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Builder/Architect

Special Feature

Decks On The Lake Inc.

Family Business Brings Beauty,
Functionality to Waterfront Homes



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By Ronald Boyce Walker

Decks On The Lake actively builds in major waterfront residential communities throughout the greater Houston area. From the scenic shorelines of Lake Conroe and Bentwater to the resort-like environs of Clear Lake and South Shore Harbour, products by Decks On The Lake add functionality and beauty to homes in residential communities abounding in recreation and leisure opportunities.

Decks On The Lake is a family business operated by a husband-wife team, Ed and Christy Tottingham. Christy

runs the office, including payroll, accounting and scheduling. Ed, with vast experience in the construction industry, oversees most functions at the construction site, including design, acquisition of permits and materials, price proposals and setting up work crews.

The company's work is found in such communities as The Cliffs, South Shore Estates, Bentwater, Waterford Estates, Grand Harbor, Walden, April Sound, Del Lago, Harbor Point, Ranch Escondido, Longmire on Lake Conroe, Pebble Glen, White Oak Ranch, Seven Coves, Pelican Bay, Papa's

Decks on the Lake started its specialty business by building at such waterfront communities as Cliffs at South Shore and Longmire on Lake Conroe.



On The Lake, Twin Shores, Gemstone, Lake Conroe Hills and Diamondhead.

Decks On The Lake offers a wide range of construction expertise for custom boat docks, custom boat houses, piers, wood walkways, bulkheads, slip dredging, boat lifts, boat covers, jet ski lifts and other marine-related construction products. The company also builds custom patio decks, arbors, gazebos and any type of decking on land.

EXTENSIVE CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE

Having spent virtually his entire professional life in the construction industry, Tottingham established Decks On

You must always treat customers fairly and respectfully.

— Ed Tottingham, Decks On The Lake

The Lake in 1998. Previously, he owned ECT Homes, a home-building and remodeling firm that also built cabinets, fences and decks.

Decks On The Lake came into being after Tottingham started contracting deck projects from K&K Construction. He eventually made a purchase agreement with K&K for a barge used to drive pilings in boat dock construction. Decks On The Lake developed from this decision.

Tottingham is the driving force behind his company's

What a Beauty! This beautiful deck at Bentwater Estates demonstrates the exceptional craftsmanship offered by Decks on the Lake. The company uses the finest building materials products, such as Trex, a high-quality composite material.



operations, and his approach to doing business involves emphasizing construction expertise and outstanding customer service with equal vigor.

“Your customers are the people you depend on to make or break your company, so you have to do whatever it takes to make your customers happy,” Tottingham said. “You must always treat customers fairly and respectfully.”

A strong work ethic and the development of an effective team of employees and work crews is also a major ingredient in this company’s formula for success.

“We have great people working for us, and together we meet the challenges of our business with a lot of dedication and hard work,” Tottingham said.

SUPERB CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING, CUSTOMER SERVICE

A distinct hallmark of Decks On The Lake’s construction technique is their method of screwing the decks down, instead of nailing them.

They also router all the boards for a cleaner appearance, another distinct touch.

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—Ed Tottingham

Decks on the Lake strives to provide the right product for each customer. For this homeowner, a handsomely crafted dock with boat lift fits the bill.



Tottingham is highly knowledgeable about today's marketplace for decks and other marine-related construction for residential properties.

"Craftsmanship in deck-building has changed as customers are demanding more than the standard rectangular deck," he said. "The customers are looking for fancier railings, more overhead structures, such as pergolas or sunscreens, and different levels of decking."

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There are also more choices in today's market for docking material, such as composite, Trex and vinyl decking, Tottingham said.

Tottingham has not only mastered construction techniques and marketing strategies for today's popular products, but he is keeping a keen eye on anticipated future trends.

"Future purchasing trends are expected to shift as customers become more educated about the decking material choices they have with all the new composite decking," he said. "I foresee more decks being built. They will be larger with more creative spaces, and more will be built with artificial wood products, although treated wood will continue to be the primary structural material for all decks."

At this beautiful South Shore estate home, family members can enjoy skiing, fishing and other recreation and leisure activities.





PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ORTEGA

This photo shows how the process begins with a tract hoe and tug boat.

At the fabrication shop, where all the jet ski, boat lifts and motor and storage boxes are made. Meet Ed Tottingham, the owner of Decks On The Lake — where quality work is guaranteed.



Decks On The Lake and its principals are active members of the Better Business Bureau, Lake Conroe Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery Bear Backers, Make-a-Wish Foundation and TOPPS Club of Lake Conroe.

In the future, the Tottinghams have a vision to start another company, Decks On The Lake II on Lake Livingston for their children to run when they are adults.

For more information about Decks On The Lake, contact Ed or Christy Tottingham at (936) 448-4934 or visit us on the web at www.decksonthelake.com. ■