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# Wilcox Gardens

## *Beyond a builder*

Having five Grand Rapids Magazine Design Homes to his credit, internationally-renowned architect Wayne Visbeen and his award-winning work are familiar to many readers. Now, based in both Grand Rapids and Chicago, builder/designer Jeffery Roberts and Visbeen are combining their prolific skills sets for the first time. Their dynamic partnership, in collaboration with homeowners, promises an entirely new Design Home experience in 2011.

BY LISA M. JENSEN



Authentic Old World character, cutting-edge amenities: Grant Park – the inviting residence proposed to become GRM's 2011 Design Home – will showcase how both can be crafted efficiently into a Green-built, high-end new construction.

Now, designer/builder Jeffery Roberts and architect Wayne Visbeen are ready to add ideas and details that will make Grant Park truly distinctive. These they await from yet-to-be buyers of the prime lot reserved for Design Home in East GR's historic Wilcox Gardens.

"We both bring to this project an historical, architectural and international perspective," Roberts said of Visbeen and himself. "But formal education in art and design expands my perspective beyond that of just builder."



**THIS EXHILARATING DESIGN HOME CAN BE YOURS.  
CONTACT KATIE KARCZEWSKI OR JEFFERY ROBERTS.**



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### *A Unique Approach*

Classically trained in the fine arts to enhance architecture and interior design degrees, Roberts operates his own firm – Jeffery Roberts Homes and Jeffery Roberts Interior Design – in downtown Chicago and East Grand Rapids, where he also resides.

He revels in this historic, family-oriented community that merges global awareness with small-town values. “This is why Caroline Wilcox sent architects overseas to research European designs for her children’s homes,” he noted. “Family and architectural integrity are her legacy.”

Though Roberts’ international portfolio includes modern projects in Malibu and New York as well, he’s renowned for reinventing products and materials from the past into artful, functional features and creating a timeless sense of “home.”

Here, past clients including Dennis and Kathy Jones refrain, Roberts excels.

Having lived for more than a decade in Europe, the couple had searched almost two years before uncovering “home” in East GR: A spacious, French Country farmhouse built in 1950 that had stood vacant for five years.

“As a designer as well as builder, only

Jeffery really understood what this house was telling us it wanted to be,” Dennis said.

While Roberts efficiently managed everything from new electrical wiring, heating and roofing to reclaiming attic space and building a new kitchen in a different part of the house, Kathy noted he thought of small details like adding corner blocks to baseboards for an aged look and hunted for unique touches like reclaimed brackets to add interest.

“That helped us maintain our budget,” she said, “but beyond that, I doubt other builders would have had the time or interest in all of this.”

Pairing this artistic approach to building with Visbeen’s architectural expertise brings the design process for Grant Park full circle, Roberts said. “Attention to every detail,” he assured, “will be to the highest level of quality. And the result will be one-of-a-kind.”

**L**OCATED WITHIN immediate proximity to schools, shopping and recreation, Wilcox Gardens will offer the rare opportunity to build within the land-locked community of East Grand Rapids. This site-condominium development will be a combination of existing and new single-family homes. Jeffery Roberts Homes, in conjunction with Visbeen Associates, Inc., has developed several design concepts for these exceptional historic home sites. Don’t miss this opportunity to build in one of America’s most livable communities. To inquire about available lots in Wilcox Gardens please contact Katie Karczewski at (616) 575-0119.

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