

PAST AND PRESENT

BY KIM RADTKE BANNISTER
PHOTOS BY JOHN SMITH
BUILDER: JEFF FAIREY OF
VINTAGE CONTEMPORARIES

*A new home reflects an old look
with modern conveniences*



ABOVE: The grand living room is a favorite for entertaining. This reception-style entry with lots of light shows off the ornate custom staircase.

Nearly hidden among the tree-lined streets and architectural treasures of Lakewood stands a unique European villa reminiscent of the early 20th-century originals in this historic neighborhood.

Gracing the exterior is a clay tile roof varying in shades of red, orange and a hint of blue; a façade of smaller-than-usual bricks in beige tones; and an arched doorway and windows – elements typically found in the work of the Dallas’ most important architects in the 1920s and 1940s. So is it a Charles Dilbeck, Dines & Kraft or Clifford D. Hutsell? No.

This new home has been “traditionally crafted to appear like one of the old grand homes on Lakewood Boulevard,” proudly states owner and builder Jeff Fairey.

And the Hutsell-inspired residence, which will be on tour Nov. 7-9 during the Lakewood Home Festival, is one of three existing homes that mark the beginning of Vintage Place, Fairey’s development of about a dozen similar homes ranging in period styles (Tudor, Spanish Eclectic, Georgian Revival and Mediterranean).

Set apart by an iron fence and short mosaic-adorned brick columns, this new addition to Lakewood is a reflection of its past. Wisteria vines, coupled with climbing roses, are starting their ascent up the façade. A flower-filled walkway past a bubbling fountain leads to a handsome recessed arched doorway. A signature plaque next to the alder wood door reveals the home’s date and creator — yet another link to an older era. Butter-yellow and warm sage accent the moldings and dormers of the exterior and cover interior walls, moldings and even ceilings of the 4,000-square-foot home.

Inside the living room, a soaring ceiling and focally centered fireplace await. Directly across are pocket doors and a small step up leading to the study — an alcove for creativity and work. Surprisingly, the handsome custom bookcases slide, revolve and unfold to a second depth of shelving. More than 100 hours went into devising a plan for Fairey’s vast collection of books, catalogs and CDs as well as a second computer, an effort that also benefited four other built-in armoires throughout the home.

An ornate Spanish Baroque-style iron staircase is the anchor of the “L”-shaped floor plan. To the left of the staircase, a vestibule with a built-in wine cooler leads into the wine and cigar room. Outdoor light pours in through the windows, showcasing the groin-vaulted ceilings.



ABOVE: The influences of Clifford D. Hutsell are evident throughout the new home, one of about a dozen that the builder is planning for a Lakewood neighborhood.



To the right of the staircase, an open gallery leads the way to an open dining room, the large, yet intimate kitchen, and the entry to the master bedroom. Both the dining room and kitchen open to a veranda and charming yard – designed to eventually house a pool and a lush landscape. An enclosed kitchen garden, filled with herbs, offers a peaceful retreat.

The floors throughout most of the first floor of the house are stained concrete in brown and mahogany shades for a rustic surface. “I lived with concrete floors for 2 years in another home to see what they would be like in a master bedroom,” Fairey says. “Surprisingly, they aren’t hard or cold. I really like the way they warm up a room and are easy to clean.”

The second story of the home, which is primarily hardwoods in which Fairey and architect, Chase Corker of Corker Designs, decided to use 1 1/2 inch boards, similar to those in older homes, consists of three bedrooms and baths. The bathrooms are of marble and period style tile he found from suppliers in California. The media room is in the core, offering a place for play and work. A large screen hides behind rich velvet curtains and a handcrafted façade. “Jeff has left no detail overlooked,” Corker says. From hidden receptacles to windows in the garage to an oversized powder room to the flow of the master bath to the



ABOVE: A wine storage unit is perfectly suited in the hallway between the stairway and the cigar/wine room. **RIGHT:** Note the arched doorways used throughout the home.

master closet to the laundry room and finally into the kitchen. There are even electrical outlets hidden in the exterior roof line for holiday lights.

Where does he get his ideas? “Books, commercials and movies,” laughingly admits Fairey.

For Fairey, creating and building a home for himself proved to be his greatest challenge yet because he worked to produce a residence with his clients’ mindset. Like so many of the other residences he has created, his home had to be cohesive and feel functional while being unique. “It’s artistry,” the builder says. “It has to have flow and everything is given thought and consideration, from the placement of furniture to the light switches — from front to back, to up and down — it has to work.”

His philosophy indeed must work well. “He is doing a great job,” says Madeline Boedeker, daughter of Hutsell, one of Dallas’ most celebrated architects who designed and built more than 50 homes in Lakewood during the 1920s and 1940s and is best known for his signature Spanish Eclectic homes on Lakewood Boulevard. “I have to tease him when I see a rounded wall, a certain style chimney or tile roof,” she adds laughingly. “He’s picked up on the things of my dad’s and is going to make the area (Vintage Place) really great. Boedeker is passing on some of her father’s designs. “We are going to build his last home that he never



ABOVE: Inspired by windows seen in old Lakewood homes, the custom-made Rondel stained-glass window is a bright surprise upon entering the cigar/wine room. **BELOW:** “A place to sit and relax, whether it is a bunch of people or just one,” says architect Chase Corker. “The kitchen is big and intimate.”





ABOVE: The master bedroom offers a great view of the back courtyard. Handsome built-in cabinetry (below) provides recessed storage or space for an entertainment center.

did and put a modern-day spin to it," Fairey says. The Hutsell-style home will be built in the cul-de-sac area of Fairey's home.

Not only did a great deal of planning go into the residence prior to construction just 14 months ago, but into the surrounding property as well. Fairey, who got his start as a remodeler, purchased 3.7 acres from the neighboring Northridge Presbyterian Church and worked with the city for more than two years to create and plot a controlled environment — thus Vintage Place. Currently, three homes make up the area, including Fairey's very own. Plans for 10 more are under way — all being of unique and individual designed façades ranging from Tudor to Mediterranean. They will be built by Fairey's company, Vintage Contemporaries, and designed by Corker and Fairey.

He has planned for a neighborhood filled with charm and distinction. "Old World construction, Old World philosophy and Old World service is a product I think is needed in today's fast-paced, pay-me-now world we live in," he says.

"We hope that we have the same philosophy of the eras gone by where people took pride in what they did and did a good job because to do otherwise would be unacceptable."

For more information or to contact Jeff Fairey, see www.vintagecontemporaries.com. | CONT. PG. 58



SALUTING GREAT ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS



Elise Anthony

a tree," wife Jo-Anne Marshall says about his knee-jerk reaction to making a U-turn. It took a while to persuade her that the home was worth the effort, but he built a winning case.

Now you can see the house that was lovingly rescued with the help of architect Max Levy, who doesn't do renovations, but was too intrigued to say no.

This month, inside our Builder/Architect issue, you'll see the home that architect Michael Lyons designed for himself – and check out that kitchen swathed in deep Guatemalan red and its island topped with a slab of mesquite wood.

Mediterranean more your style? Check out the 10,000-square-foot residence that builder/architect Mickey Munir designed for a busy Dallas couple who wanted a warm, casual feel without sacrificing comfort. From the stunning negative-edge pool in the backyard to the sweeping stairway in the front entry, it exudes gracious living.

And yet, the neighborhood charm of Lakewood still beckons. For anyone who's ever longed for a Hutsell home with relatively modern conveniences (by this we mean great storage, plentiful outlets and reconfigured rooms for today's lifestyles), there's a new neighborhood that speaks to the past and the present. Builder Jeff Fairey's new home is part of a development of about a dozen homes that draw from Hutsell's signature attention to detail; he's currently working with Hutsell's daughter to create a home inspired from plans that Hutsell never put into action. It's featured in our Tours department this month, and you can visit it Nov. 8-9 during the Lakewood Home Festival.

— Elise Anthony

Every Monday morning, en route to my Master Gardener classes, a certain house would catch my eye during the drive along Walnut Hill Lane. It wasn't a French Provincial, or an English manor on the prairie. Unlike the tear-downs that were occurring all over the area, this diminutive Midcentury Modern was actually getting a facelift. Even during the extensive construction process, its distinctive new metal roof piqued my curiosity enough to slow down each time I passed.

Fast forward a few years later. I was en route to a photo-scouting assignment, looking for a Midcentury Modern that had been recommended ... imagine my surprise as I pulled into the drive of the very same metal-roofed house.

Turns out that attorney Charlie Marshall had the same reaction when he first spotted that "For Sale" sign after driving by the house every day for years. "He practically hit

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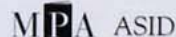
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HISTORIC LAKEWOOD ON TOUR


The public may tour the home of builder Jeff Fairey during the 27th annual Lakewood Home Festival, scheduled November 7-9. In a neighborhood of historical charm and significance, the public will get a chance to tour five architecturally unique homes ranging from Georgian revival to traditional colonial to contemporary Hill Country style.

In addition to the tour, the Lakewood Home Festival Market features more than 60 vendors, including many handcrafted treasures — from pottery, jewelry, children's items to Christmas keepsakes, home accessories and gourmet foods. It's located at Lakewood Elementary School, 3000 Hillbrook, and includes Central Market Café and a Kids' Café, sponsored by Wild About Harry's. Admission to the Market is \$3 at the door or free with a home festival ticket.

A special night not to be missed is the Nov. 7th

Candlelight Tour and Preview Party and Silent Auction at Lakewood Country Club. The Home Tour will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the silent auction at 8 p.m. Tickets, which must be purchased prior to the event, are \$40 per person.

Proceeds fund projects that enhance the learning experience at Lakewood Elementary School. Funds raised in prior years have provided computers, a science lab; and reading, writing and Spanish programs.

TOUR HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8 and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Children ages 3 and younger are admitted free. Tickets may be purchased in advance from Lakewood Elementary School, 3000 Hillbrook; Minyard Food Store, Gaston at Abrams; or any of the homes during the event. For more information, call 214-826-5962. 



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