

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **April 19, 2007**

**BEAZER HOMES USA, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**DELAWARE**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**001-12822**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**54-2086934**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**1000 Abernathy Road, Suite 1200  
Atlanta Georgia 30328**  
(Address of Principal  
Executive Offices)

**(770) 829-3700**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**None**  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligations of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

(c) On April 19, 2007 and effective May 1, 2007, Allan P. Merrill, age 40, was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Beazer Homes USA, Inc. (the "Company").

Mr. Merrill will join the Company from Move, Inc. where he has served as Executive Vice President of Corporate Development and Strategy since October 2001. From April 2000 to October 2001, Mr. Merrill was president of Homebuilder.com, a division of Move, Inc. Mr. Merrill joined Move, Inc. following a 13-year tenure with the investment banking firm UBS (and its predecessor Dillon, Read & Co.) where he was a managing director and served most recently as co-head of the Global Resources Group, overseeing the construction and building materials, chemicals, forest products, mining and energy industry groups. Mr. Merrill is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the Policy Advisory Board of the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School with a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

In connection with Mr. Merrill's appointment, the Company and Mr. Merrill entered into an employment agreement (the "Employment Agreement") and a change of control employment agreement (the "Change of Control Agreement" and together with the Employment Agreement, the "Employment Agreements"), in each case, effective as of May 1, 2007. The Employment Agreements set forth the basic terms of Mr. Merrill's employment, including base salary, bonus and benefits, and benefits to which Mr. Merrill is entitled if his employment is terminated for various reasons.

The Employment Agreement provides for Mr. Merrill to initially receive an annual salary of \$600,000 (subject to review annually for increase). Mr. Merrill is eligible to participate in the Company's bonus and stock incentive plans and all welfare benefit, incentive, savings and retirement plans. The initial term of the Employment Agreement is two (2) years, with a provision for extension for successive one year periods unless earlier terminated by the Company or Mr. Merrill or otherwise terminated in accordance with the Employment Agreement.

If Mr. Merrill's employment is terminated by the Company for "cause" (as defined in the Employment Agreement) he will be entitled to receive an amount equal to his base salary through the effective date of termination, any compensation previously deferred and all other amounts to which he is entitled under the Employment Agreement.

If Mr. Merrill's employment is terminated other than for cause, as a result of Mr. Merrill's death or disability or if Mr. Merrill voluntarily terminates his employment, he will be entitled to receive an amount equal to his base salary through the effective date of termination, any compensation previously deferred, any accrued and unpaid annual bonus amounts, a prorated annual bonus amount for the current fiscal year (the "Accrued Obligations") and all other amounts to which he is entitled under the Employment Agreement. If Mr. Merrill's employment is terminated by the Company other than for cause, he will be entitled to receive a severance payment equal to the sum of (1) Mr. Merrill's annual base salary in effect on the date of

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termination and (2) a bonus payment equal to the Average Annual Bonus as defined for a period of two years from the termination date.

The Change of Control Agreement supersedes the terms and provisions of the Employment Agreement in the event of a Change of Control (as defined in the Change of Control Employment Agreement) of the Company. The Change of Control Agreement has an initial term of two years, however on each one-year anniversary of its effective date, the Change of Control Agreement automatically renews for a successive two-year period, unless earlier terminated by the Company and Mr. Merrill or otherwise terminated in accordance with the terms of the Change of Control Agreement.

Pursuant to the Change of Control Agreement, the Company will continue to employ Mr. Merrill for a period of two years from the date the Change of Control occurs (the "Effective Date"). During this two-year period, Mr. Merrill will be entitled to receive an amount at least equal to his most recent annual base salary. In addition, Mr. Merrill shall be awarded an annual bonus at least equal to the arithmetic average of his bonuses for the last three years.

In the event a Change of Control occurs and Mr. Merrill terminates his employment for Good Reason (as defined in the Change of Control Employment Agreement) (including voluntarily during the 30-day period following the six-month anniversary of a Change of Control, which shall be deemed a termination for Good Reason (a "Permitted Executive Termination")) or is terminated by the Company other than for Cause (as defined in the Change of Control Employment Agreement), then Mr. Merrill will be entitled to an amount equal to the Accrued Obligations and a lump sum payment equal to the two times the sum of his annual base salary and the highest annual bonus paid to him during the preceding three full fiscal years. If Mr. Merrill terminates his employment pursuant to a Permitted Executive Termination, then he may be subject to certain non-compete and non-solicitation restrictions for a period of one year following the termination of his employment.

Subsequent to a Change of Control, if Mr. Merrill's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause, he will be entitled to receive an amount equal to the portion of his annual base salary accrued through the effective date of termination, any compensation previously deferred and all other amounts to which he may be entitled under the Change of Control Employment Agreement.

Subsequent to a Change of Control, if Mr. Merrill's employment is terminated by the Company as a result of his death or disability, or by Mr. Merrill other than a termination for Good Reason, Mr. Merrill will be entitled to receive an amount equal to the Accrued Obligations and all other amounts to which he may be entitled under the Change of Control Agreement.

The foregoing summary of the material terms of the Employment Agreement and the Change of Control Employment Agreement are qualified by reference to the provisions of the respective agreements, which are attached as Exhibit 10.01 and 10.02 hereto, respectively. A copy of the Company's press release, dated April 23, 2007, with respect to the above matters is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

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#### **Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

##### (d) Exhibits

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|-------|--|
| 10.01 | Employment Agreement by and between Beazer Homes USA, Inc. and Allan P. Merrill effective as of May 1, 2007.                   |
| 10.02 | Change of Control Employment Agreement by and between Beazer Homes USA, Inc. and Allan P. Merrill effective as of May 1, 2007. |
| 99.1  | Press Release issued April 23, 2007  |

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#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

BEAZER HOMES USA, INC.

Date: April 23, 2007

By: /s/ Ian J. McCarthy  
Ian J. McCarthy  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

THIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is made effective as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2007 (the "Effective Date") by and between BEAZER HOMES USA, INC., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), and ALLAN MERRILL, an individual resident of the State of California ("Executive").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Company wishes to employ the Executive, and the Executive wishes to accept employment with the Company, on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the Company and Executive hereby agree as follows:

**1. Employment and Duties.**

(a) The Company hereby agrees to employ Executive for the Term (as hereinafter defined) as its Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. If requested by the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board"), Executive shall also serve on the Board without additional compensation. Executive shall also serve, if requested by the Board, as an executive officer and/or director of any subsidiaries and/or affiliated companies and shall comply with the policy of the Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Compensation Committee") with regard to retention or forfeiture of any director's fees. As used in this Agreement, the term "affiliated companies" shall include any company controlled by, controlling or under common control with the Company.

(b) The Executive shall have such management and oversight responsibilities and authority as are necessary to efficiently administer the affairs of the Company and as are customary of an Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. All powers herein granted to the Executive are subject to supervisory approval of the Board and of the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company (the "CEO"), and the Executive may be given such further reasonably related supervisory duties, powers and prerogatives as may be delegated to him from time to time by said Board and/or the CEO. The Executive shall report exclusively to the CEO and the Board and further shall render such advice to the CEO and Board as said CEO and/or Board may from time to time request.

(c) During the Term, and excluding any periods of vacation and sick leave to which the Executive is entitled, Executive shall devote substantially all of his business time and efforts to the business and affairs of the Company and, to the extent necessary to discharge the responsibilities assigned to the Executive hereunder, use the Executive's reasonable best efforts to perform faithfully such responsibilities. In performing such duties hereunder, Executive shall comply with the policies and procedures as adopted from time to time by the Board, shall give the Company the benefit of his special knowledge, skills, contacts and business experience, shall perform his duties and carry out his responsibilities hereunder in a diligent manner.

(d) During the Employment Term, it shall not be a violation of this Agreement for the Executive to (i) with the prior approval of the Board in each case, serve on corporate, civic or charitable boards or committees, (ii) with the prior approval of the Board in each case, deliver lectures, fulfill speaking engagements or teach at educational institutions, and (iii) manage personal investments, so long as such activities do not significantly interfere or constitute a conflict of interest with the performance of the Executive's responsibilities as an employee of the Company in accordance with this Agreement.

(e) The principal location for performance of Executive's services hereunder shall be at the offices of Beazer Homes USA, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia, subject to reasonable travel requirements during the course of such performance. Executive shall not be required, without his consent, to regularly report to any office of the Company which is located more than thirty-five (35) miles from the Company's current office location, provided Executive will be expected to travel to the extent reasonably necessary to fulfill his responsibilities.

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(f) Executive warrants and represents that, on the date hereof, he is not a party to, and will not as of the Effective Date be a party to, or subject to, any other employment, non-competition, joint venture, partnership or other agreement or restriction that would be violated by his employment with the Company or his or the Company's rights and obligations hereunder; and that his employment and the performance of his duties hereunder will not breach the provisions of any contract, agreement, or understanding to which he is party or bound or any duty owed by him to any other person. Executive agrees that he will not hereafter become a party to or be bound by any such conflicting agreement.

**2. Employment Term.** The term of Executive's employment hereunder (the "Term") shall commence effective as of the date hereof and shall end on April 30, 2009, unless sooner terminated as provided herein; provided, however; that the Term shall automatically be extended for successive one year periods unless: (i) this Agreement is terminated as otherwise provided herein; or (ii) Executive or the Company provides written notice to the other of such party's desire not to extend the Term at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled expiration of the Term as then in effect.

**3. Compensation and Benefits**

(a) **Base Salary.** During the Term, the Executive shall receive an annual base salary ("Annual Base Salary") in the amount of \$600,000.00, payable in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices (but not less frequently than monthly). During the Term, the Annual Base Salary shall be reviewed by the Compensation Committee (for purposes of increase only) at least annually. Any increase in Annual Base Salary shall not serve to limit or reduce any other obligation to the Executive under this Agreement. Annual Base Salary shall not be reduced after any such increase and the term Annual Base Salary as utilized in this Agreement shall refer to Annual Base Salary as so increased. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, in the event that the Company shall implement a Company-wide reduction in executive base compensation, then, solely for such purpose and only during the continuation of such Company-wide reduction, the Company shall have the right to reduce the Annual Base Salary then payable hereunder in a manner that is consistent with said Company-wide reduction.

(b) **Bonuses; Stock Incentive Plans.** Executive will be eligible to and shall participate in the Company's bonus and stock incentive plans at the discretion of the Compensation Committee of the Board. The amount and terms of, and the targets, conditions and restrictions applicable to each bonus or

other incentive award shall be subject to the provisions of any such plan and of the applicable award letter duly executed and delivered by the Company.

(c) **Incentive, Savings and Retirement Plans.** During the Term, the Executive shall be entitled to participate in all incentive, savings and retirement plans, practices, policies and programs applicable generally to other most senior executives of the Company and its affiliated companies.

(d) **Welfare Benefit Plans.** During the Term, the Executive and/or the Executive's family, as the case may be, shall be eligible for participation in and shall receive all benefits under welfare benefit plans, practices, policies and programs provided by the Company and its affiliated companies (including, without limitation, medical, prescription, dental, disability, employee life, group life, accidental death and travel accident insurance plans and programs) to the extent applicable generally to other most senior executives of the Company and its affiliated companies.

(e) **Expenses.** The Company will pay or reimburse Executive for all reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties under this Agreement. Executive shall keep detailed and accurate records of expenses incurred in connection with the performance of his duties hereunder and reimbursement therefore shall be in accordance with policies and procedures to be established from time to time by the Board. The Company shall provide Executive with relocation benefits in accordance with the Company's senior executive relocation policy.

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(f) **Office and Support Staff.** During the Term, the Executive shall be entitled to an office or offices of a size and with furnishings and other appointments, and to secretarial and other assistance, consistent with the Executive's position and title.

(g) **Vacation.** During the Term, Executive shall be entitled to twenty (20) working days of compensated vacation in each fiscal year (prorated for any period of less than a full fiscal year), to be taken at times which do not unreasonably interfere with the performance of Executive's duties hereunder. Any unused vacation time from any fiscal year shall be subject to accumulation or forfeiture in accordance with Company policy as in effect from time to time.

#### 4. **Termination of Employment.**

(a) **Death or Disability.** The Executive's employment shall terminate automatically upon the Executive's death during the Term. If the Disability of the Executive occurs during the Term (pursuant to the definition of Disability set forth below), the Company may give to the Executive written notice in accordance with Section 10(c) of this Agreement of its intention to terminate the Executive's employment. In such event, the Executive's employment with the Company shall terminate effective on the 30th day after receipt of such notice by the Executive (the "Disability Effective Date"), provided that, within the 30 days after such receipt, the Executive shall not have returned to full-time performance of the Executive's duties. For purposes of this Agreement, "Disability" shall mean the absence of the Executive from the Executive's duties with the Company on a full-time basis for 120 consecutive business days as a result of incapacity due to mental or physical illness which is determined to be total and permanent by a physician selected by the Company or its insurers and acceptable to the Executive or the Executive's legal representative.

(b) **Cause.** The Company may terminate the Executive's employment for Cause. For purposes of this Agreement, "Cause" shall mean:

- (i) any act or failure to act by Executive done with the intent to harm in any material respect the financial interests or reputation of the Company or any affiliated companies;
- (ii) Executive being convicted of (or entering a plea of guilty or *nolo contendere* to) a felony (other than a felony involving a motor vehicle);
- (iii) Executive's dishonesty, misappropriation or fraud with regard to the Company or any affiliated companies (other than good faith expense account disputes);
- (iv) a grossly negligent act or failure to act by Executive which has a material adverse affect on the Company or any affiliated companies;
- (v) the material breach by Executive of his agreements or obligations under this Agreement which has a material adverse effect on the Company, which breach, if curable, is not cured by Executive within fifteen (15) days after written notice from the Company which specifically identifies the material breach which the Company believes that Executive has committed; or
- (vi) the continued refusal to follow the directives of the CEO or the Board or their designees which are consistent with Executive's duties and responsibilities identified in Section 1 hereof; provided that the foregoing refusal shall not be "cause" if Executive in good faith believes that such direction is illegal, unethical or immoral and promptly so notifies the CEO or Board, as the case may be, in writing.

(c) **Notice of Termination.** Any termination by the Company for Cause shall be communicated by Notice of Termination to the Executive given in accordance with Section 10(c) of this

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Agreement. For purposes of this Agreement, a "Notice of Termination" means a written notice which (i) indicates the specific termination provision in this Agreement relied upon, (ii) to the extent applicable, sets forth in reasonable detail the facts and circumstances claimed to provide a basis for termination of the Executive's employment under the provision so indicated and (iii) if the Date of Termination (as defined below) is other than the date of receipt of such notice, specifies the termination date (which date shall be not more than thirty days after the giving of such notice). The failure by the Company to set forth in

the Notice of Termination any fact or circumstance which contributes to a showing of Cause shall not waive any right of the Company hereunder or preclude the Company from asserting such fact or circumstance in enforcing the Company's rights hereunder.

(d) **Date of Termination.** "Date of Termination" means (i) if the Executive's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause, the date of receipt of the Notice of Termination or, subject to applicable cure periods, any later date specified therein, as the case may be, (ii) if the Executive's employment is terminated by the Company other than for Cause or Disability, the Date of Termination shall be the date on which the Company notifies the Executive of such termination and (iii) if the Executive's employment is terminated by reason of death or Disability, the Date of Termination shall be the date of death of the Executive or the Disability Effective Date, as the case may be.

5. **Intentionally Omitted.**

6. **Obligations of the Company upon Termination.**

(a) **Other Than for Cause.** If, during the Term, the Company shall terminate the Executive's employment other than for Cause:

(i) the Company shall pay to the Executive in a lump sum in cash within 30 days after the Date of Termination the aggregate of the following amounts: (1) the Executive's Annual Base Salary through the Date of Termination to the extent not theretofore paid, (2) any accrued but unpaid annual bonus ("Annual Bonus") respecting any completed fiscal year ending prior to the Date of Termination, (3) the product of (x) the Average Annual Bonus (hereinafter defined) and (y) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days in the current fiscal year through the Date of Termination, and the denominator of which is 365 and (4) any compensation previously deferred by the Executive (together with any accrued interest or earnings thereon) and any accrued vacation pay, in each case to the extent not theretofore paid (the sum of the amounts described in clauses (1), (2), (3) and (4) shall be hereinafter referred to as the "Accrued Obligations"). Anything contained herein to the contrary notwithstanding, the timing of payment by the Company of any deferred compensation shall remain subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable deferred compensation plan and any payment election previously made by the Executive. The term "Average Annual Bonus" shall mean the arithmetic average of the Executive's bonuses (whether paid or deferred) under the Company's annual incentive plans during the last three full fiscal years prior to the Date of Termination or for such lesser period as the Executive has been employed by the Company (annualized in the event that the Executive was not employed by the Company for the whole of any such fiscal year). Without limiting the generality of the foregoing definition, the "Average Annual Bonus" shall include the following components, if any, pursuant to the Company's EVCIP Rules (or any successor incentive plan, for so long as any of same shall exist):

- (a) Cash payouts from VC and IVC awards and the "Bank" payout, subject to the Payout Cap, all at full face value;
- (b) Any excess in the Bank discounted at 75% of face value (which shall, for purposes hereof, be deemed to be fully vested);

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- (c) 10% of the Bank contributed to the Deferred Compensation Plan, at full face value (which shall, for purposes hereof, be deemed to be fully vested); and
  - (d) Any deferred bonus under the EVCIP which is invested in stock under the Company's Corporate Management Stock Purchase Program, at full face value of said bonus (which shall, for purposes hereof, be deemed to be fully vested);

Notwithstanding the foregoing and any amounts actually paid with respect to the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, solely for purposes of calculating the Average Annual Bonus, the Annual Bonus for said fiscal year shall be deemed to be an amount equal to two times the Executive's Annual Base Salary.

- (ii) so long as the Executive is and remains in compliance in all material respects with his obligations under Section 7 below, the Company shall pay to the Executive an amount equal to the sum of (1) Executive's Annual Base Salary (at the rate in effect on the Date of Termination), and (2) the Average Annual Bonus for a period of two years from the Date of Termination, (the "Severance Period"), at the same time that payments of Annual Base Salary would otherwise have become due and payable during said period in the absence of such termination;
- (iii) so long as the Executive is and remains in compliance in all material respects with his obligations under Section 7 below, during the Severance Period, or such longer period as may be provided by the terms of the appropriate plan, program, practice or policy, the Company shall continue benefits to the Executive and/or the Executive's family at least equal to those which would have been provided to them in accordance with the plans, programs, practices and policies described in Section 3(d) of this Agreement if the Executive's employment had not been terminated, provided, however, that if the Executive becomes reemployed with another employer and receives medical or other welfare benefits under another employer provided plan, the medical and other welfare benefits described herein shall cease; and
- (iv) to the extent not theretofore paid or provided, the Company shall timely pay or provide to the Executive any other amounts or benefits required to be paid or provided or which the Executive is eligible to receive under any plan, program, policy or practice or contract or agreement of the Company and its affiliated companies (such other amounts and benefits shall be hereinafter referred to as the "Other Benefits").

(b) **Death.** If the Executive's employment is terminated by reason of the Executive's death, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligations to the Executive's legal representatives under this Agreement, other than for payment of Accrued Obligations and the timely payment or provision of Other Benefits. Accrued Obligations shall be paid to the Executive's estate or beneficiary, as applicable, in a lump sum in cash within 30 days of the Date of Termination.

(c) **Disability.** If the Executive's employment is terminated by reason of the Executive's Disability, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligations to the Executive, other than for payment of Accrued Obligations and the timely payment or provision of Other Benefits. Accrued

Obligations shall be paid to the Executive or the Executive's legal representative in a lump sum in cash within 30 days of the Date of Termination.

(d) **Cause; Voluntary Termination.** If the Executive's employment shall be terminated for Cause, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligations to the Executive other than the obligation to pay to the Executive (x) his Annual Base Salary through the Date of Termination, (y) the amount of any compensation previously deferred by the Executive, and (z) Other Benefits, in each case

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to the extent theretofore unpaid. If the Executive voluntarily terminates employment during the Term, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligations to the Executive, other than for Accrued Obligations and the timely payment or provision of Other Benefits. In such case, all Accrued Obligations shall be paid to the Executive in a lump sum in cash within 30 days of the Date of Termination.

(e) **Election Not to Extend.** In the event that the Company elects, pursuant to Section 2 above, not to extend the Term, then, such election shall be treated for all purposes hereof the same as the termination by the Company of Executive's employment for other than Cause, and, in such case, commencing upon the date of the expiration of the Term, Executive shall be entitled to receive from the Company the same payments and benefits as Executive would be entitled to receive pursuant to Section 6(a) above; provided, however, and notwithstanding anything contained in Section 6(a) above to the contrary, in connection with an election by the Company not to renew the Term, the applicable "Severance Period" shall not extend beyond the date that the Executive reaches the age of sixty-five (65).

(f) **Effect of Reduction in Duties and Material Breach by Company.** For purposes of this Agreement and any equity-based compensation awards held by the Executive, a termination of employment by the Executive within thirty (30) days following the occurrence, without Executive's consent, of any of the following events, provided the event is not cured by the Company within fifteen (15) days after written notice by Executive specifying the event, will be treated as a termination of the Executive's employment by the Company other than for Cause: (i) a material reduction by the Company of Executive's duties, responsibilities, authority or reporting relationship such that Executive no longer serves in a senior executive role for the Company comparable in stature to Executive's current role, or no longer reports to the chief executive officer of the Company; or (ii) a material breach by the Company of the terms of this Agreement.

## 7. **Employment Covenants.**

(a) **Covenant Not to Compete.** Executive recognizes and acknowledges that the Company is placing its confidence and trust in Executive. Executive, therefore, covenants and agrees that during the Applicable Non-Compete Period (as defined below) Executive shall not, either directly or indirectly, without the prior written consent of the Board (which may be withheld in the sole and absolute discretion of the Board):

(i) Engage in or carry on any business or in any way become associated with any business in the Restricted Area (as hereinafter defined) which is similar to or is in competition with the Business of the Company (as hereinafter defined). As used in this Section 7(a), the term (1) "Business of the Company" shall mean and include all business activities in which the Company and/or any affiliated companies have engaged (or have prepared written plans to engage) at any time during the Term, including but not limited to, the purchase of land (or options therefor) for development and the construction of residential homes for resale to consumers, and (2) "Restricted Area" shall mean and include anywhere in the United States of America or in any foreign country in which the Company or any affiliated companies then engage (or have within the preceding three years engaged) in business;

(ii) in connection with any business which is similar to or is in competition with the Business of the Company in the Restricted Area, solicit the business of any person or entity, on behalf of himself or any other person or entity, which is or has been at any time during the Term a customer or supplier of the Company including, but not limited to, former or present customers or suppliers with whom Executive has had personal contact during, or by reason of, his relationship with the Company;

(iii) Be or become an employee, agent, consultant, representative, director or officer of, or be otherwise in any manner associated with, any person, firm, corporation, association or other entity which is engaged in or is carrying on any business which is similar to or in competition with the Business of the Company in the Restricted Area;

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(iv) Solicit for employment or employ any person employed by the Company at any time during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding such solicitation or employment; or

(v) Be or become a shareholder, joint venturer, owner (in whole or in part), or partner, or be or become associated with or have any proprietary or financial interest in or of any firm, corporation, association or other entity which is engaged in or is carrying on any business which is similar to or in competition with the Business of the Company in the Restricted Area (a "Competing Entity"). Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, (A) passive equity investments by Executive of \$100,000 or less in any Competing Entity, or (B) investments, in any amount, in any publicly traded mutual fund, index fund or similar investment vehicle which fund or investment vehicle owns any proprietary or financial interest in any Competing Entity, shall not be deemed to violate this Section 7(a)(v).

For purposes of identifying the Restricted Area, Executive hereby recognizes and acknowledges that the existing Business of the Company currently extends throughout the States of Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, California, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Texas, New York, Colorado, Mississippi, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., West Virginia and New Mexico. Executive further warrants and represents that, because of his varied skill and abilities, he does not need to compete with the Business of the Company and that this Agreement will not prevent him from earning a livelihood and acknowledges that the restrictions contained in this Section 7 constitute reasonable protections for the Company.

As used in this Section 7, "Applicable Non-Compete Period" shall mean the following:

- (A) at all times that the Executive is employed by the Company; and
- (B) for a period of time after the Executive's employment under this Agreement is terminated for any reason equal to the greater of
  - (i) 180 days; or
  - (ii) such longer period of time that the Executive is entitled to receive payments under Sections 6(a)(ii) or (iii) above (it being agreed that the Executive shall have the right to terminate the period referred to in this clause (ii) by waiving in writing the right to receive any further payments under Sections 6(a)(ii) or (iii) above).

(b) **Confidential Information.** Executive agrees that all Confidential Information shall be the sole property of the Company, and Executive agrees that he shall not during the Term nor thereafter, use for his benefit or the benefit of others or disclose at any time Confidential Information or take with him upon termination of this Agreement any records, papers, reports, lists, computer tapes or disks or any other materials of any nature that contain any Confidential Information. "Confidential Information" shall mean all information other than General Knowledge (defined below) relating to the Company's: (i) business or existing projects including all those in various stages of research and development including all unpublished plans for new products or services; (ii) financial information, internal business procedures and other information which relate to the way the Company conducts its business and which are not publicly available; (iii) data written by the Company's employees or others, including source codes, object codes, marketing and development plans, budgets, forecasts, forecast assumptions and future plans and potential strategies of the Company which have been or are being discussed; (iv) unpublished pricing data; (v) identity, buying habits and practices of the Company, its suppliers and customers to the extent not publicly available; (vi) information regarding the skills or compensation of employees of the Company; (vii) the Intellectual Property of the Company and any information pertaining thereto; (viii) materials and information supplied by customers or clients to the Company that contain data regarding any research, products, procedures or the like; and (ix) any other information deemed confidential by the Company by marking such information with the word "Confidential" or similar word; by orally advising the Executive that

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the information is confidential or by treating the information in such a manner that the Executive should reasonably believe it to be deemed confidential by the Company. "General Knowledge" shall mean (i) general skills or experience gained during Executive's employment with, consultation for or work for the Company; and (ii) information and data publicly available.

(c) **Records.** All files, records, memoranda and other documents regarding former, existing or prospective customers of the Company or relating in any manner whatsoever to Confidential Information or the Business of the Company (collectively, "Records"), whether prepared by Executive or otherwise coming into his possession, shall be the exclusive property of the Company. All Records shall be immediately placed in the physical possession of the Company upon the termination of Executive's employment with the Company, or at any other time specified by the Board. The retention and use by Executive of duplicates in any form of Records is prohibited after the termination of Executive's employment with the Company.

(d) **Breach.** Executive hereby recognizes and acknowledges that irreparable injury or damage shall result to the Company in the event of a breach or threatened breach by Executive of any of the terms or provisions of this Section 7, and Executive therefore agrees that the Company shall be entitled to an injunction restraining Executive from engaging in any activity constituting such breach or threatened breach. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as prohibiting the Company from pursuing any other remedies available to the Company at law or in equity for such breach or threatened breach, including but not limited to, the recovery of damages from Executive and, if Executive is an employee of the Company, the termination of his employment with the Company in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

(e) **Survival.** Notwithstanding the termination of the employment of Executive or the termination of this Agreement, the provisions of this Section 7 shall survive and be binding upon Executive unless a written agreement which specifically refers to the termination of the obligations and covenants of this Section 7 is executed by the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this Section 7 shall not survive the termination of this Agreement as the result of the Change Of Control Agreement (hereinafter defined) becoming effective.

(f) **Blue-Penciling.** Should any court or other legally constituted authority determine that for any such agreement or covenant to be effective it must be modified to limit its duration or scope, the parties hereto shall consider such agreement or covenant to be amended or modified with respect to duration and/or scope so as to comply with the orders of any such court or other legally constituted authority, and as to all other portions of such agreement or covenants they shall remain in full force and effect as originally written.

8. **No Mitigation.** In no event shall the Executive be obligated to seek other employment or take any other action by way of mitigation of the amounts payable to the Executive under any of the provisions of this Agreement and such amounts shall not be reduced whether or not the Executive obtains other employment. The Company agrees to pay as incurred, to the full extent permitted by law, all legal fees and expenses which the Executive may reasonably incur as a result of any contest by (i) the Company, provided that the Executive prevails in at least one material issue, (ii) the Executive or (iii) others, of the validity or enforceability of, or liability under, any provision of this Agreement or any guarantee of performance thereof (including, without limitation, as a result of any contest by the Executive about the amount of any payment pursuant to this Agreement), plus in each case interest on any delayed payment at the applicable Federal rate provided for in Section 7872(f) (2) (A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

9. **Successors.**

(a) This Agreement is personal to the Executive and without the prior written consent of the Company shall not be assignable by the Executive otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the Executive's legal representatives.



(b) This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Company and its successors and assigns.

10. **Miscellaneous.**

(a) This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, without reference to principles of conflict of laws. Any legal action, suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be instituted in the state or federal courts in the State of Delaware and the parties agree not to assert, in any action, suit or proceeding by way of motion, as a defense or otherwise, any claim that either party is not personally subject to the jurisdiction of such court, or that such action, suit or proceeding is brought in an inconvenient forum, or that the venue is improper or that the subject matter hereof cannot be enforced in such court. The parties hereby irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of any such court in any such action, suit or proceeding and agree that service of all process in any such action, suit or proceeding in any such court may be made by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to its address set forth in this Agreement, such service being hereby acknowledged by such party to be sufficient for personal jurisdiction in any action against such party in any such court and to be otherwise effective and binding service in every respect.

(b) The captions of this Agreement are not part of the provisions hereof and shall have no force or effect. This Agreement may not be amended or modified otherwise than by a written agreement executed by the parties hereto or their respective successors and legal representatives.

(c) All notices and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be given by hand delivery to the other party, by UPS or other commercial overnight courier or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

If to the Executive:

5732 White Cloud Circle  
Westlake Village, California 91362

If to the Company:

1000 Abernathy Road  
Suite 1200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328  
Attention: President and Chief Executive Officer

or to such other address as either party shall have furnished to the other in writing in accordance herewith. Notice and communications shall be effective when actually received by the addressee.

(d) The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement.

(e) The Company may withhold from any amounts payable under this Agreement such Federal, state, local or foreign taxes as shall be required to be withheld pursuant to any applicable law or regulation.

(f) The Company's failure to insist upon strict compliance with any provision of this Agreement or the failure to assert any right the Company may have hereunder shall not be deemed to be a waiver of such provision or right or any other provision or right of this Agreement.

(g) This Agreement supersedes any and all other prior or contemporaneous agreements, either oral or in writing, between the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof, and this

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Agreement contains all of the covenants and agreements between the parties with respect to employment of Executive by the Company.

Reference is hereby made to that certain Change of Control Employment Agreement dated as of May 1, 2007 (the "Change of Control Agreement") by and between the Company and the Executive. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, (i) this Agreement shall not supersede the Change of Control Agreement, and (ii) upon the "Effective Date" occurring under the Change of Control Agreement, this Agreement shall be superseded by the Change of Control Agreement.

(h) This Agreement may be executed via facsimile transmission signature and in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original but all of which together will constitute one and the same instrument.

11. **Special Provisions Re Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.** It is intended that this Agreement will comply with Section 409A of the Code (and any regulations and any guidelines issued thereunder) to the extent the Agreement is subject thereto, and the Agreement shall be interpreted on a basis consistent with such intent. If it is determined that an amendment of this Agreement is necessary in order for it to comply with Section 409A, the parties agree to negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement in a manner that preserves the original intent of the parties to the extent reasonably possible. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Agreement, in the event that any payments or benefits required to be provided by the Company hereunder are deemed to constitute payments of "nonqualified deferred compensation" that is subject to the requirements of Section 409A and if the Executive is deemed on the Date of Termination to be a "specified employee" within the meaning of that term under Section 409A(a)(2)(B) of the Code, then with regard to any payment or the provisions of any benefit that is required to be delayed pursuant to Section 409A(a)(2)(B) of the Code, such payment or benefit shall not be made or provided prior to the earlier of (i) the expiration of the six (6)-month period measured from the date of his "separation from service" (as such term is defined in Treasury Regulations issued under Section 409A), or (ii) the date of his death (the "Delay Period"). Upon the expiration of the Delay Period, all payments and benefits delayed pursuant to this Section 11 (whether they would have otherwise been payable in a single sum or in installments in the absence of such delay) shall be paid or reimbursed to the Executive in a lump sum, and any remaining payments and benefits due under this Agreement shall be paid or provided in accordance with the normal payment dates specified for them herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent that the foregoing applies to the provision of any ongoing welfare benefits to the Executive that would not be required to be delayed if the premiums therefor were

paid by the Executive, the Executive shall pay the full costs of premiums for such welfare benefits during the Delay Period and the Company shall pay the Executive an amount equal to the amount of such premiums paid by the Executive during the Delay Period promptly after its conclusion.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT** effective as of the date first written above.

**BEAZER HOMES USA, INC.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Ian J. McCarthy  
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

**EXECUTIVE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
ALLAN MERRILL

**CHANGE OF CONTROL EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT by and between Beazer Homes USA, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company") and ALLAN MERRILL (the "Executive"), dated as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2007.

The Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board"), has determined that it is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders to assure that the Company will have the continued dedication of the Executive, notwithstanding the possibility, threat or occurrence of a Change of Control (as defined below) of the Company. The Board believes it is imperative to diminish the inevitable distraction of the Executive by virtue of the personal uncertainties and risks created by a pending or threatened Change of Control and to encourage the Executive's full attention and dedication to the Company currently and in the event of any threatened or pending Change of Control, and to provide the Executive with compensation and benefits arrangements upon a Change of Control which ensure that the compensation and benefits expectations of the Executive will be satisfied and which are competitive with those of other corporations. Therefore, in order to accomplish these objectives, the Board has caused the Company to enter into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Certain Definitions.

(a) The "Effective Date" shall mean the first date during the Change of Control Period (as defined in Section 1(b)) on which a Change of Control (as defined in Section 2) occurs. Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, if a Change of Control occurs and if the Executive's employment with the Company is terminated prior to the date on which the Change of Control occurs, and if it is reasonably demonstrated by the Executive that such termination of employment (i) was at the request of a third party who has taken steps reasonably calculated to effect a Change of Control or (ii) otherwise arose in connection with or in anticipation of a Change of Control, then for all purposes of this Agreement the "Effective Date" shall mean the date immediately prior to the date of such termination of employment.

(b) The "Change of Control Period" shall mean the period commencing on the date hereof and ending on the second anniversary of the date hereof; provided, however, that commencing on the date one year after the date hereof, and on each annual anniversary of such date (such date and each annual anniversary thereof shall be hereinafter referred to as the "Renewal Date"), unless previously terminated, the Change of Control Period shall be automatically extended so as to terminate two years from such Renewal Date, unless at least 60 days prior to the Renewal Date the Company shall give notice to the Executive that the Change of Control Period shall not be so extended.

2. Change of Control. For the purpose of this Agreement, a "Change of Control" shall mean:

(a) The acquisition by any individual, entity or group (within the meaning of Section 13(d)(3) or 14(d)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")) (a "Person") of beneficial ownership (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act) of 25% or more of either (i) the then outstanding shares of common stock of the Company (the "Outstanding Company Common Stock") or (ii) the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities of the Company entitled to vote generally in the election of directors (the "Outstanding Company Voting Securities"); provided, however, that for purposes of this subsection (a), the following acquisitions shall not constitute a Change of Control: (i) any acquisition directly from the Company, (ii) any acquisition by the Company, (iii) any acquisition by any employee benefit plan (or related trust) sponsored or maintained by the Company or any corporation controlled by the Company or (iv) any acquisition by any corporation pursuant to a transaction which complies with clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) of subsection (c) of this Section 2; or

(b) Individuals who, as of the date hereof, constitute the Board (the "Incumbent Board") cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority of the Board; provided, however, that any individual becoming a director subsequent to the date hereof whose election, or nomination for election by the

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Company's shareholders, was approved by a vote of at least a majority of the directors then comprising the Incumbent Board shall be considered as though such individual were a member of the Incumbent Board, but excluding, for this purpose, any such individual whose initial assumption of office occurs as a result of an actual or threatened election contest with respect to the election or removal of directors or other actual or threatened solicitation of proxies or consents by or on behalf of a Person other than the Board; or

(c) Consummation of a reorganization, merger or consolidation or sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company (a "Business Combination"), in each case, unless, following such Business Combination, (i) all or substantially all of the individuals and entities who were the beneficial owners, respectively, of the Outstanding Company Common Stock and Outstanding Company Voting Securities immediately prior to such Business Combination beneficially own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of, respectively, the then outstanding shares of common stock and the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, as the case may be, of the corporation resulting from such Business Combination (including, without limitation, a corporation which as a result of such transaction owns the Company or all or substantially all of the Company's assets either directly or through one or more subsidiaries) in substantially the same proportions as their ownership, immediately prior to such Business Combination of the Outstanding Company Common Stock and Outstanding Company Voting Securities, as the case may be, (ii) no Person (excluding any corporation resulting from such Business Combination or any employee benefit plan (or related trust) of the Company or such corporation resulting from such Business Combination) beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, 20% or more of, respectively, the then outstanding shares of common stock of the corporation resulting from such Business Combination or the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities of such corporation except to the extent that such ownership existed prior to the Business Combination and (iii) at least a majority of the members of the board of directors of the corporation resulting from such Business Combination were members of the Incumbent Board at the time of the execution of the initial agreement, or of the action of the Board, providing for such Business Combination; or

(d) Approval by the shareholders of the Company of a complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company.

3. Employment Period. The Company hereby agrees to continue the Executive in its employ, and the Executive hereby agrees to remain in the employ of the Company, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, for the period commencing on the Effective Date and ending on the second anniversary of such date (the "Employment Period").

4. Terms of Employment.

(a) Position and Duties.

(i) During the Employment Period, (A) the Executive's position (including status, offices, titles and reporting requirements), authority, duties and responsibilities shall be at least commensurate in all material respects with the most significant of those held, exercised and assigned at any time during the 120 day period immediately preceding the Effective Date and (B) the Executive's services shall be performed at the location where the Executive was employed immediately preceding the Effective Date or any office or location less than 35 miles from such location.

(ii) During the Employment Period, and excluding any periods of vacation and sick leave to which the Executive is entitled, the Executive agrees to devote reasonable attention and time during normal business hours to the business and affairs of the Company and, to the extent necessary to discharge the responsibilities assigned to the Executive hereunder, to use the Executive's reasonable best efforts to perform faithfully such responsibilities. During the Employment Period it shall not be a violation of this Agreement for the Executive to (A) serve on corporate, civic or charitable boards or

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committees, (B) deliver lectures, fulfill speaking engagements or teach at educational institutions and (C) manage personal investments, so long as such activities do not significantly interfere with the performance of the Executive's responsibilities as an employee of the Company in accordance with this Agreement. It is expressly understood and agreed that to the extent that any such activities have been conducted by the Executive prior to the Effective Date, the continued conduct of such activities (or the conduct of activities similar in nature and scope thereto) subsequent to the Effective Date shall not thereafter be deemed to interfere with the performance of the Executive's responsibilities to the Company.

(b) Compensation.

(i) Base Salary. During the Employment Period, the Executive shall receive an annual base salary ("Annual Base Salary"), which shall be paid at a monthly rate, at least equal to twelve times the highest monthly base salary paid or payable, including any base salary which has been earned but deferred, to the Executive by the Company and its affiliated companies in respect of the twelve month period immediately preceding the month in which the Effective Date occurs. Annual Base Salary shall be payable in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices (but not less frequently than monthly). During the Employment Period, the Annual Base Salary shall be reviewed (for purposes of increase only) no more than 12 months after the last salary increase awarded to the Executive prior to the Effective Date and thereafter at least annually. Any increase in Annual Base Salary shall not serve to limit or reduce any other obligation to the Executive under this Agreement. Annual Base Salary shall not be reduced after any such increase and the term Annual Base Salary as utilized in this Agreement shall refer to Annual Base Salary as so increased. As used in this Agreement, the term "affiliated companies" shall include any company controlled by, controlling or under common control with the Company.

(ii) Annual Bonus. In addition to Annual Base Salary, the Executive shall be awarded, for each fiscal year ending during the Employment Period, an annual bonus (the "Annual Bonus") in cash at least equal to the arithmetic average of the Executive's bonuses (whether paid or deferred) under the Company's or its predecessor's annual incentive plans during the last three full fiscal years prior to the Effective Date or for such lesser period as the Executive has been employed by the Company or its predecessor (annualized in the event that the Executive was not employed by the Company for the whole of any such fiscal year), (the "Average Annual Bonus"). Each such Annual Bonus shall be paid no later than the end of the third month of the fiscal year next following the fiscal year for which the Annual Bonus is awarded, unless the Executive shall elect to defer the receipt of such Annual Bonus. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing definition, the "Average Annual Bonus" shall include the following components, if any, pursuant to the Company's Amended and Restated EVCIP Rules (or any successor incentive plan, for so long as any of same shall exist):

- (a) Cash payouts from VC and IVC awards and the "Bank" payout, subject to the Payout Cap, all at full face value;
- (b) Any excess in the Bank discounted at 75% of face value (which shall, for purposes hereof, be deemed to be fully vested);
- (c) 10% of the Bank contributed to the Deferred Compensation Plan, at full face value (which shall, for purposes hereof, be deemed to be fully vested); and
- (d) Any deferred bonus under the EVCIP which is invested in stock under the Company's Corporate Management Stock Purchase Program, at full face

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value of said bonus (which shall, for purposes hereof, be deemed to be fully vested);

Notwithstanding the foregoing and any amounts actually paid with respect to the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, solely for purposes of calculating the Average Annual Bonus and the Highest Annual Bonus (as hereinafter defined), the Annual Bonus for said fiscal year shall be deemed to be an amount equal two times the Executive's Annual Base Salary.

(iii) Incentive, Savings and Retirement Plans. During the Employment Period, the Executive shall be entitled to participate in all incentive, savings and retirement plans, practices, policies and programs applicable generally to other most senior executives of the Company and its affiliated companies, but in no event shall such plans, practices, policies and programs provide the Executive with

incentive opportunities (measured with respect to both regular and special incentive opportunities, to the extent, if any, that such distinction is applicable), savings opportunities and retirement benefit opportunities, in each case, less favorable, in the aggregate, than the most favorable of those provided by the Company and its affiliated companies for the Executive under such plans, practices, policies and programs as in effect at any time during the 120-day period immediately preceding the Effective Date or if more favorable to the Executive, those provided generally at any time after the Effective Date to other peer executives of the Company and its affiliated companies.

(iv) Welfare Benefit Plans. During the Employment Period, the Executive and/or the Executive's family, as the case may be, shall be eligible for participation in and shall receive all benefits under welfare benefit plans, practices, policies and programs provided by the Company and its affiliated companies (including, without limitation, medical, prescription, dental, disability, employee life, group life, accidental death and travel accident insurance plans and programs) to the extent applicable generally to other most senior executives of the Company and its affiliated companies, but in no event shall such plans, practices, policies and programs provide the Executive with benefits which are less favorable, in the aggregate, than the most favorable of such plans, practices, policies and programs in effect for the Executive at any time during the 120 day period immediately preceding the Effective Date or, if more favorable to the Executive, those provided generally at any time after the Effective Date to other peer executives of the Company and its affiliated companies.

(v) Expenses. During the Employment Period, the Executive shall be entitled to receive prompt reimbursement for all reasonable expenses incurred by the Executive in accordance with the most favorable policies, practices and procedures of the Company and its affiliated companies in effect for the Executive at any time during the 120 day period immediately preceding the Effective Date or, if more favorable to the Executive, as in effect generally at any time thereafter with respect to other peer executives of the Company and its affiliated companies.

(vi) Fringe Benefits. During the Employment Period, the Executive shall be entitled to fringe benefits, including, without limitation, tax and financial planning services, payment of club dues, and, if applicable, use of an automobile and payment of related expenses, in accordance with the most favorable plans, practices, programs and policies of the Company and its affiliated companies in effect for the Executive at any time during the 120 day period immediately preceding the Effective Date or, if more favorable to the Executive, as in effect generally at any time thereafter with respect to other peer executives of the Company and its affiliated companies.

(vii) Office and Support Staff. During the Employment Period, the Executive shall be entitled to an office or offices of a size and with furnishings and other appointments, and

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to exclusive personal secretarial and other assistance, at least equal to the most favorable of the foregoing provided to the Executive by the Company and its affiliated companies at any time during the 120 day period immediately preceding the Effective Date or, if more favorable to the Executive, as provided generally at any time thereafter with respect to other peer executives of the Company and its affiliated companies.

(viii) Vacation. During the Employment Period, the Executive shall be entitled to paid vacation in accordance with the most favorable plans, policies, programs and practices of the Company and its affiliated companies as in effect for the Executive at any time during the 120 day period immediately preceding the Effective Date or, if more favorable to the Executive, as in effect generally at any time thereafter with respect to other peer executives of the Company and its affiliated companies.

## 5. Termination of Employment.

(a) Death or Disability. The Executive's employment shall terminate automatically upon the Executive's death during the Employment Period. If the Disability of the Executive occurs during the Employment Period (pursuant to the definition of Disability set forth below), the Company may give to the Executive written notice in accordance with Section 13(c) of this Agreement of its intention to terminate the Executive's employment. In such event, the Executive's employment with the Company shall terminate effective on the 30th day after receipt of such notice by the Executive (the "Disability Effective Date"), provided that, within the 30 days after such receipt, the Executive shall not have returned to full-time performance of the Executive's duties. For purposes of this Agreement, "Disability" shall mean the absence of the Executive from the Executive's duties with the Company on a full-time basis for 180 consecutive business days as a result of incapacity due to mental or physical illness which is determined to be total and permanent by a physician selected by the Company or its insurers and acceptable to the Executive or the Executive's legal representative.

(b) Cause. The Company may terminate the Executive's employment for Cause. For purposes of this Agreement, "Cause" shall mean:

(i) the willful and continued failure of the Executive to perform substantially the Executive's duties with the Company or one of its affiliates (other than any such failure resulting from incapacity due to physical or mental illness), for more than 15 days after a written demand for substantial performance is delivered to the Executive by the Board or the Chief Executive Officer of the Company which specifically identifies the manner in which the Board or Chief Executive Officer believes that the Executive has not substantially performed the Executive's duties, or

(ii) the willful engaging by the Executive in illegal conduct or gross misconduct which is materially and demonstrably injurious to the Company.

For purposes of this provision, no act or failure to act, on the part of the Executive, shall be considered "willful" unless it is done, or omitted to be done, by the Executive in bad faith or without reasonable belief that the Executive's action or omission was in the best interests of the Company. Any act, or failure to act, based upon authority given pursuant to a resolution duly adopted by the Board or upon the instructions of the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company or based upon the advice of counsel for the Company shall be conclusively presumed to be done, or omitted to be done, by the Executive in good faith and in the best interests of the Company. The cessation of employment of the Executive shall not be deemed to be for Cause unless and until there shall have been delivered to the Executive a copy of a resolution duly adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than three-quarters of the entire membership of the Board at a meeting of the Board called and held for such purpose (after reasonable notice is provided to the Executive and the Executive is given an opportunity, together with counsel, to be heard before the Board), finding that, in the good faith opinion of the Board, the Executive is guilty of the conduct described in subparagraph (i) or (ii) above, and specifying the particulars thereof in detail.

(c) Good Reason. The Executive's employment may be terminated by the Executive for Good Reason. For purposes of this Agreement, "Good Reason" shall mean:

- (i) the assignment to the Executive of any duties inconsistent in any respect with the Executive's position (including status, offices, titles and reporting requirements), authority, duties or responsibilities as contemplated by Section 4(a) of this Agreement, or any other action by the Company which results in a diminution in such position, authority, duties or responsibilities, excluding for this purpose an isolated, insubstantial and inadvertent action not taken in bad faith and which is remedied by the Company within 15 days after receipt of notice thereof given by the Executive;
- (ii) any failure by the Company to comply with any of the provisions of Section 4(b) of this Agreement, other than an isolated, insubstantial and inadvertent failure not occurring in bad faith and which is remedied by the Company within 15 days after receipt of notice thereof given by the Executive;
- (iii) the Company's requiring the Executive to be based at any office or location other than as provided in Section 4(a)(i)(B) hereof or the Company's requiring the Executive to travel on Company business to a substantially greater extent than required immediately prior to the Effective Date, which is not remedied by the Company within 15 days after receipt of notice thereof given by the Executive;
- (iv) any purported termination by the Company of the Executive's employment otherwise than as expressly permitted by this Agreement; or
- (v) any failure by the Company to comply with and satisfy Section 11(c) of this Agreement, which is not remedied by the Company within 15 days after receipt of notice thereof given by the Executive.

Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, a termination by the Executive for any reason during the 30 day period immediately following the six (6) month anniversary of the Effective Date shall be deemed to be a termination for Good Reason for all purposes of this Agreement. A termination pursuant to the immediately preceding sentence is sometimes hereinafter referred to as a "Permitted Executive Termination".

(d) Notice of Termination. Any termination of the Executive's employment by the Company or by the Executive shall be communicated by Notice of Termination to the other party hereto given in accordance with Section 13(c) of this Agreement. For purposes of this Agreement, a "Notice of Termination" means a written notice which (i) indicates the specific termination provision in this Agreement relied upon, (ii) to the extent applicable, sets forth in reasonable detail the facts and circumstances claimed to provide a basis for termination of the Executive's employment under the provision so indicated and (iii) if the Date of Termination (as defined below) is other than the date of receipt of such notice, specifies the termination date (which date shall be not more than thirty days after the giving of such notice). The failure by the Executive or the Company to set forth in the Notice of Termination any fact or circumstance which contributes to a showing of Good Reason or Cause shall not waive any right of the Executive or the Company, respectively, hereunder or preclude the Executive or the Company, respectively, from asserting such fact or circumstance in enforcing the Executive's or the Company's rights hereunder.

(e) Date of Termination. "Date of Termination" means (i) if the Executive's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause, or by the Executive for Good Reason, the date of receipt of the Notice of Termination or, subject to applicable cure periods, any later date specified therein, as the case may be, (ii) if the Executive's employment is terminated by the Company other than for Cause or Disability, the Date of Termination shall be the date on which the Company notifies the Executive of such termination and (iii) if the Executive's employment is terminated by reason of death or Disability, the Date

of Termination shall be the date of death of the Executive or the Disability Effective Date, as the case may be.

6. Obligations of the Company upon Termination.

(a) Good Reason; Other Than for Cause. If, during the Employment Period, the Company shall terminate the Executive's employment other than for Cause or the Executive shall terminate employment for Good Reason (including, without limitation, a Permitted Executive Termination):

(i) the Company shall pay to the Executive in a lump sum in cash within 30 days after the Date of Termination the aggregate of the following amounts:

A. the sum of (1) the Executive's Annual Base Salary through the Date of Termination to the extent not theretofore paid, (2) any accrued but unpaid Annual Bonus respecting any completed fiscal year ending prior to the Date of Termination, (3) the product of (x) the Average Annual Bonus and (y) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days in the current fiscal year through the Date of Termination, and the denominator of which is 365 and (4) any compensation previously deferred by the Executive (together with any accrued interest or earnings thereon) and any accrued vacation pay, in each case to the extent not theretofore paid (the sum of the amounts described in clauses (1), (2), (3) and (4) shall be hereinafter referred to as the "Accrued Obligations"). Anything contained herein to the contrary notwithstanding, the timing of payment by the Company of any deferred compensation shall remain subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable deferred compensation plan and any payment election previously made by the Executive; and

B. the amount equal to the product of (1) two (2), and (2) the sum of (x) the Executive's Annual Base Salary and (y) the Highest Annual Bonus (as hereinafter defined); and

(ii) for two (2) years after the Executive's Date of Termination, or such longer period as may be provided by the terms of the appropriate plan, program, practice or policy, the Company shall continue benefits to the Executive and/or the Executive's family at least

equal to those which would have been provided to them in accordance with the plans, programs, practices and policies described in Section 4(b)(iv) of this Agreement if the Executive's employment had not been terminated or, if more favorable to the Executive, as in effect generally at any time thereafter with respect to other peer executives of the Company and its affiliated companies and their families, provided, however, that if the Executive becomes reemployed with another employer and is eligible to receive medical or other welfare benefits under another employer provided plan, the medical and other welfare benefits described herein shall be secondary to those provided under such other plan during such applicable period of eligibility. For purposes of determining eligibility (but not the time of commencement of benefits) of the Executive for retiree benefits pursuant to such plans, practices, programs and policies, the Executive shall be considered to have remained employed until two (2) years after the Date of Termination and to have retired on the last day of such period;

(iii) the Company shall, at its sole expense as incurred, provide the Executive with outplacement services in accordance with the Company's policies with regard to outplacement then in effect; and

(iv) to the extent not theretofore paid or provided, the Company shall timely pay or provide to the Executive any other amounts or benefits required to be paid or provided or which the Executive is eligible to receive under any plan, program, policy or practice or contract or agreement of the Company and its affiliated companies (such other amounts and benefits shall be hereinafter referred to as the "Other Benefits").

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For purposes hereof, the term "Highest Annual Bonus" shall mean the highest of the Executive's bonuses (whether paid or deferred) under the Company's or its predecessor's annual incentive plans during the last three full fiscal years prior to the Effective Date or for such lesser period as the Executive has been employed by the Company or its predecessor (annualized in the event that the Executive was not employed by the Company for the whole of any such fiscal year).

(b) Death. If the Executive's employment is terminated by reason of the Executive's death during the Employment Period, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligations to the Executive's legal representatives under this Agreement, other than for payment of Accrued Obligations and the timely payment or provision of Other Benefits. Accrued Obligations shall be paid to the Executive's estate or beneficiary, as applicable, in a lump sum in cash within 30 days of the Date of Termination. With respect to the provision of Other Benefits, the term Other Benefits as utilized in this Section 6(b) shall include, without limitation, and the Executive's estate and/or beneficiaries shall be entitled to receive, benefits at least equal to the most favorable benefits provided by the Company and affiliated companies to the estates and beneficiaries of the most senior executives of the Company and such affiliated companies under such plans, programs, practices and policies relating to death benefits, if any, as in effect with respect to other most senior executives and their beneficiaries at any time during the 120 day period immediately preceding the Effective Date or, if more favorable to the Executive's estate and/or the Executive's beneficiaries, as in effect on the date of the Executive's death with respect to other most senior executives of the Company and its affiliated companies and their beneficiaries.

(c) Disability. If the Executive's employment is terminated by reason of the Executive's Disability during the Employment Period, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligations to the Executive, other than for payment of Accrued Obligations and the timely payment or provision of Other Benefits. Accrued Obligations shall be paid to the Executive or the Executive's legal representative in a lump sum in cash within 30 days of the Date of Termination. With respect to the provision of Other Benefits, the term Other Benefits as utilized in this Section 6(c) shall include, and the Executive shall be entitled after the Disability Effective Date to receive, disability and other benefits at least equal to the most favorable of those generally provided by the Company and its affiliated companies to disabled executives and/or their families in accordance with such plans, programs, practices and policies relating to disability, if any, as in effect generally with respect to other peer executives and their families at any time during the 120 day period immediately preceding the Effective Date or, if more favorable to the Executive and/or the Executive's family, as in effect at any time thereafter generally with respect to other peer executives of the Company and its affiliated companies and their families.

(d) Cause; Other than for Good Reason. If the Executive's employment shall be terminated for Cause during the Employment Period, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligations to the Executive other than the obligation to pay to the Executive (x) his Annual Base Salary through the Date of Termination, (y) the amount of any compensation previously deferred by the Executive, and (z) Other Benefits, in each case to the extent theretofore unpaid. If the Executive voluntarily terminates employment during the Employment Period, excluding a termination for Good Reason, this Agreement shall terminate without further obligations to the Executive, other than for Accrued Obligations and the timely payment or provision of Other Benefits. In such case, all Accrued Obligations shall be paid to the Executive in a lump sum in cash within 30 days of the Date of Termination.

7. Non-exclusivity of Rights. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent or limit the Executive's continuing or future participation in any plan, program, policy or practice provided by the Company or any of its affiliated companies and for which the Executive may qualify, nor, subject to Section 13(f), shall anything herein limit or otherwise affect such rights as the Executive may have under any contract or agreement with the Company or any of its affiliated companies. Amounts which are vested benefits or which the Executive is otherwise entitled to receive under any plan, policy, practice or program of or any contract or agreement with the Company or any of its affiliated companies at or subsequent to the Date of Termination shall be payable in accordance with such plan, policy, practice or program or contract or agreement except as explicitly modified by this Agreement.

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8. Full Settlement. The Company's obligation to make the payments provided for in this Agreement and otherwise to perform its obligations hereunder shall not be affected by any set-off, counterclaim, recoupment, defense or other claim, right or action which the Company may have against the Executive or others. Each and every payment made hereunder by the Company shall be final, and the Company shall not seek to recover all or any part of such payment from the Executive or from whomsoever may be entitled thereto, for any reasons whatsoever. In no event shall the Executive be obligated to seek other employment or take any other action by way of mitigation of the amounts payable to the Executive under any of the provisions of this Agreement and such amounts shall not be reduced whether or not the Executive obtains other employment. The Company agrees to pay as incurred, to the full extent permitted by law, all legal fees and expenses which the Executive may reasonably incur as a result of any contest by (i) the Company, provided that the

Executive prevails in at least one material issue, (ii) the Executive or (iii) others, of the validity or enforceability of, or liability under, any provision of this Agreement or any guarantee of performance thereof (including, without limitation, as a result of any contest by the Executive about the amount of any payment pursuant to this Agreement), plus in each case interest on any delayed payment at the applicable Federal rate provided for in Section 7872(f) (2) (A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code").

9. Certain Additional Payments by the Company.

(a) Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding and except as set forth below, in the event it shall be determined that any payment or distribution by the Company to or for the benefit of the Executive (whether paid or payable or distributed or distributable pursuant to the terms of this Agreement or otherwise, but determined without regard to any additional payments required under this Section 9) (a "Payment") would be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code or any interest or penalties are incurred by the Executive with respect to such excise tax (such excise tax, together with any such interest and penalties, are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Excise Tax"), then the Executive shall be entitled to receive an additional payment (a "Gross-Up Payment") in an amount such that after payment by the Executive of all taxes (including any interest or penalties imposed with respect to such taxes), including, without limitation, any income taxes (and any interest and penalties imposed with respect thereto) and Excise Tax imposed upon the Gross-Up Payment, the Executive retains an amount of the Gross-Up Payment equal to the Excise Tax imposed upon the Payments. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 9(a), if it shall be determined that the Executive is entitled to a Gross-Up Payment, but that the Payments do not exceed 110% of the greatest amount (the "Reduced Amount") that could be paid to the Executive such that the receipt of Payments would not give rise to any Excise Tax, then no Gross-Up Payment shall be made to the Executive and the Payments, in the aggregate, shall be reduced to the Reduced Amount.

(b) Subject to the provisions of Section 9(c), all determinations required to be made under this Section 9, including whether and when a Gross-Up Payment is required and the amount of such Gross-Up Payment and the assumptions to be utilized in arriving at such determination, shall be made by such certified public accounting firm as may be designated by the Company (the "Accounting Firm") which shall provide detailed supporting calculations both to the Company and the Executive within 15 business days of the receipt of notice from the Executive that there has been a Payment, or such earlier time as is requested by the Company. In the event that the Accounting Firm is serving as accountant or auditor for the individual, entity or group effecting the Change of Control, the Company shall appoint another nationally recognized accounting firm to make the determinations required hereunder (which accounting firm shall then be referred to as the Accounting Firm hereunder). All fees and expenses of the Accounting Firm shall be borne solely by the Company. Any Gross-Up Payment, as determined pursuant to this Section 9, shall be paid by the Company to the Executive within five days of the receipt of the Accounting Firm's determination. Any determination by the Accounting Firm shall be binding upon the Company and the Executive. As a result of the uncertainty in the application of Section 4999 of the Code at the time of the initial determination by the Accounting Firm hereunder, it is possible that Gross-Up Payments which will not have been made by the Company should have been made ("Underpayment"), consistent with the calculations required to be made hereunder. In the event that the Company exhausts its remedies pursuant to Section 9(c) and the Executive thereafter is required to make a payment of any

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Excise Tax, the Accounting Firm shall determine the amount of the Underpayment that has occurred and any such Underpayment shall be promptly paid by the Company to or for the benefit of the Executive.

(c) The Executive shall notify the Company in writing of any claim by the Internal Revenue Service that, if successful, would require the payment by the Company of the Gross-Up Payment. Such notification shall be given as soon as practicable but no later than ten business days after the Executive is informed in writing of such claim and shall apprise the Company of the nature of such claim and the date on which such claim is requested to be paid. The Executive shall not pay such claim prior to the expiration of the 30-day period following the date on which it gives such notice to the Company (or such shorter period ending on the date that any payment of taxes with respect to such claim is due). If the Company notifies the Executive in writing prior to the expiration of such period that it desires to contest such claim, the Executive shall:

- (i) give the Company any information reasonably requested by the Company relating to such claim,
- (ii) take such action in connection with contesting such claim as the Company shall reasonably request in writing from time to time, including, without limitation, accepting legal representation with respect to such claim by an attorney reasonably selected by the Company,
- (iii) cooperate with the Company in good faith in order effectively to contest such claim, and
- (iv) permit the Company to participate in any proceedings relating to such claim;

provided, however, that the Company shall bear and pay directly all costs and expenses (including additional interest and penalties) incurred in connection with such contest and shall indemnify and hold the Executive harmless, on an after-tax basis, for any Excise Tax or income tax (including interest and penalties with respect thereto) imposed as a result of such representation and payment of costs and expenses. Without limitation on the foregoing provisions of this Section 9(c), the Company shall control all proceedings taken in connection with such contest and, at its sole option, may pursue or forgo any and all administrative appeals, proceedings, hearings and conferences with the taxing authority in respect of such claim and may, at its sole option, either direct the Executive to pay the tax claimed and sue for a refund or contest the claim in any permissible manner, and the Executive agrees to prosecute such contest to a determination before any administrative tribunal, in a court of initial jurisdiction and in one or more appellate courts, as the Company shall determine; provided, however, that if the Company directs the Executive to pay such claim and sue for a refund, the Company shall advance the amount of such payment to the Executive, on an interest-free basis and shall indemnify and hold the Executive harmless, on an after-tax basis, from any Excise Tax or income tax (including interest or penalties with respect thereto) imposed with respect to such advance or with respect to any imputed income with respect to such advance; and further provided that any extension of the statute of limitations relating to payment of taxes for the taxable year of the Executive with respect to which such contested amount is claimed to be due is limited solely to such contested amount. Furthermore, the Company's control of the contest shall be limited to issues with respect to which a Gross-Up Payment would be payable hereunder and the Executive shall be entitled to settle or contest, as the case may be, any other issue raised by the Internal Revenue Service or any other taxing authority.

(d) If, after the receipt by the Executive of an amount advanced by the Company pursuant to Section 9(c), the Executive becomes entitled to receive any refund with respect to such claim, the Executive shall (subject to the Company's complying with the requirements of Section 9(c)) promptly pay to the Company the amount of such refund (together with any interest paid or credited thereon after taxes applicable thereto). If, after the receipt by the



Executive of an amount advanced by the Company pursuant to Section 9(c), a determination is made that the Executive shall not be entitled to any refund with respect to such claim and the Company does not notify the Executive in writing of its intent to contest such denial of refund prior to the expiration of 30 days after such determination, then such advance shall

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be forgiven and shall not be required to be repaid and the amount of such advance shall offset, to the extent thereof, the amount of Gross-Up Payment required to be paid.

10. Confidential Information. The Executive shall hold in a fiduciary capacity for the benefit of the Company all secret or confidential information, knowledge or data relating to the Company or any of its affiliated companies, and their respective businesses, which shall have been obtained by the Executive during the Executive's employment by the Company or any of its affiliated companies and which shall not be or become public knowledge (other than by acts by the Executive or representatives of the Executive in violation of this Agreement). After termination of the Executive's employment with the Company, the Executive shall not, without the prior written consent of the Company or as may otherwise be required by law or legal process, communicate or divulge any such information, knowledge or data to anyone other than the Company and those designated by it. In no event shall an asserted violation of the provisions of this Section 10 constitute a basis for deferring or withholding any amounts otherwise payable to the Executive under this Agreement.

11. Successors.

(a) This Agreement is personal to the Executive and without the prior written consent of the Company shall not be assignable by the Executive otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the Executive's legal representatives.

(b) This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Company and its successors and assigns.

(c) The Company will require any successor (whether direct or indirect, by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise) to all or substantially all of the business and/or assets of the Company to assume expressly and agree to perform this Agreement in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company would be required to perform it if no such succession had taken place. As used in this Agreement, "Company" shall mean the Company as hereinbefore defined and any successor to its business and/or assets as aforesaid which assumes and agrees to perform this Agreement by operation of law, or otherwise.

12. Covenant Not to Compete. In the event of a Permitted Executive Termination, Executive covenants and agrees that during the Non-Compete Period (as defined below) Executive shall not, either directly or indirectly, without the prior written consent of the Board (which may be withheld in the sole and absolute discretion of the Board):

(i) Engage in or carry on any business or in any way become associated with any business in the Restricted Area (as hereinafter defined) which is similar to or is in competition with the Business of the Company (as hereinafter defined). As used in this Section 12, the term (1) "Business of the Company" shall mean and include all business activities in which the Company and/or any affiliated companies have engaged (or have prepared written plans to engage) at any time during the Term, including but not limited to, the purchase of land (or options therefor) for development and the construction of residential homes for resale to consumers, and (2) "Restricted Area" shall mean and include anywhere in the United States of America or in any foreign country in which the Company or any affiliated companies then engage (or have within the preceding three years engaged) in business;

(ii) in connection with any business which is similar to or is in competition with the Business of the Company in the Restricted Area, solicit the business of any person or entity, on behalf of himself or any other person or entity, which is or has been at any time during the Term a customer or supplier of the Company including, but not limited to, former or present customers or suppliers with whom Executive has had personal contact during, or by reason of, his relationship with the Company;

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(iii) Be or become an employee, agent, consultant, representative, director or officer of, or be otherwise in any manner associated with, any person, firm, corporation, association or other entity which is engaged in or is carrying on any business which is similar to or in competition with the Business of the Company in the Restricted Area;

(iv) Solicit for employment or employ any person employed by the Company at any time during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding such solicitation or employment; or

(v) Be or become a shareholder, joint venturer, owner (in whole or in part), or partner, or be or become associated with or have any proprietary or financial interest in or of any firm, corporation, association or other entity which is engaged in or is carrying on any business which is similar to or in competition with the Business of the Company in the Restricted Area (a "Competing Entity"). Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, (A) passive equity investments by Executive of \$100,000 or less in any Competing Entity, or (B) investments, in any amount, in any publicly traded mutual fund, index fund or similar investment vehicle which fund or investment vehicle owns any proprietary or financial interest in any Competing Entity, shall not be deemed to violate this Section 12(v).

For purposes of identifying the Restricted Area, Executive hereby recognizes and acknowledges that the existing Business of the Company currently extends throughout the States of Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, California, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Texas, New York, Colorado, Mississippi, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and New Mexico. Executive further warrants and represents that, because of his varied skill and abilities, he does not need to compete with the Business of the Company and that this

Agreement will not prevent him from earning a livelihood and acknowledges that the restrictions contained in this Section 12 constitute reasonable protections for the Company.

As used in this Section 12, the “Non-Compete Period” shall mean for a period of one (1) year after the date of the termination of Executive’s employment in connection with such Permitted Executive Termination (it being agreed that the Executive shall have the right to terminate Executive’s obligations under subsections (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) of this Section 12 by waiving in writing (at the time of such Permitted Executive Termination) the right to receive any and all payments or benefits under Sections 6(a)(i)(B), 6(a)(ii), 6(a)(iii) and 6(a)(iv) of this Agreement).

13. Miscellaneous.

(a) This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, without reference to principles of conflict of laws. Any legal action, suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be instituted in the state or federal courts in the State of Delaware and the parties agree not to assert, in any action, suit or proceeding by way of motion, as a defense or otherwise, any claim that either party is not personally subject to the jurisdiction of such court, or that such action, suit or proceeding is brought in an inconvenient forum, or that the venue is improper or that the subject matter hereof cannot be enforced in such court. The parties hereby irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of any such court in any such action, suit or proceeding.

(b) The captions of this Agreement are not part of the provisions hereof and shall have no force or effect. This Agreement may not be amended or modified otherwise than by a written agreement executed by the parties hereto or their respective successors and legal representatives.

(c) All notices and other communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be given by hand delivery to the other party, by UPS or other commercial overnight courier or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

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If to the Executive:

5732 White Cloud Circle  
Westlake Village, California 91362

If to the Company:

1000 Abernathy Road  
Suite 1200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328  
Attention: Company Secretary

or to such other address as either party shall have furnished to the other in writing in accordance herewith. Notice and communications shall be effective when actually received by the addressee.

(d) The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement.

(e) The Company may withhold from any amounts payable under this Agreement such Federal, state, local or foreign taxes as shall be required to be withheld pursuant to any applicable law or regulation.

(f) The Executive’s or the Company’s failure to insist upon strict compliance with any provision of this Agreement or the failure to assert any right the Executive or the Company may have hereunder, including, without limitation, the right of the Executive to terminate employment for Good Reason pursuant to Section 5(c)(i) through (v) of this Agreement, shall not be deemed to be a waiver of such provision or right or any other provision or right of this Agreement.

(g) Except as may otherwise be provided under any other written agreement between the Executive and the Company, the Executive and the Company acknowledge that the employment of the Executive by the Company is “at will” and, subject to Section 1 hereof, prior to the Effective Date, the Executive’s employment and/or this Agreement may be terminated by either the Executive or the Company at any time prior to the Effective Date, in which case the Executive shall have no further rights under this Agreement. From and after the Effective Date, this Agreement shall supersede any other agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and, upon the Effective Date, any such other agreement shall be null, void and of no further force or effect.

14. **Special Provisions Re Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code.** It is intended that this Agreement will comply with Section 409A of the Code (and any regulations and any guidelines issued thereunder) to the extent the Agreement is subject thereto, and the Agreement shall be interpreted on a basis consistent with such intent. If it is determined that an amendment of this Agreement is necessary in order for it to comply with Section 409A, the parties agree to negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement in a manner that preserves the original intent of the parties to the extent reasonably possible. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Agreement, in the event that any payments or benefits required to be provided by the Company hereunder are deemed to constitute payments of “nonqualified deferred compensation” that is subject to the requirements of Section 409A and if the Executive is deemed on the Date of Termination to be a “specified employee” within the meaning of that term under Section 409A(a)(2)(B) of the Code, then with regard to any payment or the provisions of any benefit that is required to be delayed pursuant to Section 409A(a)(2)(B) of the Code, such payment or benefit shall not be made or provided prior to the earlier of (i) the expiration of the six (6)-month period measured from the date of his “separation from service” (as such term is defined in Treasury Regulations issued under Section 409A), or (ii) the date of his death (the “Delay Period”). Upon the expiration of the Delay Period, all payments and benefits delayed pursuant to this Section 14 (whether they would have otherwise been payable in a single sum or in installments in the absence of such delay) shall be paid or reimbursed to the Executive in a lump sum, and any remaining payments and benefits due under this Agreement shall be paid or provided in accordance with the normal payment dates specified for them herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent that the foregoing applies to the provision of any

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ongoing welfare benefits to the Executive that would not be required to be delayed if the premiums therefor were paid by the Executive, the Executive shall pay the full costs of premiums for such welfare benefits during the Delay Period and the Company shall pay the Executive an amount equal to the amount of such premiums paid by the Executive during the Delay Period promptly after its conclusion.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Executive has hereunto set the Executive's hand and, pursuant to the authorization from its Board of Directors, the Company has caused these presents to be executed in its name on its behalf, all as of the day and year first above written.

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ALLAN MERRILL

BEAZER HOMES USA, INC.

By

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Ian J. McCarthy  
President and Chief Executive Officer



**Press Release**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Beazer Homes Names Allan P. Merrill as Chief Financial Officer**

**ATLANTA, April, 23, 2007** – Beazer Homes USA, Inc. (NYSE: BZH) ([www.beazer.com](http://www.beazer.com)) today announced the appointment of Alan P. Merrill as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, effective May 1, 2007.

Mr. Merrill joins the Company from Move, Inc. where he has served as Executive Vice President of Corporate Development and Strategy since October 2001. From April 2000 to October 2001, Mr. Merrill was president of Homebuilder.com, a division of Move, Inc. Mr. Merrill joined Move, Inc. following a 13-year tenure with the investment banking firm UBS (and its predecessor Dillon Read & Co.) where he was a managing director and served most recently as co-head of the Global Resources Group, overseeing the construction and building materials, chemicals, forest products, mining and energy industry groups. Prior to that, he co-founded the firm's corporate finance industry team for Housing, Construction & Building Materials.

Ian McCarthy, President and Chief Executive Officer said, "We are extremely pleased to add someone of Allan's caliber to our executive management team. His extensive operational, strategic and financial experience within residential real estate and related industries will be extremely valuable as we both manage through the current market conditions and continue to execute on our long term strategic initiatives designed to generate profitable growth and maximize shareholder value. I am confident that Allan's contributions will be meaningful in further strengthening our position within the industry."

"I look forward to contributing to the continued success of Beazer Homes," said Allan Merrill. "I have known Brian Beazer, Ian McCarthy and many of the senior officers of the company since my tenure at Dillon Read, during which time I had the privilege of advising Beazer Homes on several major transactions as well as the company's initial public offering in 1994. I am excited to work with Ian and the entire management team to help Beazer Homes generate exceptional shareholder returns in an industry that has such compelling long-term fundamentals."

Mr. Merrill is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the Policy Advisory Board of the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School with a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

Beazer Homes USA, Inc., headquartered in Atlanta, is one of the country's ten largest single-family homebuilders with operations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia and also provides mortgage origination and title services to its homebuyers. Beazer Homes, a Fortune 500 company, is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "BZH."

Contact: Leslie H. Kratcoski, Vice President; (770) 829-3700; [lkratcos@beazer.com](mailto:lkratcos@beazer.com)

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