

# Preface

Homebuilding gave this professor the profession of his dreams. After a more-than-thirty-seven-year career in the homebuilding industry, this homebuilder-turned-professor has been given another homebuilding career teaching, inspiring, and connecting construction students to the life-changing careers awaiting them in the homebuilding industry. This professor of practice was not the most qualified homebuilder to write this textbook but only the one who found the Oncor opportunity give back to the industry I love. I am twice blessed by the homebuilding industry!

Thank you to David Weekley Homes for giving this builder-professor his start in homebuilding. This professor responded to an ad in the *Houston Chronicle* titled "We'll teach you to build houses!" by Weekley Homes, and that started it all. Thank you David Weekley Homes on behalf of the thousands of others like myself whose homebuilding careers started at that great company. Additional thanks go to the homebuilding professionals at David Weekley Homes who assisted this professor in the early stages of this curriculum development. Teaching people to start and build a great homebuilding career is nothing new to that organization as their grateful alumni are found in leadership positions throughout the homebuilding industry.

Thank you to John Walsh, an accomplished residential land developer and homebuilder, who perhaps found his greater calling as a real estate educator who founded and built the University of Houston's C.T. Bauer Graduate Real Estate Certificate Program. Thanks to John for giving this professor his first university teaching opportunity at the University of Houston. That opportunity ignited my teaching passion and opened my eyes to the need for new residential college curriculum. I first envisioned writing this textbook while teaching at University of Houston.

Thank you to Dr. Gary Winek for hiring and mentoring this professor of practice as a new construction science and management professor and for your valuable input on this curriculum. However, Dr. Winek's lasting impact on our industry will be his decades of personal passion for his students and to the building science. Dr. Winek's commitment to construction education built and nurtured from inception the great Construction Science and Management program at Texas State University. What a marvelous legacy!

This professor is especially thankful for his twenty-five years at Trendmaker Homes, where much of what is included in this textbook was learned from an amazing team of professionals representing every homebuilding discipline. A personal thanks goes to Joe Mandola, a true master production homebuilder, for his thirty years of support and professional partnership. Working with all my former co-workers at Trendmaker Homes was a professional honor, and I always look back fondly at the great years we enjoyed together.

Thank you to Kerry Gilbert and Michelle Stoops for their contribution of the “Land Planning: Vision and Design Process” chapter. Their well-earned reputation and prolific body of land-planning work made them the ideal authors for this important topic. Residential land development deserves its own textbook and entire college course. Kerry’s and Michelle’s contribution is an excellent step in that direction.

Thank you to the Texas Association of Builders for their support of homebuilding college curriculum by contributing their important chapter, titled “The Homebuilders Association,” aimed at introducing future homebuilding company owners and executives to the builders associations early in their careers. It is important that we reach future association members early!

Thank you to Texas State University for supporting residential construction education and having the vision to create a professor of practice, residential construction, position to help graduates realize the great opportunities awaiting them as future homebuilders. Texas State University is an innovator in construction education with professors of practice in residential and commercial construction, both instructors being former company presidents in their respective sectors. The Texas State Department of Engineering Technology’s innovative approach to construction education brings industry-tenured instruction into the classroom.

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