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STONE HOUSE REVIVAL

Bucks County Home Remodeler Shines in DIY Network's 'Stone House Revival'

Bucks County native Stephen Turbyfill was raised in the family business of home remodeling by his grandfather, C.W. Schrenk. From the age of 13, Turbyfill gained his greatest work experience of the life as a laborer turned carpenter on the rough framing crew building new homes for his grandfather's company. This was the basic building block of skill sets that Steven needed to eventually begin his own home remodeling company at the age of 26. In 2000, Stephen became the founder and owner of Freedom General Contracting, Inc.

Freedom General Contracting is a turnkey operation, with Turbyfill and his highly-qualified crew members performing much of the design work themselves. For larger jobs where an architect, interior designer, electrician, or plumber is needed, Freedom utilizes nearby companies and local trade businesses whenever possible. From start to finish, the construction process is driven by the home owner's remodeling dreams and aligned with their budget, as their fantasy home begins developing right before their eyes.

In 2015, DIY Network "Stone House Revival" producers contacted Turbyfill to sign on as their home remodeling contractor. He and his crew have filmed 15 episodes for the series with host and good friend Jeff Devlin.

Local Home Remodeling Revealed to the Nation

"Stone House Revival" host Jeff Devlin interacts with Turbyfill and his crew while filming the renovation process on old farm houses in Bucks County that were once constructed using stones and fallen pieces of wood randomly scattered about local fields.

"Working on houses that are 200 years old is the ultimate challenge because there is nothing that should be expected, and the unexpected should be expected," observed Turbyfill.

Each half-hour episode follows Turbyfill and his team step by step as they go full-tilt at solving the remodeling challenge at hand. Throughout, Devlin and Turbyfill banter about ideas and strategies for tackling the task, and the

rapport between the two seems genuine and engaging.

"I feel very privileged to work alongside Jeff Devlin to make Stone House Revival come together," said Turbyfill.

A New Normal for a Typical Work Day

A typical work day is "like a fire drill," according to Turbyfill. "Everything is always about the filming schedule."

Generally, preparation for the show begins the night before shooting, and Turbyfill often finds himself working on two projects at once during filming periods.

"It is a short amount of time to do a lot of work," admits Turbyfill.

He also confesses his disdain for rushing anything because "doing things for the camera and making it good for real life are two different stories." He and the show's production team are driven to produce the highest-level professional results for participating homeowners, and will often go back to work after the cameras have finished rolling to double-check that critical details have been done right.

A Single Opportunity Changed Everything

Being on television certainly has its advantages. For Turbyfill and his crew, the show has allowed the contractor and his work to shine. Viewers gain insight into how contractors work and potential projects they might wish to undertake, and Freedom General gets to show off its creative and technical



skills gained through years of working on Colonial-era homes.

The spotlight has also been thrown on Bucks County, with its iconic farm houses that are unique to this area of the country.

Actual clients that are aired on "Stone House Revival" enjoy the experience of being a part of the show because "They have an idea, but don't really know what the final reveal of their house is, so they are surprised," explained Turbyfill. "The clients who work with me on the show will also contact me for follow up work, so I often retain them as a client, as well".

Although Turbyfill is apart from his family more than he would wish while filming the show, they fully support him, he says.

"My two kids watch the show, and think it is cool to see their dad on TV."

As for Freedom General Contracting, Turbyfill said, "I'm always reaching for the next home run."

Refusing to submit to the status quo creatively, and exceeding clients' expectations in turning their dreams into reality, Turbyfill is always looking for new ways to take his business to the next level, and is helping Bucks County's architectural treasures reach a much wider audience along the way.

The second season of "Stone House Revival" will premiere in April on DIY Network. | **R**

5294 Long Lane
Doylestown, PA 18902

215.794.0326
freedomgci.com
Facebook.com/Freedom-General-Contracting-Inc-120166554253