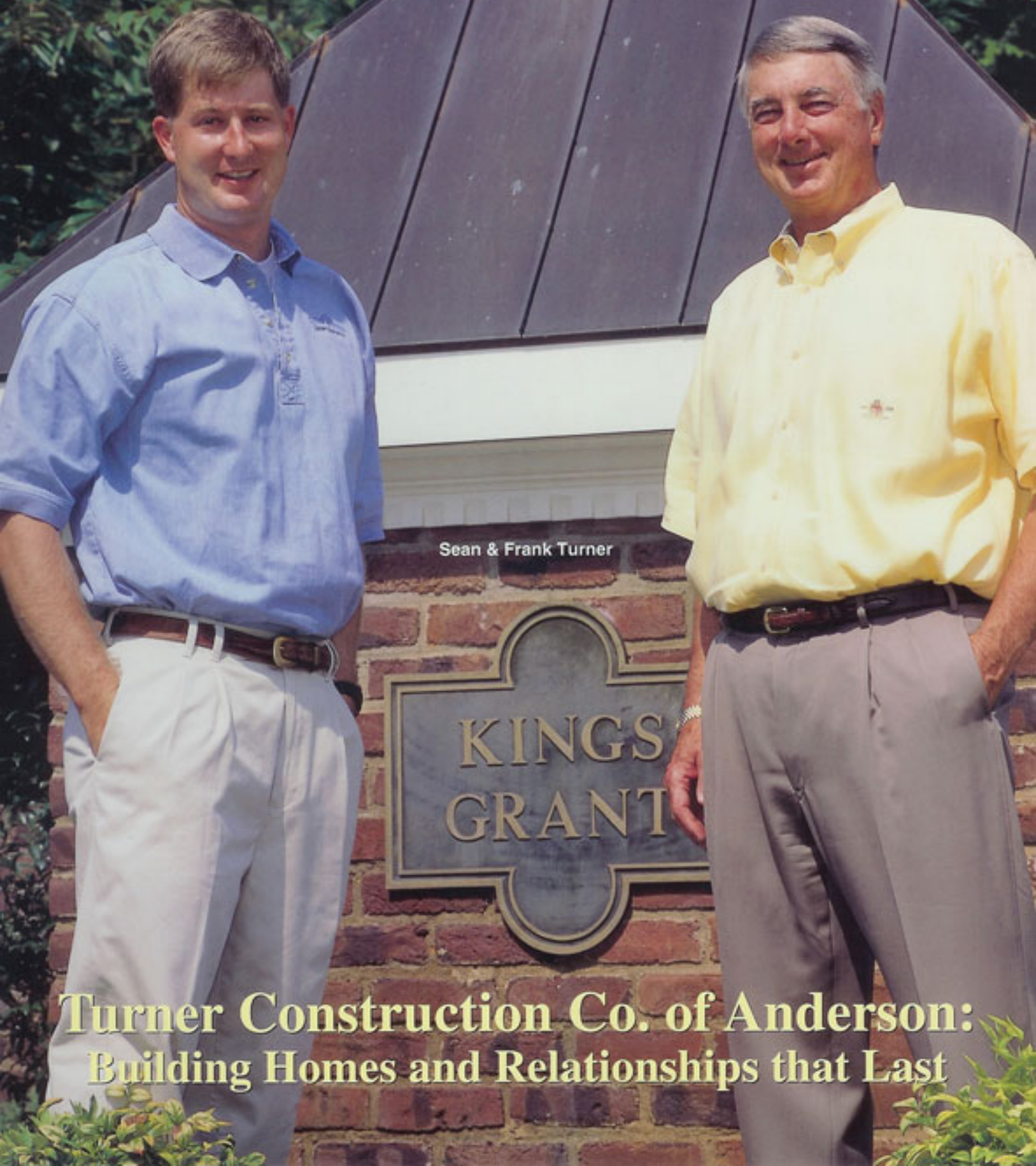


Builder/Architect

South Carolina Upstate Edition October 1999

*Our
62nd
Year*



Sean & Frank Turner

KINGS
GRANT

**Turner Construction Co. of Anderson:
Building Homes and Relationships that Last**

Turner Construction Co. of Anderson Building Homes and Relationships that Last

By Noelle Creamer

The father-and-son team of Frank and Sean Turner, owners and founders of Turner Construction Co. in Anderson, SC, lives by the old adage: "If you're going to do something, do it right."

That saying is a family motto that

applies to the Turners' personal lives as well as their professional lives. Sean remembers Frank coming home from work to inspect the yard his young son had just mowed to make sure the job was done right. At other times, Sean had to cancel extracurricular activities

to redo something for his father.

"Growing up, it used to drive me crazy, but now I understand," says Sean. "If you're going to do something, do it right. That's what Dad taught us, and that's how we do things at Turner Construction. We don't build

Volume, light, mass and warmth. This great room on Lake Hartwell has it all, with Peachtree windows from Builderway in Anderson and a Majestic ventless gas fireplace from Thulman Eastern. Moon's Tile, Marble & Stone did the ceramic tile floor and the Cultured Stone® hearth and chimney. Photo © by Stephen Stinson Photography.





Comfortable brick homes line the wooded streets of Kings Grant subdivision. Here, the garage doors by Wayne's Overhead Doors, landscaping by S.K. Busby, HVAC in all Turner homes is provided by McAlister Heating and Air. Photo © by Stephen Stinson Photography.

the number of homes that other companies do, but what we do build is built the right way without cutting any corners."

"A customer can forgive anything except poor quality," Frank adds. "That's a business axiom that is universal."

He believes the Turners' reputation for quality and craftsmanship has brought them customers, but there are other factors, as well. One is the family's clear commitment to Anderson and to the state.

"Everyone knows that we love Anderson and South Carolina," says Frank, who grew up in Columbia and graduated from Clemson. Both he and

"A customer can forgive anything except poor quality," says Frank Turner. "That's a business axiom that is universal."

his wife, the former Helen King of Anderson, are from families firmly rooted in rich South Carolina soil.

"To us, home building is a business, but it goes much deeper than that. We like to think we're helping to build a stronger community and a stronger Upstate, as well as giving people a reason to stay and live in Anderson. With quality homes come quality families. With quality families come quality communities."

The evolution of a builder

Both Turners are happy to watch Anderson thrive, and are happy to be a part of its growth, but Frank came late to the building and land development business.

"I guess it started out as a young husband trying to save money by doing it himself," Frank says of his early construction efforts. "Whenever we had home improvement projects, I did them. And Sean really gravitated to it. As a boy, he would always be around to help when I was

building something."

Frank, an engineer by training, had gone into business after serving in the Air Force. In 1993, his pharmaceutical sales company was sold and Sean graduated from the University of Richmond after working construction every summer since his teens. The two decided to go into business together and formed Turner & Turner Construction Co., Inc.

"It was something that we had talked about for a long time, and the timing was just right," Sean says. "I knew Dad wasn't ready to retire, so it was a logical step."

With Helen Turner and her brother Ralph King, the company's first project was to turn the family's 148-acre farm into Kings Grant, an upscale subdivision in northern Anderson County. It is named in honor of their late father, long-time Anderson County Probate Judge Ralph King, Sr.

Kings Grant features 130 wooded lots nestled in a serene country setting

minutes from shopping and the Concord/McCants/Hannah schools. Homes average 2,500 to 3,000 square feet and tend to attract "move-up" buyers. "Our homeowners are usually families who have lived in one or more homes and come to us with a strong sense of what they want in a new home," says Frank.

Neighborhood amenities include underground utilities, cable TV, curbing and street lights—in other words, urban conveniences in a serene, coun-

try setting. More than half are custom, contract homes, and all plans must be approved by an architectural review board to preserve the custom feel and look of the neighborhood.

"Our whole family loves the outdoors," Sean says. "As a young boy, I can remember coming out to this same property with my grandfather when it was farmland and woods. It's important to us that it remain very natural.

"We work with our clients to keep a

lot of green space, to retain as many trees as possible and to keep natural buffers for privacy."

Division of labor

Sean oversees the construction end of Turner Construction, while Frank uses his business and engineering background to concentrate on the real estate and development side of the business—land planning, infrastructure, market analysis and sales.

"We enjoy doing different things,

The ceramic tile floor furnished by Moon's Tile, Marble & Stone; appliances are from Builderway of Anderson. Photo © by Stephen Stinson Photography.





Crown molding and a boxed tray ceiling distinguish this formal bedroom, which also features hardwood floors by Jordan Lumber Company. The gas fireplace is by Thulman Eastern, marble surround by Moon's Tile. Photo © by Stephen Stinson Photography.

but we're always there to help each other out," says Frank.

They really complement one another in the use of the latest computer technology. Frank grew up on the cutting edge of computers, when they were the size of some of the homes built today. He has a firm grasp of the computer's usefulness as a management tool.

Sean understands the power of the Internet and how it can be used as an

information and marketing tool. "It's amazing what you can find and do with computers today," he says. "It's not regional anymore—the information comes from anywhere."

While they enjoy the benefits of technology, they are careful to research and use only proven innovations in the building process itself.

"Computers eliminate a lot of the hassle and paperwork," Frank says,

"but we've found that, for the most part, the old ways still work best when it comes to building. We rely on proven products and methods."

There is also another member of the Turner Construction Co. "family"—the team of highly skilled subcontractors and craftsmen the Turners have assembled.

"We have the best subs you can find," both say, almost in unison.

"They are professionals," says

Frank. "They understand our commitment to quality and they understand what our customers want. We certainly wouldn't be where we are today without them."

"In the end, we're only as good as they are skilled," adds Sean.

Plans for the future

Kings Grant entered Phase III in 1999 with Turner Construction building six to 10 homes a year there and in other neighborhoods, especially on and around the lake. Frank hopes to retire in a few years and leave the business growing in Sean's capable hands.

It's clear that the growth and development of the Anderson community will continue to be important to both Turners, and they clearly believe in giving back. Both have volunteered and built several Habitat for Humanity homes, and are currently building a new juvenile justice camp in Anderson, where Sean lends his expertise to

the Governor's Youth Council.

Sean is also a board member of the Anderson Home Builders Association and Frank serves with Advance Anderson on the Economic Development and Infrastructure committees, and is on the Hammond Water Board.

"This is a healthy community and a great place to live," says Frank, "but we need a process to ensure that construction is of excellent quality and that growth is managed well.

"We've taken giant steps in this direction over the past few years, but it will take government, business and public support to continue. Everyone's investment in this community can and should continue to grow, but we need to work to provide opportunity for all sections of the county and all segments of the population."

Frank and Sean Turner are doing their part to provide beautiful, quality homes for Anderson's families and to

Sean oversees Turner Construction, while his father Frank concentrates on real estate and development. Their first project was Kings Grant, a 148-acre subdivision named for Helen King Turner and Ralph King's father.

give back to their community in an individual way. Beyond that, they are contributing to the success of Anderson for decades to come.

B/A

CONTACT Turner Construction at PO Box 4275, Anderson, SC 29621. Telephone 864-964-0493.

This concrete and brick patio with its built-in flowerbed provides nice views from the breakfast bay and is the perfect place for entertaining. Photo © by Stephen Stinson Photography.

