

Everyone Needs a Good Roof over Their Head

By Betsy Dru Tecco

What do you see when you look at your house?



Gillespie recently completed a major barn roof at the Springton Farm in Glenmoore. According to Gillespie, traditional cedar roofs last 30 to 40 years and come in 100 different styles – and he's worked with them all.

*i*t may come as a surprise to realize that up to 40% of the visual appeal of your home is the roof, depending on the house's style and its setting. Roofs don't seem to get the same attention from homeowners as the face of the house or the interior. Yet, roofs play a large role in the home's value. And when the roof needs to be replaced, it suddenly becomes very important to make sure the best materials and best workmanship are being employed.

Buying a new roof system is a big investment that requires some homework. With the plethora of roofing contractors in business, you need to find one with an excellent track record and membership in reputable industry associations.

GILLESPIE CONTRACTING SINCE 1986

Bill Gillespie started his company, Gillespie Contracting Inc., in 1986 when he was living in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. A few years later, Bill came to Chester County and established his roofing business to serve both residential and commercial clients. "Most of my business I've gotten through referrals," says Gillespie, who is well-versed in all types of roofing, from cedar and slate to asphalt and sheet metal.



Gillespie's company has installed slate roofs on homes up to 20,000 square feet and is scheduled to start a very large slate roof in Merion Station this fall.

CEDAR

“Cedar is my bread and butter,” says Gillespie, whose brother Rob leads the six-man cedar wood shingles crew. “I prefer cedar. I think a cedar roof is probably the nicest looking roof. It turns brownish gray over the years, and that’s part of the charm.”

According to Gillespie, traditional cedar roofs last 30 to 40 years and come in 100 different styles – and he’s worked with them all. Cedar shingles have to be cut by hand with each individual shingle getting two nails. Gillespie is a member of the Cedar Shake & Shingle Bureau (CSSB), the recognized industry authority. “They wrote the book on cedar roofing,” remarks Gillespie. “Because we are certified by the CSSB, we can offer a lifetime warranty on cedar roofs. It’s prorated down to 20% over 600 months, so if there is a problem with your roof, you will get a portion of it back.”

One showcase project that Gillespie recently completed is the historic Manor

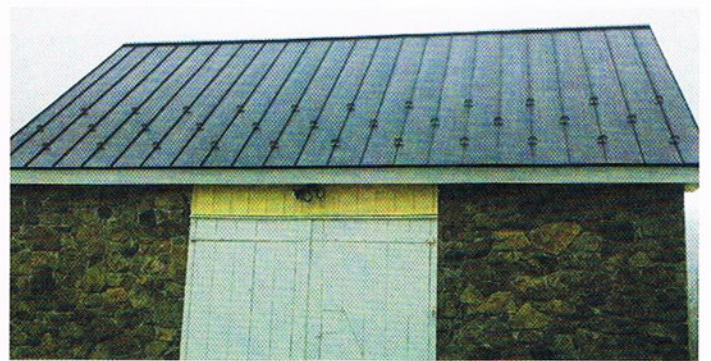
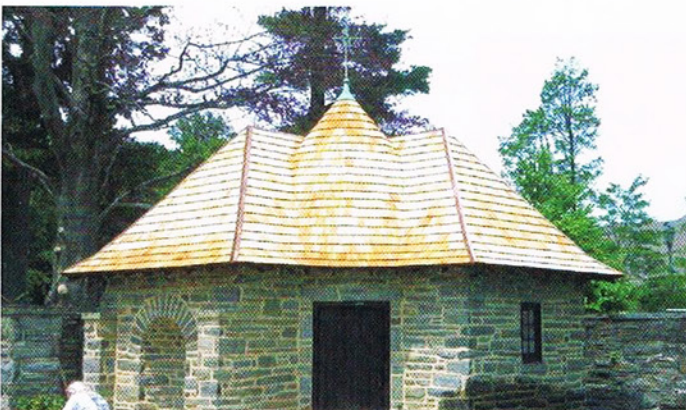
MCKENZIE BREW HOUSE

DEVON
MALVERN
CHADDS FORD

DRINK LOCAL

RESTAURANT - BREWERY - NITESPOT
mckenziebrewhouse.com

ENJOY OUTDOOR DINING IN MALVERN AND CHADDS FORD!



All-metal roofs have become more popular in recent years, notes Gillespie. Copper roofs last 80 years, are attractive, and require little maintenance.



House at Springton Farm in Glenmoore. His company won the public bid to put new cedar roofs on the house, which dates back to 1833, and the great barn.

SLATE

Like cedar, slate roofs are done by hand. The beautiful stone comes in different colors and is very versatile. "It's an artisan's trade," says Gillespie. "We'd rather do a complex job than an easy one," he adds. "We get a lot more satisfaction out of it."

His company has installed slate roofs on homes up to 20,000 square feet and is scheduled to start a very large slate roof in Merion Station this fall.