



**BAKER LAND DESIGN**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE · LAND PLANNING  
 WWW.BAKERLANDDESIGN.COM

# THE DRAWING BOARD

Volume 1, Issue 1

FALL 2007

## PREMEIRE ISSUE:

- This is the first edition of THE DRAWING BOARD.” Be sure to keep an eye on your inbox; we will be sending out new issues quarterly.

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Baker Land Design is

pleased to announce that our office has recently moved. After celebrating our 10 year anniversary, we made the decision to purchase an office and have it built out to our exact specifications. Working with architects and interior designers from Pate Design Group and A Classical Studio-Wakefield Beasley &

## NEW DIGS

Associates, our new office is modern and state of the art while its size allows for the future growth of



**450 OLD PEACHTREE RD  
 SUITE 105  
 SUWANEE, GA 30024**

the company. Our corner unit suite overlooks a future courtyard which

the talented designers at BLD will be responsible for designing. Located in the city of Suwanee, recently named a Top 10 Great American Town by Money Magazine, our new office is seconds from interstate 85 enabling us to continue our work in the greater Atlanta area as well as the Carolinas. After the dust settles, we are planning an open house, so keep your eyes out for the invitation!

## READY FOR OUR CLOSE-UP



*BLD was recently featured on HGTV's **Groundbreakers.***

The star of the show was our very own Kim Cunningham. Kim has been with BLD for 3 years and has made tremendous contributions to our business. She currently handles our planting design and marketing efforts. She enjoyed

filming the show and did a wonderful job of discussing the design considerations. The show featured the design and installation of a complete backyard renovation for one of the homes in the prestigious River Club community. We worked with the homeowners and Crescent Resources for 6-8 weeks throughout design development, review and

approval. The project included a freeform pool, spa/waterfall, fire ring, bar, drainage improvements, and planting design. The installation progressed through the tough winter months and the pool was ready for the summer swim season. To watch an edited version of the show, please click on the following link:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=Vi9JBXm-LAg>



## Carolina on our mind

As most of you know, Baker Land Design has headed north. In 2006, after years of doing work throughout the Carolinas, BLD decided to set up shop in Charlotte, NC. We currently have 2 employees in Charlotte and offer all of the

same great services that you've come to expect from our Atlanta office for over 11 years.

If you have any projects in the Carolinas that we can help you with, please contact Cliff Cole.

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"I ENJOY WORKING FOR BLD  
BECAUSE I'M NOT IN A CUBE

JUST  
PUMPING CAD  
DAY-IN AND  
DAY-OUT . I  
GET TO BE  
INVOLVED IN  
ALL OF OUR  
DAY-TO-DAY  
OPERATIONS

AND SEE HOW THE WORK  
COMES TO FRUITION WHEN IT  
IS FINALLY BUILT"



## BLD welcomes Jeremy Mize!

BLD recently welcomed a new Associate Designer, Jeremy Mize

to our Charlotte office. Jeremy received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Degree from the University of Georgia's College of

Environment and Design in 2007. Jeremy makes a great addition to the Baker Land Design team!  
[jmize@bakerlanddesign.com](mailto:jmize@bakerlanddesign.com)

## Credentials, We Got 'Em!

Our dedicated staff includes 6 project managers, 3 of which are registered Landscape Architects (licensed in Georgia,



Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina) and an office manager. BLD founder and President, Terry Baker, recently acquired his general contractors license for the state of North Carolina. Unlike

Georgia, North Carolina requires a general contractors license for all construction management, including entrances and rec areas. Earlier this year, Terry also received a level 2 NPDES certification.



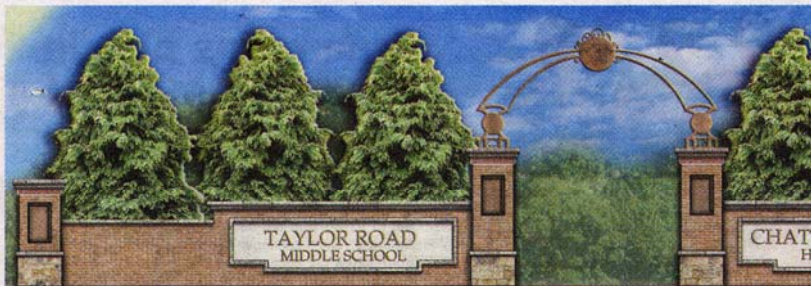
# Carving a new path for the 'Hooch

One of our current projects was featured on the front page of the Johns Creek Herald.



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THE JOHNS CREEK HERALD



SPECIAL/Herald

The rendering, prepared by Baker Land Design, has been useful to get people to conceptualize and buy into the project, said Tim Duncan, Chattahoochee High School principal.

## 'Hooch carves new path for school's future

By CARON COOPER  
caron@northfulton.com

Wonders never cease when you put heads together to accomplish a goal.

For over a decade, Chattahoochee High School students have carved their own path onto the school, literally a Georgia clay trail leading from the front corner of the property down into the parking lot.

But the manmade shortcut onto campus has caused a few concerns including erosion runoff, cleanliness, appearance and even safety.

"It actually presents a dangerous atmosphere when you are moving down the hill at a quick speed into the parking lot and not able to go at a controlled pace. But that's the route that students choose," said Tim Duncan, Chattahoochee principal.

For years, that same spot has also been a source of confusion for parents and visitors. As drivers approach the school on Taylor Road, the only sign at the front corner announces Taylor Road Middle School, located just north of Chattahoochee.

Visitors attending outside events at Chattahoochee often think they are in the wrong place when they see the sign. Or worse, the confusion often turns into panic when a parent arrives

at the wrong school to pick up their child.

"It still causes a little panic between them and us when you can't find a child and you say they are not enrolled," said Duncan.

So a host of Johns Creek'ers have joined forces to solve the problems associated with this portion of the property with one plan — a prominent entrance to the school with a concrete courtyard and a staircase leading down onto the property.

Since Duncan has been principal at Chattahoochee, he has pushed the community to enhance the campus.

"A lot of people have taken that into stride and looked at where they can get involved. Brenda Yates and Jim Warren really helped push this project," he said.

But the solution didn't start off as simply as a snap of the fingers. The staircase presented some challenges to cover its cost and to ensure it is built to code, requiring the help of the Fulton County school system.

"This new entrance will really enhance an already great school," said Johns Creek City Councilwoman Liz Hausmann. Hausmann, a former member of the Fulton County Board of Education, said this was her final project with the board.

For the signage and other amenities, including two changeable banners, the group sought help elsewhere.

"And that's where everybody has come together, between the class council, the 2007 and 2008 senior classes, the PTSA, the athletic boosters — it just keeps growing and growing everyday," said Duncan.

Within minutes of hearing about the project, the 2008 senior class agreed to give \$4,000. 'Hooch student groups alone have contributed \$12,000 to the project. The total project cost is between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

To get the project off the ground, Warren, vice president of Tech Park and proud 'Hooch parent, went to the community for help.

"We wanted to find a new funding source outside of the relationships and entities that continuously make contributions to the school. We didn't want any of that energy diverted to some of these capital improvements," said Warren.

Warren said they were fortunate to find people who agreed to essentially do the work gratis.

Terry Baker of Baker Land Design prepared the design documents, Brock Design Group did the required survey work and McCar Homes wrote a check to help defray those engineering and permitting costs.

"We are really happy to help the school with this project, and we look forward to getting it built as quickly as possible," said Baker.

Yates, also a proud Cougar parent, has been instrumental in the communications, said Duncan.

"It did take everybody to politically get it through and to financially get it through. And that's what a community or a family is about, pulling through some of the struggles and working together for the betterment in the end," he said.



"WE ARE REALLY HAPPY TO HELP THE SCHOOL WITH THIS PROJECT, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING IT BUILT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE"

CARON COOPER/Herald

In its current state, the student-made path is a steep walk downhill leading directly into a parking lot, which has brought up safety concerns.

The project, a year in the making, will break ground Sept. 1 and should be completed around Thanksgiving this year. Just in time for the holidays — not only from the students, but for them too.

Duncan said Chattahoochee has been fortunate the last few years that the senior classes have decided to give back to their school in a lasting way. But this year it's a little different.

"The senior class will be able to enjoy for the first time their gift while they are still at school,

which I think really gives them more ownership in it and real excitement," said Yates.

It will also be a great place for photo opps in 2008.

"They are going to be really proud to stand under there, with their graduate gowns and their parents, and take their picture just like people do in Athens under the arches. This is going to be a big symbol for the school," said Duncan.

Warren added, "It's the portal through which Georgia's finest pass."

### 'Hooch Contributors

The project would not have been possible without:

- CHS Class of 2007 and 2008
- CHS Student Council
- CHS Athletic Booster Club
- CHS Cougar Foundation
- Fulton County Commissioner Lynne Riley
- Johns Creek City Councilwoman Liz Hausmann
- Taylor Road Middle School
- Terry Baker, Baker Land Design
- Mark Brock, Brock Design Group
- Doug Strall, McCar Homes
- Day Family LLLP
- Jim Warren, Tech Park/Johns Creek
- Brenda Yates





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*Founded in 1996, Baker Land Design provides landscape architecture, land planning, and construction management services to property owners, developers and civil engineers.*

*BLD specializes in neighborhood entrance design, recreation design, master planning, custom residential design, and planting/ site design for commercial developers.*

*For examples of our work, please see our website.*



## Spotlight on our Services

In addition to traditional design services, BLD also specializes in realistic color renderings through the use of Photoshop. Color renderings are a great way help potential buyers and investors better understand what a project will look like upon completion. Furthermore, many municipalities require color renderings for zoning

hearings or design review meetings. Professional color renderings are also a great marketing tool. We can have our completed drawings mounted and laminated for presentations or display or you can get them electronically for further reproduction. As well as elevation and plan view renderings, we have also begun providing SketchUp drawings. Shaun Dodson, one of our designers, will be attending a class in October to further develop his skills.

If you are unfamiliar with SketchUp and its abilities, please see their website: [www.SketchUp.com](http://www.SketchUp.com)



**Typical Photoshop rendering of an entrance monument**