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## **Designer Tries to Create A Traditional Look, But With Modern Efficiencies, Technologies**

by Katie Navarra

Using the stylistic characteristics of older homes, blended with the latest technologies for efficiency and added value, is the primary goal of Alec Stephens, owner of SAS Builders.

Adapting traditional floor plans and combining the old with the new is key to Stephens' designs, he said.

"People love the look of older homes, but the uneven floors and drafty windows drive them crazy," he said.

In July of 2004, Stephens went into business for himself, after working for several other construction companies, and began building his first house in October. The house is located at 138 Brigham Road in Greenfield Center and is nearing completion.

It has the look of a traditional farmhouse with clapboard siding, wide-plank southern pine flooring and wide trim work framing the windows, but also has more modern features for greater durability and energy conservation. Rather than a shingle roof, Stephens selected a standing seam metal he feels has much greater durability.

"Each town has building codes, but I like to use products, like the metal roof, that are above the minimum standards and will last a lifetime," he added.

Many of the materials are natural in place of the now commonplace manufactured products that some home builders use today.

"We have even taken rocks from the site and used them in the hearth of the fireplace," said Stephens.

On this particular project, Stephens is involved with every phase of construction. "The owners have given me quite a bit of latitude on the home's details," he said. "There are a lot of my own expressions in the house."

Stephens puts an emphasis on creating value for homeowners. The floor plans in a traditional farmhouse do not use all of the available space.

"Our lives have changed," he said. "In earlier years there was a formal dining room and a formal living room. Today our lives are much more casual and don't use the formal rooms as much."

Stephens works with clients to tailor the home to specific preferences and needs. He prides himself on adapting any floor plan to create an efficient home with optimum use of space.

**For more information about SAS Builders LLC or to discuss your new home, call 573-0446.**