Local Home Builder Celebrates 80 Years In Business posted on JANUARY 5, 2009

Dewhurst & Associates, a La Jolla based custom home building and remodeling company, has a lot to celebrate in this New Year. 2009 marks 80 successful years in business.

Dewhurst & Associates has become a staple in the La Jolla community, not only for the quality work they provide, but also for their immense involvement in the community.

"We are very excited to celebrate 80 years in business and feel confident that we have upheld my great-grandfather and grandfather's intentions of keeping Dewhurst & Associates a family-based business," said president, Doug Dewhurst. "We have been honored to serve the greater San Diego area for 80 successful years and look forward to many more."

Dewhurst & Associates was established in 1929 by Ernest W. Dewhurst. Ernest left England where he owned a construction company and upon his arrival in the United States, he was looking for an area that reminded him of home. He settled in the seaside community of La Jolla and established what is known today as the areas oldest and largest building and design firm. This was the perfect place and the perfect time for a determined general contractor.

Ernest worked with his son, Walter Dewhurst who took over the company in the 50's. Their intention was to keep their business family-based and personal. Walter became a very influential member of the San Diego Planning Commission and it was during this era that the Dewhurst Company erected one of the most visible landmarks in all of San Diego - the cross atop Mount Soledad at no cost to the city.

Today, Dewhurst & Associates has grown to more than 30 employees, but retains the intimacy of a family owned business. Walter's son, Don Dewhurst took over the business and is currently active today. His sons, Doug and Dave, who have both been with the company for more than 25 years, have taken on the roles of President and Chief Executive Officer and his daughter, Donna is an administrator for the business.

Dan Sehlhorst, Principal Architect and an establishing member of the Dewhurst design department, recognized the potential of the design / build concept for project delivery. The Design / Build concept ventures away from the traditional configuration of the architect and contractor as two separate entities and combines the professions into one team. This integration resolves the potential for conflicting perception in the scope of work which, can arise from the conventional approach to project delivery. It creates a bridge unifying the design and the construction processes, allowing a seamless progression for the project as well as a single point of responsibility.

Additionally, this model allows for the role that a homeowner plays on the team to be the project decision-maker rather than the mediator between the separate participating professions. This team approach ensures all members work toward reducing total project delivery time, mitigating change orders and lowering total project costs while insuring quality. In his nearly 20 years with Dewhurst & Associates, Sehlhorst has facilitated the design and construction of approximately 75 residential projects in La Jolla, Rancho Santa Fe and Point Loma.

Dewhurst & Associates is now a cornerstone of the San Diego community and their name has become synonymous with quality craftsmanship. They are currently involved with The Rotary Club of La Jolla, La Jolla YMCA, La Jolla Real Estate Brokers Association, La Jolla Historical Society, La Jolla High School Foundation and the USD Family Business Forum. Other organizations they have volunteered for include The Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego, and the TERI Organization supporting autism. They have donated construction services to schools in La Jolla, homeless shelters and fire stations. Dewhurst & Associates is also a member of the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau, the La Jolla Town Council, and Vistage International.