



LOCAL BUSINESS AND KEITH SUITS PART OF NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MODULAR HOME DESIGN

Siler City, North Carolina, May 6, 2009 – When Keith Suits, part of the family-owned Suits Homes located in Siler City, was paralyzed from the waist down in a work accident, he needed a home that could fit his particular mobility needs. Working with systems builder R-Anell Homes, Suits helped in specific design standards for a model and floorplan that has now become a national design award winner, recently capturing the 2009 award for a modular production home design over 2,200 square feet from the National Modular Housing Council.

The home, part of R-Anell's Forever Living collection, utilizes universal design components to allow homeowners to remain in their homes throughout their life span and to accommodate present and future needs that may arise through existing features and flexible options easily added later.

This particular 4,286-square-foot, built for Suits, his wife Darlene and their two children, has a number of universal design elements that include rollout shelves in the kitchen for easy access, adjustable countertops, wider doorways for navigating mobility devices, vanity cabinets with roll-under design, stepless entryways and open floor plan throughout to ensure easy movement.

Suits Homes, a family owned and operated business since 1973, were pleased to hear that the home designed for Keith and Darlene Suits, won a national award.

"My wife and I are extremely happy with our new R-Anell custom home. We have really enjoyed working with R-Anell on every level from the design process to the actual building process," Keith Suits said. "The universal design has proved to be a wonderful concept for my family and me. The entire building process only took about three months, but we will enjoy our new modular home for many years to come."

The history of the Forever Living family of homes began when R-Anell partnered with the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. The center was founded by Ron Mace, who devised the term "universal design" and originated the concept more than 20 years ago. Universal design incorporates design elements that provide for the

numerous and very different needs that people have, particularly those in the age 50-plus market. Another familiar term that describes the home concept is “aging in place” — the ability to buy this R-Anell home and remain there during every stage of life because it will never “outgrow” the owner in providing amenities that make navigating in the home possible no matter what a person’s age or physical constraints.

“The design of this house for one of our long time partners was one of the true pleasures of being in the homebuilding business over my 40-year career,” said R-Anell President Dennis Jones. “The Suits family has been with us the greatest part of that time with Eddie and Shirley Suits handing the business operation over to the next generation as was done at R-Anell by my parents as well. I am proud to accept this award and do it on behalf of Keith and his wife who played a big part in the design of this particular home.”

Suits Homes has 11 employees and has been a builder partner with R-Anell since 1996. R-Anell, the oldest and most established manufacturer of custom homes in the Southeast since 1972, has its headquarters and manufacturing operations based in Cherryville, North Carolina.

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