

BUILDING savvy®

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Flexible, Creative Answers To
Address Specific Needs Are The
Common Thread To All Of Brandon
Bush's Building Projects



Brandon Bush



Savvy Builder

By Beverly Smirnis

Custom Homes OF TEXAS

Building has been part of the fabric of the Bush family for generations. Brandon Bush's great-great-grandfather owned a saw mill. His grandfather was a pastor who also co-owned a masonry company with his brother (Brandon's great-uncle), where Brandon's father, Dan, got his start. Dan Bush became an electrical engineer and "was always building something." So needless to say, throughout his upbringing, Brandon witnessed many things that started with raw materials and ended with a vision for the end result realized.

Brandon's first true experience in building something from the ground-up came after he assisted his father in building a 4,000 square foot steel airplane hangar at the Northwest Regional Airport in Roanoke, TX. His dad offered to let a high-school aged Brandon take the full responsibility for building an elevated loft/apartment inside of it, a task that he eagerly accomplished.

Brandon grew up in Shady Shores TX, in a neighborhood alongside an airport runway. Being around airplanes led Brandon to pursue college studies with the intention of becoming a pilot. So he lived in the hangar home he built at the Northwest Regional Airport while attending the University of North Texas. Construction was the fallback job during his college days. During this time, he was learning the millwork trade, working in a cabinet shop, installing trim and eventually building stairways.

*“Work With Honor
And Integrity And Put
The Needs Of Others
Before Your Own.”*

A pilot buddy visited Brandon's hangar home and asked him to build him one like it at the Propwash Airport in Justin, TX. Then another neighbor there wanted one. So, for a time, Brandon was flying to work—back and forth from Northwest Regional to Propwash to go to his job sites every day. These hangar homes were far more than just crash pads! They had about 3,000 square feet of living space and were finished like custom homes.

While opportunities for jobs as a pilot at the time Brandon graduated had dwindled, opportunities for building kept coming. The next opportunity came when Brandon met a couple he attended church with who were interested in building a home in Argyle. At the same time, Brandon found four quarter-acre lots in Flower Mound that had been labeled as "unbuildable." He turned those into two half-acre lots and built a home for himself and his new bride, Alicia, on the "less desirable side." He turned that into a very desirable property with a walkout basement and began building a spec home in Crossroads. When he got an offer from a buyer wanting to buy the home in Flower Mound and seeking to build another home for a family member on the site next door, Brandon and Alicia moved into the new home he had intended to be a spec.



Brandon and Alicia have now been married for 14 years and have moved 11 times, living in a number of the various neighborhoods where Brandon's thriving business, Custom Homes of Texas, has made a name for itself in building luxury homes. Both have enjoyed the process of getting to experiment with new styles and new products by living in different homes.

In the early years, the homebuilding activity centered around Denton County, then later expanded to Keller and Southlake. The business' primary focus of late has been in answer to the steady demand in Frisco, Plano, McKinney, Fairview, Lucas, and other areas near the Collin County hotspot. Concerned with "running out of dirt"

in what is now the epicenter for his business, Brandon sought out a land purchase opportunity where Custom Homes of Texas could develop its own small neighborhood over the next several years. Kingdom Estates, a collection of twelve 2+ acre lots located in Fairview (Lovejoy ISD) will be available for new construction in early 2018.

All the moving from house to house through the years qualifies Alicia as an expert in the construction process and making selections for new homes, so she has been asked to assist several friends that Brandon has built homes for. Meanwhile, the energetic Alicia home schools their three children. She was a very successful medical devices sales rep before retiring to create Treasured Vessels Foundation. TVF's mission is to find a solution for commercial sexual exploitation of children in the DFW

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Rendering of the Treasured Vessels facilities designed by Covert + Associates that will be built by Custom Homes of Texas.

Stay tuned to *Building Savvy* for updates on the Treasure Vessels facility and notices about specific needs for it. In the meantime, contact Brandon Bush at (817) 703-1118 for more information--or if you have a solution to his immediate need for warehouse space.

“We built Custom Homes of Texas on the foundation of our faith to remind ourselves to work with honor and integrity and to put the needs of others before our own,” said Brandon Bush.

Last year, Custom Homes of Texas worked with the Gary Sinise Foundation to custom build a home for a wounded veteran in New Hope, so it is looking forward to similar challenges and rewards to come with this next project for charity.

The first step has been to secure 25 acres of land where they will build a secure community of 10 homes to house and rehabilitate up to 60 girls rescued from the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The homes will be built around a common house for education and therapy, and the campus will also include an equestrian center. Brandon also added that he would like to find a warehouse space to store the surplus products that his suppliers and other builders have offered to donate to the cause.

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area. Alicia is leading a capital campaign to raise \$2.1M for the cost (without profit or markup) so to build the critically needed shelter for these victims of human trafficking.

It is through this fundraising effort that we were first introduced to the Bushes several months ago. We were shocked at some statistics that she cited:

- The state of Texas is #2 in the nation for Human Trafficking.
- It is estimated that there are over 400 girls (ages 12-17) in Dallas-Fort Worth who are trafficked each night.
- The average age of girls forced into sexual servitude is 13.
- There are 641 beds for abused and neglected dogs in the DFW area. There are currently less than 24 beds available in Texas (ZERO in DFW) for girls who have been rescued from sex trafficking.

“There are organizations that exist to provide comprehensive therapy to nurture and rehabilitate these children, but there is no residential treatment facility. That is where Treasured Vessels—with the help of my family’s business, Custom Homes of Texas—will bridge the gap,” Alicia said.

Though building this facility differs from the day-to-day business of building custom homes, the project is not the first “out of the norm” building project for a builder whose career started with building “hangar homes” in an airpark, after all. Further, Alicia’s vision and passion are in perfect alignment with Custom Homes of Texas’ core values.



“In our everyday business, we listen to our customers’ needs when it comes to finances, their family, and what they ultimately want in a home. We then build a truly custom home that will last a lifetime,” Brandon said. “With the facility, we will be building for Treasured Vessels, we will also be identifying and answering to a need while trying to provide that difference that has a lasting effect. In this case, the client is our community, and the tremendous need is a shelter for its children. The difference that we hope to make is to guide these youth to move past their trauma to transition into healthy, functioning members of society.”