



## FROM VISION TO REALITY

*Inside the B&D Builders Design and Construction Process*



Every exceptional equestrian facility begins with a vision. For horse owners, that vision might be a safe and functional barn, a world-class training arena, or a thoughtfully designed property that supports both horses and the people who care for them. Turning that vision into reality is where B&D Builders' expertise truly shines. Based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, their design and construction process is not just about building structures—it's about creating spaces where horses thrive and equestrian dreams come to life.

The journey starts with listening. At the earliest stage, B&D Builders spends time getting to know their clients, their horses, and their long-term goals. As client Romi Glessner describes the planning process when building her Five Leaf Clover Farm, an equine sanctuary outside Pittsburgh,

"The collaborative 'think tank' that took place with B&D was only the beginning of the positive influence their expertise and attention to detail would have on our vision. Consideration was given to our every wish and desire."

Through detailed interviews and site visits, the team asks questions that go beyond square footage and stall counts. How many horses will live on the property? What disciplines will be practiced? How does the client move through their daily routine with their horses? These conversations help uncover the practical needs and personal preferences that shape the entire project.

For Glessner, that meant creating a space where rescued horses could just be without the expectation to perform. "Throughout the process, the team at B&D Builders remained continually respectful, honoring,

and encouraging our mission to create a barn that would provide an equine lifestyle as close to the way that God intended them to live."

From there, the planning process begins. B&D's in-house design team studies the property itself—its terrain, drainage, climate, and setting. A well-designed equestrian facility must work with the land, not against it, and aesthetics always matter. Proper barn orientation for ventilation, natural light, and efficient traffic flow for horses and equipment all play critical roles in the final design.

Once the big picture is established, sketches and digital plans begin to take form. Clients collaborate closely with the design team, refining details such as stall configurations, tack rooms, wash racks, storage spaces, and rider amenities. For some owners, the



priority may be maximizing horse comfort through wider aisles and optimal airflow. For others, the focus might be on creating an elegant show barn with architectural character and communal spaces for socializing.

For Five Leaf Clover Farm, the mission was to give the horses a place where they felt completely at home. “Every detail of the five-stall barn was intentionally designed to support the physical and emotional well-being of the horses living there,” says Daniel Glick, B&D Builders co-owner and co-founder. At Five Leaf Clover Farm, the Douglas fir timber frame is complemented by a lofty ceiling, allowing natural light and fresh air to fill the space. B&D designed custom stall doors using open mesh bottoms and extended head space to provide greater freedom of movement and interaction between horses. To reduce stress from loud noises, traditional doors were replaced with soft-close sliding barn doors. A wellness-inspired kitchen with pantry and fridge was built for creating organic, nourishing meals for the horses; and an owner’s suite was added where people can stay on-site if needed. Each project becomes a bespoke solution tailored to the unique needs of both horse and owner.

Designing equestrian spaces often presents complex challenges. Horses are large animals with specific behavioral and physical requirements, and the facility must support their health and safety as well as riders and workers coming in and out, bringing the elements with them. Flooring choices, structural durability, lighting, and ventilation all require careful consideration. B&D Builders approaches these challenges with decades of experience, ensuring that beauty never compromises functionality. “Typically, when owners picture their future horse barn, they begin with the amenities that impressed them about another barn, whether they experienced it in person or saw it in a magazine,” says Glick. “That’s a good starting place. But opportunities abound for customization. The right touches, done thoughtfully, can turn a barn into something unforgettable.”

Once plans are finalized, the project moves into the construction phase. Coordination becomes key as skilled craftsmen, project managers, and specialized contractors work together to bring the design to life. B&D Builders emphasizes quality materials and precise workmanship, knowing that equestrian structures must withstand daily wear, weather conditions, and the





movement inside and out, of large equines and people with muddy boots.

Though Five Leaf Clover Farm is located in Pennsylvania, B&D Builders has completed projects nationwide. Their in-house crews and project managers travel regularly for out-of-town projects, ensuring the same craftsmanship and attention to detail regardless of location. They typically ship their custom materials and timber components directly from Pennsylvania (including anything produced in their millwork and timber frame shops), and then supplement with trusted local trades and suppliers for certain scopes like site work, utilities, or finishes. This approach allows them to maintain their standard of quality while also establishing local partnerships that make long-term maintenance and future service easier for the client.

Throughout construction, communication with the client remains constant. Progress updates, on-site walkthroughs, and collaborative problem-solving ensure the finished facility stays true to the original

vision. Adjustments are sometimes made along the way as new ideas emerge or site conditions reveal opportunities for improvement. "Consideration was given to our every wish and desire," emphasizes Glessner. "Constructive criticism and better solutions were presented in areas when needed, and details were never overlooked."

Finally, the finishing touches transform the project from a construction site into a working equestrian home. Custom stall fronts, carefully selected lighting, thoughtful landscaping, and personalized details all contribute to the final experience. What began as a conversation and a concept is now a space where happy horses live, riders train, and owners build lasting memories. And most importantly, B&D creates spaces where humans and horses enjoy spending time.

At Five Leaf Clover Farm, Glessner, her husband and five children, have a barn that allows rescued horses to be horses in the most nurturing way and allows the family to enjoy them and the lessons they continue

to teach. "We hope the barn will be a place where horses can come to recover, connect, and thrive for years to come," says Glick.

For B&D Builders, the goal is simple: create facilities that support the daily rhythms of equestrian life while reflecting each client's unique vision, whether it's a large-scale, top show barn or a five-stall peaceful sanctuary for horses who need a second chance, from the first conversation to the final walkthrough, every step of the process is guided by a deep understanding of what horses, and the people who love them, truly need. **HS**

**Project Team and Materials**

*Architect: Jaimeson Ellis Architects, Inc.  
General Contractor: B&D Builders  
Timber Frame: Mid-Atlantic Timberframes  
Stall Fronts: Blackwood Equestrian Stalls  
Custom Iron Handrails: Vintage Millwork and Restoration*

*For more information, please visit:  
BDbuilders.com.*