



- **Nov. 15, 2008** : AIBD Virginia Society Quarterly Meeting in Williamsburg, VA
- **Jan. 20-21, 2009** : AIBD 2008/2009 Mid-year Meeting in Las Vegas, NV
- **Jan. 20-23, 2009** : The International Builders Show in Las Vegas, NV
- **Feb. 6, 2009** : AIBDSC 1st Quarter Meeting TBA
- **March 6-7, 2009**: NC/SC Spring Conference in North Myrtle Beach
- **July 8-11, 2009** : AIBD National Convention, Portland Marriott Downtown in Portland, OR

As we hit the heat of the summer and see those high utility bills, we realize just how important good design and construction are. It is more important than ever to be knowledgeable in “Green Building”. Knowing how to design and what products to use so that the consumer can save money through the life of their home is paramount. I have just returned from the national 58th AIBD Convention in Kansas City, MO where I attended seminars on LEED, Energy Star and the NAHB green building program. The Home Design Company Inc. also received a 1st and 2nd place award in the Published Plans category in the American Residential Design Awards (ARDA) competition. I was also elected “Eastern District Director” position over the eastern state societies. I have also recently passed the 2-day proficiency exam by the NCBDC to become a Certified Professional Building Designer and become the only residential designer in the Beaufort area to hold that distinction. Remember when looking to find the designer for your ‘Dream Home’ to hire a professional. Below are a few things to look for during your search.

10 Things to Look for When Hiring a Design Professional

1 EXPERIENCE

You have heard it a million times, and it’s true. There is no substitute for experience. This is especially true for design professionals.

2 AN OFFICE

Your first meeting should be in a professional’s office. Remember, use caution if you are dealing with a part-time draftsman conducting business from the kitchen table.

3 EXAMPLES OF WORK

While in a designer’s office, ask to see some of their latest work. This will allow you to compare designer’s work and styles as you interview various design professionals.

4 REFERENCE MATERIALS

Look around their office. Today’s design professionals must stay on the cutting edge of their profession to compete. This requires a great deal of reference material, such as books, manuals, code text, catalogs and samples of materials.

5 FINISHED PROJECTS

Ask to see photographs and request addresses of actual homes that have been built in a design similar to the one you are considering.

6 REFERENCES

Obtain a current list of former clients who you may contact to discuss the designer's past performance.

7 CONTRACT

A professional building designer always has a contract or agreement for your review that covers such items as the fee and terms of payment, as well as the specific services that will be rendered for specified fees.

8 PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Membership in a professional organization such as AIBD (American Institute of Building Design) or AIA (American Institute of Architects) makes the statement that this individual maintains high moral and professional standards within the building design profession.

9 SEALS ON DRAWINGS

This indicates that the design professional is either a state licensed architect or a CPBD (Certified Professional Building Designer) through the National Council of Building Designer Certification.

10 CONTINUING EDUCATION

This is a requirement for a Certified Professional Building Designer. CEU's (Continuing Education Units) are vital for building designers to improve their professionalism and to stay informed of the many advances in the building and design industries.