

Inspired Living

Ispiri's Quarterly Newsletter
4th Quarter 2008 / Volume 1; Issue

ISPÍRI

Inspired

DESIGN • BUILD • REMODEL

Inspired Design • Detailed Craftsmanship • Lasting Impression

A Passion for Service

Jason Fabio

As I selected individuals to be a part of the Ispiri team, I always looked for one specific quality - passion. Not just passion for their specific role within the company, but passion for delivering truly inspired service. That initial focus on service has paid off in the form of happy homeowners. Below is just one example:

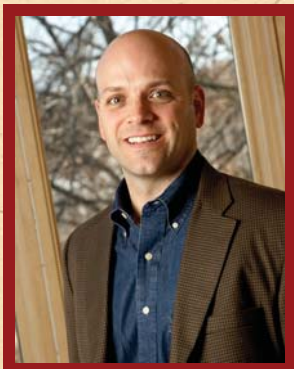
Dear Jason,

Let me just start by saying I have never written a letter to any company I have hired. However, I felt so strongly about the job your company did for us I just had to write to the owner. I am writing to say that working with your employees at Ispiri has been a delight. Caroline was very professional and helpful in the initial meeting and everyone I worked with from then on was just great. I am Vice President of Sales for a manufacturing company and have hired and worked with hundreds of sales people across the country. I know that finding and retaining good people to represent the company is very challenging. However, if you hire the best you will be successful.

In particular, I would like to comment on Tom Fagen. Not only did he pay attention to detail and respond quickly to my questions/concerns, he did it with a great attitude. He was so customer service oriented that I could hardly believe it. His response to me, even though my job was relatively small, made me feel like I was his most important customer. Tom fits the profile of someone I would love to have on my team and I hope you realize what a gem you have in that guy. He is the type of professional that will make the reputation of your company stand out amongst your competition. He is your competitive advantage! In closing, I want to thank you for the professional team you put together to make our experience with Ispiri a pleasant one. I will recommend Ispiri without reservation. Best wishes to you and your team for continued success.

Sincerely,
Margie
Happy Woodbury Homeowner

Regards,
Jason Fabio
Owner



A great holiday gift idea!
Check out the recipe on page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE

1 Feature Story

2 Inside Ispiri

[White Chocolate
Peppermint Holiday
Scone Recipe]

Rachel Hermes & Becca Hall

2 In the News

[Showcase Home #15

Fall 2008]

Caroline Lese

3 Industry Highlights

[Showcase Home #16

Fall 2008]

Jamie Anderson

3 Design Corner

[Home Entertainment &
the Homeowner]

Max E. Norton, AIBD

4 Upcoming Events

[Remodelers Showcase

Fall 2008]

Inside Ispiri

Rachel Hermes & Becca Hall

White Chocolate Peppermint Holiday Scone Recipe



Here at Ispiri we look forward to the special homecoming of friends and family during the holiday season. When it comes to gift giving time, it's nice to give homemade mixes to busy friends for the holidays. All they have to do is add a few ingredients for a tasty treat. Here is one of our favorite recipes that makes an excellent gift!

Scone Mix

Makes 1 gift mix

- 2 Cups all purpose flour
- 1/3 Cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 Tablespoons all vegetable shortening
- 3/4 Cup white-chocolate morsels
- 2 Tablespoons crushed peppermints

In a medium bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Using a pastry blender cut in shortening until mixture is crumbly. Stir in chocolate and peppermints. Spoon mixture into a 1 to 2 quart gift jar.

To serve, spoon scone mix into a medium bowl. Add 3/4 Cup buttermilk, 1 egg yolk, and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough to 1/2 inch thickness. Using a 2 inch round cutter, cut out scones. Place on a baking sheet sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Bake at 400 degrees for 14 to 16 minutes, or until lightly browned. Makes about 1 1/2 dozen scones.

(Recipe taken from Paula Deen's Holiday Baking 2008 Magazine)



In the News

Caroline Lese

Showcase Home #15
fall 2008

With a family of four growing boys and two dogs all in need of more space, this beautiful Lake Elmo home showcases a handsome hearth room addition, a stunning kitchen renovation and a mud room expansion large enough to meet multiple needs.

The addition of the hearth room includes a vaulted unique bead board ceiling, a peaceful view of the property through several large new windows, maple custom built-in cabinetry and mantle anchored by a rustic cultured stone fireplace. Just outside these windows is a new deck with a full glass door conveniently located for easy accessibility to the hearth room, mudroom and kitchen.

Just across from the new addition lies a remarkable remodeled kitchen. Featured in this space are all new custom cabinets, two generous islands; one for the sink, dishwasher, and seating; the other for cooking, baking and prep work. The kitchen is alive with beautiful colors: natural maple cabinets with an accent island in a dusty blue, hand-distressed knotty alder ceiling beams in an antique cinnamon glaze, and matching hardwood hickory floors. All are surrounded by warm, yellow bisque walls. A pale blue and yellow custom ceramic tile backsplash runs beneath the wall cabinets to meet the granite counters, and the hood boasts an exquisite hand-painted sunflower detail. Two unique pillars extend from a ceiling beam to the granite counters, covered in a tumbled travertine.

The addition of the hearth room and the kitchen remodel also provided an opportunity to open up the space to the dining room. The dining room is now conveniently accessible yet also romantically detailed with a covered ceiling and rope lighting. Opening up these spaces to one another pulls family time and entertaining together in a freshly functional way.

Just behind all this openness lies the mudroom, which isn't muddy at all. This wide-open spaces gained some square footage with the addition of the hearth room. It now also encompasses the laundry room - with an under-the-counter washer and dryer - a cubby/locker for each child, a nook for each dog kennel, work space, a coat closet, and a powder room. This mudroom is definitely the envy of every busy mom who visits the new space. When it comes to getting everybody in and out the door on time, this rear foyer/mudroom has amazing functionality.

This custom remodel has greatly increased livability for this busy family. Storage, traffic flow, open spaces and accessibility have all made life a little bit easier. And impeccable and aesthetic design now make it a peaceful sanctuary for de-stressing and relaxation as well as a space for fun family gathering and entertainment. This is a must-see for the Remodelers Showcase Fall 2008!



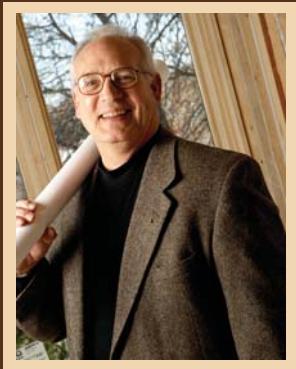
Many times newly built homes have unfinished basements. This provides an open canvas for endless design possibilities. You can easily finish the space in a way that works for your lifestyle. That's precisely what one of our clients asked us to do. The project had two phases. The 1st phase included a screen porch addition; perfect for entertaining or relaxing on warm summer nights. The porch provides a pleasing elevated view of the pool and natural surroundings. Enjoy sitting outdoors, but tired of pesky bugs and mosquitoes? A screened porch is just your solution!

The 2nd phase involved finishing the lower level of the home. The goal was to have a space that would serve as an entertaining hotspot. One of the rooms features a cozy area complete with a Heat & Glo® fireplace and a flat screen TV. Care for a game of 9 ball? Nearby is a sophisticated pool table that will easily offer hours of amusement.

Offering food and drinks to guests is part of entertaining. A wet bar featuring a microwave, dishwasher and refrigerator creates a convenient setting for socializing. Do you or your family enjoy watching movies? Why not create your very own theater just like this homeowner did. Sit back and watch the latest flick in plush recliner seats complete with cup holders. With raised platform seating, everyone will have a perfect view!

Curious about how the space actually looks? Come visit this home and another at this year's Remodelers Showcase. For more information on home entertainment areas, see Max's article.

"Our aim is to package the (electronic) equipment requirements into a built-environment that is an expression of your home's character, while providing ease of use."



Design Corner

Max E. Norton, AIBD

Home Entertainment & the Homeowner

My era dates back to when "Hi-Fi" was introduced (yes, kids, before Wi-Fi!). It promised to produce "concert-hall sound right in your living room." Achieving that same promise in today's home, however, requires careful coordination of the efforts of the electronic experts and the residential designer.

At Ispiri, we've narrowed down the field of home electronics firms to a couple that we work with consistently, because we've found them to: (1) know the products and capabilities, (2) provide accurate information, (3) keep to budget, (4) perform on time and (5) produce ecstatically happy customers!

According to Ross Goulette, Director of Installation Operations at *Home Electronics Specialists*, less than 5% of the installations are the classic full-blown, tiered leather seating, dedicated home theaters. Most families will use a 60" or smaller unit in a multi-purpose space for their primary TV viewing, which means the challenges for the designers are even greater.



Photo courtesy of Advanced Home Environments & Life Time Systems

When planning a space for home entertainment, we pay close attention to:

Lighting
Special-effect lighting, but also the control of stray natural light.

Sound
The proportion of the room, the acoustic properties of the surfaces and the controlling of sound "spillage."

Acoustics
Modern equipment has the ability to 'tune' itself to a space, but the room, itself, is responsible for 50% of the sound quality, says Gary Hirt, President of *Advanced Home Electronics*, and that makes the collaboration between the Designer and Electronic Specialist so vital.

Serviceability
Careful pre-wiring and provision for maintaining and upgrading easily are key.

Esthetics
Our aim is to package the equipment requirements into a built-environment that is an expression of your home's character, while providing ease of use.

Whether the focus for you is a 'sports bar setup,' a 'video gaming area,' a 'children's viewing nook,' or top-of-the-line theater room, we can work closely with you to achieve your dream.

ISPÍRI IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



ISPÍRI
Inspired

DESIGN • BUILD • REMODEL

710 Commerce Drive
Suite #150
Woodbury, MN 55125

651-578-0122
www.ispiridbr.com
info@ispiridbr.com

Announcements...

Parade of Homes Remodelers Showcase

2008 Fall Parade of Homes
Remodelers Showcase™
October 10-12, 2008

Friday 1 - 7 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. 12 - 6 p.m.

We are proud to be showcasing
the following two homes:

- 1) 11430 - 14th Street North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
Kitchen & Addition
- 2) 10620 Maple Boulevard
Woodbury, MN 55125
Lower Level

The "Parade of Homes Remodelers Showcase"™ Service Mark and Logo are service marks of the Builders Association of the Twin Cities and are used with permission.

ISPÍRI
Inspired
DESIGN • BUILD • REMODEL
710 Commerce Drive
Suite #150
Woodbury, MN 55125