

CALIFORNIA HOMES

# The Essential Guide

Architects & Builders 2020



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THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE

# BUILDERS



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# Putting the Horse Before the Cart

BUILDING YOUR DREAM HOME  
BY BRET PARSONS

YOU'VE DONE IT! YOU'VE DECIDED TO BUILD that dream home—*your* dream home. Congratulations! You're about to embark on one of the most exciting and rewarding journeys a person can take. Imagine stepping through that front door for the very first time into a house made just for you, a home that reflects *your* vision, not someone else's. No more tiny closets, odd room arrangements, inadequate bathrooms—everything is as you like it, where you like it and how you like it. And imagine the pride and satisfaction of entertaining friends and family in an atmosphere of comfort and beauty. This isn't just an idle fantasy. You're going to make it a reality. You just have to do one small thing—actually build the house.

You may think the first order of business is to find the perfect lot, then comes the architect, and finally, the builder. Makes sense, yes? But you may actually be putting



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the cart before the horse. The fact is, finding the right builder first could save you both time and money, the two most critical things you'll want to save on when building. Most people don't think of the builder when it comes to finding the lot, but good builders always know the best places to build. They know the market, the ever-shifting trends, and they know fair prices.

While the architect or designer may create the plans, it's the builder who literally turns the dream into reality. They do so much more than merely put one brick on top of the other. They plan and keep the project on time and on budget. They navigate their way through a myriad of ever-changing, ever-growing rules and codes. They keep themselves at the forefront of technology, using computer models and geological studies to ensure your home is truly built on a solid foundation. And by embracing such technologies, builders are able to construct homes on plots of land, which only a short time before, would have been considered unbuildable.



Smart builders often have an ace up their sleeve in the form of a realtor. Not only do they have their own expertise on what land makes the best home sites, realtors keep up with rules and regulations a builder might not otherwise anticipate. Together, your builder and your realtor form a dynamic duo of knowledge and experience – priceless commodities in this highly-competitive market – and all operating for your benefit.

And don't forget, when your builder is licensed through the state, it means he or she has undergone a rigorous approval process overseen by the California Contractor's State License Board and are sworn to operate in a safe, competent and professional manner.

But with more than 100,000 general contractors licensed in California, how do you find the right one for you and your project? Thankfully, *California Homes* has done all the leg-work and put together the following helpful guide of highly-qualified professionals from across the Golden State. Now, relax and think of what you're going to serve at the housewarming party!





# Shawn Nelson Builders

THEIR MISSION IS TO BUILD HOMES THAT ARE ELEGANT IN EXECUTION AND ENDURE THE TEST OF TIME

Shawn Nelson Builders (SNB) achieve their goal of timeless homes by having a disciplined approach and project controls that provide certainty and comfort for the client. By focusing on Manhattan Beach, they know how to overcome the challenges of building in a prestigious, highly-regulated, dense, beach community. This knowledge means that premier architects and designers trust them to deliver for their clients

Building and remodeling homes in Los Angeles since 2003, SNB's core values of honesty, integrity and reliability in construction mean that the best for the client is always front and center. SNB has a team that can easily problem solve, even in the most difficult situations. The team responds quickly by giving clear expectations and listening to clients.

As Grant Kirkpatrick, Founding Partner, KAA Design says, "To demonstrate SNB's response rate, a prospective client and I will randomly call Shawn Nelson. Like clockwork, he either picks up immediately or calls back within five minutes."

It's superlative service like that that is the hallmark of Shawn Nelson Builders.

*Shawn Nelson Builders, 124 Center Street, 1st Floor, El Segundo, CA 90245, 310.802.1932, [www.shawnnelsonbuilders.com](http://www.shawnnelsonbuilders.com)*

