

## Ashley Custom Homes Celebrates 30 Years, Expands Operations & Becomes A Family-Owned Business

**Baltimore, MD April 20, 2006** – Ashley Custom Homes celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and prepares for the next generation of growth with its transition into a fully family-owned business, according to Ashley President E. Neil Tabor.

The segue into a family-run operation started last summer when Tabor bought out his partner and moved to a location in Baltimore City, a development that also underscored the company's desire to expand into the urban market while still keeping its county base. After nearly 30 years in Pikesville, the company is now headquartered at 1605 Union Avenue in Hamden, near the Clipper Mill Industrial Park.

This January, Tabor's spouse Deni joined the company as its chief operating officer, amicably leaving a post at Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse. Ashley and Struever have long maintained good relations, a practice that continues today.

The couples' son, Daniel, 22, works part-time for Ashley while completing his studies at Towson University.

Ashley traces its origins to a January of 1976 partnership between E. Neil Tabor and Allen Ackerman called Tabor Ackerman, Inc. To reflect the company's growth and expansion of services, the name was changed to Ashley Group Ltd. in 1980 and then to Ashley Custom Homes in January 2000.

The company has been recognized for its award-winning work, creating some of Maryland's most distinctive luxury home communities including Ashton Hills, Autumn Winds, Berryman's Hollow, Brookview Meadows, Canton Gables, Delight Meadows, Glyndon Mews, The Fields of Stevenson, Valley Brook, Valley Heights, Velvet Hills and Valley Brook. Today, the company has shifted its focus from production building to the custom design and construction of individual homes, either on the client's lot or one of Ashley's home sites.

Ashley became known for its custom home innovations, incorporating home offices, master bedroom suites with adjoining lofts, In-law suites and great rooms into plans years before other builders in the region. Their customers have long been their best salesmen, citing the company's superior workmanship, personal attention, sensitivity to their needs and practicality in design.

These days, the competition for a dwindling supply of land presents a special challenge for small homebuilding companies. Ashley has survived by being able to diversify. In recent years, Ashley has become the builder of choice for people seeking spectacular home additions or historic renovations. The company is expanding its presence in Baltimore City by partnering with private landowners and development companies on a variety of projects which require their land development expertise, construction management services, or both.

In addition to building homes from the ground up, or "stick built" as it's known in the trade, Ashley is now the preferred builder for North American Homes, one of the largest systems-built home manufacturers on the East Coast. A type of hybrid custom home, the systems-built home is constructed in a climate-controlled environment then delivered by flatbed truck to the site where custom and finishing touches are added.

This type of product has enabled Ashley to offer quality customized homes to homebuyers in the mid-price range. Ashley is using this technology to produce both single family homes and townhouses.

For more information about Ashley, visit the website at [www.ashleyhomes.com](http://www.ashleyhomes.com)

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