



House Call

Architect, author, visionary: Duo Dickinson slips into such diverse labels with the ease of a well-tailored suit. And why not? He has spent the past 25 years designing homes for real people on real budgets. His new book, *The House You Build*, gives price tags for a variety of homes, then explains how the budgets and material selections affect the end results.

HPI | What keeps you excited about designing homes?

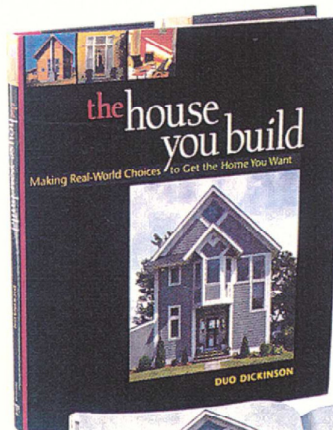
DD | Anyone can design a house. But if they don't have intimate client contact, the results aren't there. I'm committed to building something that hasn't been built before.

HPI | Can you have beauty and stay on budget when building new?

DD | Whatever you do has both cost and aesthetic implications. But if you start with a budget, you can control things. It's a collaboration from beginning to end.

HPI | Where do you see home design heading?

DD | There is a growing number of people who want to spend time and money to make a home their own—empty nesters with more equity in their homes, nontraditional families and same-sex couples who aren't the typical homeowners, plus growing numbers of work-at-home adults. Stock plans just don't accommodate these homeowners' needs.



Dickinson's \$\$\$-Saving Tips

1	Stay in control. Hire an architect or general contractor, but ask about options, research various cost savers, and make decisions yourself.
2	Keep it in scale. Reject the "bigger is better" philosophy in favor of creating a home that has the space you actually need for the way you really live.
3	Use stock materials in new ways. Standard drywall and stock windows installed in creative, decorative ways keep costs low and style high.