek)

**Pros:** Superior moisture resistance and is not prone to rot or termites. Easy to clean and maintain. Doesn't scratch easily and won't absorb water or food stains.

Major manufacturers offer limited lifetime warranties.

**Cons:** Resemblance to real wood can vary dramatically between manufacturers, and color selections are limited. Boards can squeak when walked on, and can require more substructure compared to wood decking. High initial cost, similar to high-end composites.

### ALUMINUM

**Pros:** Lighter and stronger than wood decking, aluminum will not rust, rot, splinter, or crack. Generally, the surface is powder-coated

and very durable. Stays surprisingly cool even in direct sun.

**Cons:** Usually the most expensive decking option.

Many of these decking materials are available in tongue-and-groove profiles and may be installed to create a dry space under the deck. Additionally, many are available for use with hidden fastening systems, although this adds to the overall cost. Finally, remember that coordinating a railing system with the decking is important both aesthetically and to meet Code. We recommend choosing handrails that are easy to grip and balusters that permit views out to your yard. For safety, avoid horizontal balusters or meshes that might be easy for children to climb.





## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: RICHARD KOSCH

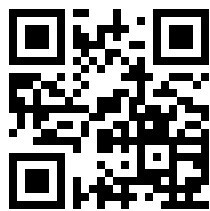


Richard began working for Cruickshank Remodeling as a carpenter just over 10 years ago, in 2004. He had moved to Atlanta in 1997 from New Jersey where he had his own contracting company for 15 years. Today, he and his wife Marguerite live in Jefferson.

Richard is truly a master carpenter and has done some phenomenal trim work for many of our clients, especially on fine old Atlanta homes we work on. Occasionally, if the weather is right, you might hear rich coming into work on his 2002 Harley Heritage Soft tail.

In keeping with Cruickshank Remodeling tradition, Richard and Marguerite will be taking a 10 year anniversary "Trip of a Lifetime," courtesy of the company. They are finalizing plans to visit Scotland, Ireland and England this September.

CRUICKSHANK REMODELING



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## PROJECT TIMELINE – FAMILY ROOM ADDITION

This work-from-home client needed to turn her home office into a nursery in expectation of the birth of her first child. She contacted Cruickshank Remodeling in hopes of adding a family room/ office prior to the arrival of her child. Here is the rough chronology of her project:

### DATE Cruickshank activity

**Nov 11** Initial contact by client – CR sent background info

**Nov 19** Initial meeting – Design program and Design/Build program discussed

**Dec 5** Design/Build Agreement presented to client and site measurement taken – inspiration photographs, design concepts given to CR

**Jan 9** Initial design concepts presented to client– refinement based upon client input

**Feb 11** Initial construction cost estimate presented – refinement based upon client input and value engineering

**Mar 7** Sign construction contract – permit drawings begin

**Mar 19** Begin construction – site protection, demolition, foundation

**Apr 8** Begin framing – framing, deck, roof, siding, exterior trim

**Apr 29** Begin interior finishes – plumbing, HVAC, electrical, insulation, drywall, hardwood floor, int. trim, painting

**May 22** Begin plumbing & electrical trim-out – install fixtures, door hardware, gutters & downspouts, paving, punch list, final clean

**Jun 3** Completion

**July 5** Baby born!



## OLD HOUSES, MODERN LOVE

We feel truly fortunate to have worked on two classic Buckhead mansions this spring. But what was even more rewarding than matching materials and skills with fine



craftsmen from the past, was working with the homeowners and seeing their sensitivity to the unique and wonderful pieces of Atlanta history that they own. On many projects modernization is genuinely appropriate. But when we run into old homes with speaking tubes, radiator food warmers, portiere rods, butlers' pantries, service stairs, pre-air conditioning high ceilings, operable shutters, sleeping porches, etc. we love to work with owners who appreciate the special history of these unique aspects of their homes.

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## CRUICKSHANK REMODELING NEWS

**ACCOLADES:** In its May issue, Professional Remodeler Magazine again named Cruickshank Remodeling as one of five area "Market Leaders".

**HOME TOUR EVENTS:** Several years ago Cruickshank Remodeling was fortunate to work on a large garden project for a past client. It involved tearing down a house next to their home and extensively developing and landscaping the property to include both formal and informal gardens, a greenhouse, garden pavilion, Greek temple folly, stone courtyard and outdoor fireplace.



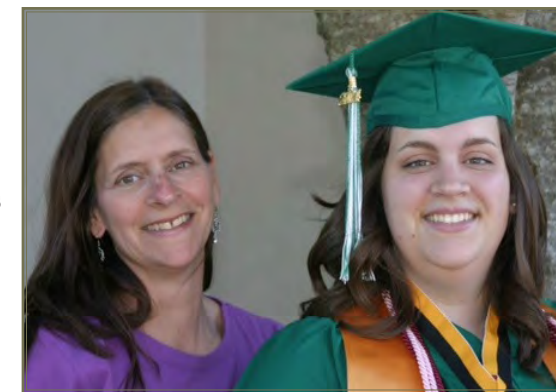
The gardens will be featured on the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), Atlanta Chapter's 2014 Fall Tour of Remodeled Homes on Saturday, October 18.

Also on Saturday, October 18, **Brad Cruickshank's** personal home at 30 Golf Circle NE, in Ansley Park, will be on tour. This 1921 Dutch Colonial home was extensively renovated in 1996 when Brad and his family moved in, and then received two subsequent major additions. You may have seen glimpses of it in previous newsletters and/or our website—now's the time to see it in person!

**SERVICE:** This year **Brad Cruickshank** is again serving as president of the Atlanta Chapter of NARI. Brad served two consecutive terms as president nearly 20 years ago and felt it was time to serve once again.

**CELEBRATIONS:** In 2015, Cruickshank, Inc., parent of Cruickshank Remodeling, will celebrate 35 years in business!

Office Manager, **Denise Bailey's** daughter **Emily** graduated from



Collins Hill High School this spring. She will be attending North Georgia College in Gainesville this fall.

**Brian** and **Vickie Ward** celebrated the birth of their second child in May. **Olivia Loraine** joined big brother **Gavin** (5).



## CRUICKSHANK CARE

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### Projects Since Winter 2013

Whole house	1
Room addition	1
Kitchen	1
Bathroom renovation	7
Exterior repairs and repaint	1
Residential interior	1
Commercial interior	3
Elevator	1
Cabinetry	2
Window and door replacement	3
Repairs	17
Deck addition	1
Re-decking	1
Rear porch major repairs	1
Design/consulting	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

Surprise  
COMING IN 2015





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**Cruickshank**  
REMODELING

*Founded in 1980*

## BRAD'S LETTER



*Brad Cruickshank, Founder*

Many years ago, an industry mentor shared with me his thought that a company which enables employees to do things, both professionally and personally, which they would not be able to do on their own, is a great company. I subscribed to this idea and at Cruickshank Remodeling we encourage and pay for continuing education and professional certifications for employees. On the personal side, I drew on my own love of adventure through travel, and on an employee's 10th anniversary, we award a "Trip of a Lifetime."

Our latest Trip of a Lifetime recipient, Richard Kosch (featured on p. 2), and his wife will be going to Scotland, Ireland and England this fall. Other employees have taken trips to Alaska, Hawaii, Europe, Disney World and even a Disney Cruise. Extending this idea, after 15 years of service I take employees on a fishing trip with me. This July I am headed to the East Cape of Baja Mexico Sur to reward THREE such employees for their longstanding efforts on the Cruickshank team.

Cruickshank Remodeling benefits tremendously from a quality, stable workforce. Virtually all of our clients are happy to see their former project manager return for subsequent projects, so longevity benefits both customer and employer. So when you see your former project manager next time, ask him where he's been lately.