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A TEAM OF LOCAL PROFESSIONALS USES A COUPLE'S INSPIRATIONAL PHOTOS TO CREATE A STUNNING, NEW-CONSTRUCTION HOME IN NORTH LITTLE ROCK'S ROCKWATER VILLAGE



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An arched entryway provides a stunning view of the Arkansas River as well as the Arkansas River Trail, which is frequented by walkers, runners, and bikers. Facing page: The covered porch is a favorite place for both relaxing and entertaining. The seating area features furniture by Summer Classics and Ebel, along with a mix of blue and white accessories and lanterns, all of which are available through Little Rock's Antique Brick Outdoors.



AS THE SAYING GOES, “A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.”

When Lorraine and John Owens set out to build their dream home in Rockwater Village, a *Southern Living* Inspired Community situated on the banks of the Arkansas River, they had more than one picture to share with their architect, contractor, and designer. In fact, they had an entire house they planned to use as their inspiration for the project. “We were looking at Houzz.com and found a beach house on Balboa Island in California that we loved,” John says of the house that served as a guide for their own residence.

The couple, who moved from a West Little Rock home, decided to build in Rockwater after John was named President of the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce. “We really fell in love with the community—from the beauty of the water to the bike trails and nearby railroad bridge, and just the fact that we would be within walking distance to both Argenta and downtown Little Rock,” he says. To properly take in all of these elements, especially the sweeping view of the Arkansas River vista, the couple thought the framework of a beach house seemed like a natural choice to maximize the landscape and location.

However, while the Owens had numerous images of the inspirational home, they lacked floor plans and elevations. As contractor Jon Callahan and architect Wayne Hardy began to pore over the images, they created a version of the house that fit both the lot and the Owens’ lifestyle. “I worked with Wayne very closely. He would take the images and then size the footprint of the house to fit this application,” Callahan says. “From there, I would go back to the pictures and figure out the elevations. It was a puzzle and my mind would race with each room trying to recreate the same vision the Owens had seen,” he adds.

As plans began to come together, Callahan, who has built three other homes in Rockwater Village, recommended the Owens give interior designer Krista Lewis a call to help them achieve the vision they desired when it came to furnishings and finishes. “John and I seemed to agree on the style we wanted when we looked at homes,” Lorraine says. “We both wanted something transitional. I like touches of traditional but also the clean lines and openness of contemporary-style homes,” she says. Lewis ran with this direction starting with the palette. “They wanted gray throughout the home, so all of the walls are painted one color: Sherwin-Williams’ Repose Gray,” the designer says of the cohesive neutral canvas. To add a traditional air, Lewis accented the gray with blue and white furnishings—a pairing that also complements the environment seen just outside the home’s numerous windows. “The main color scheme throughout is blue and white, but Lorraine also really wanted color, so we added pops throughout the house,” Lewis notes. These pops show up in both small and large ways: the chartreuse pillow in master bedroom, the artwork and lamp in her office, and the spines of the books in the office, den, and entry. “I’m a color person—more so than my husband—and Krista gave me that, too. To me, brighter colors get my creative juices flowing, while the light blue is soothing and calming,” Lorraine notes.



In the living room, one built-in unit serves as a bar while another houses beloved antique books and blue-and-white collectibles. Twelve-foot-tall sliding glass doors open to allow a breeze from the water to fill the rooms on warm days and nights.



Lewis suggested the contrast of a dark-hued island base with light quartzite countertops to balance the white cabinetry and honed granite that is seen on the kitchen's perimeter. A built-in banquette offers additional seating as well as storage.



Downstairs, all of the communal spaces—the den, kitchen, breakfast nook, dining room, and living room—are joined together. Expansive windows that border the dining and living rooms direct the focus to the walking trail, marina, and waterfront that lie just outside the home's walls. "Everything in here is on a larger scale because the ceiling is 12 feet tall to account for the windows," Lewis says of the kitchen's design which features oversized tiles on the backsplash and an island that is large enough for both work and dining space. "If you had used regular subway tile, there would be a million grout lines and it just wouldn't have the same effect." Similarly, she notes that, "the island is huge so the pendants could be huge and impactful."

When it came to the furniture and accessories, the Owens brought special pieces from their former home to the new space, but opted for many new finds. "I helped John pare down his collection of books to display, and these are actually where the red accent comes into the design. He also had a lot of antiques, busts, and Asian pieces that we wanted to use. However, as I mentioned, the pictures they showed me were more contemporary and transitional, so I tried to figure out a way to marry all that and make it work with the home," Lewis says. In talking with the couple, the feeling conveyed is that the end result celebrates both the view outside the windows as well as the meaningful mementos within the home's walls.



Design Resources

Architect Wayne Hardy, RPPY Architects
 Contractor Jon Callahan, Jon Callahan Construction, Inc.
 Interior design Krista Lewis, K. Lewis Interior Design
 Landscape design Derden Landscaping
 Landscape design—containers The Good Earth Garden Center
 Accessories Cynthia East Fabrics and K. Lewis Interior Design
 Appliances Metro Appliances & More
 Art K. Lewis Interior Design and Providence Design
 Fabrics, furniture, and wallpaper K. Lewis Interior Design
 Floral design Tanarah Luxe Floral and Tipton & Hurst
 Bedding Cynthia East Fabrics
 Cabinetry and hardware—cabinetry Capitol Custom Cabinets
 Carpet ProSource
 Countertops Stone World Designs

Fireplace Central Arkansas Fireplaces
 Fixtures Ferguson Supply and Plumbing Warehouse
 Flooring All Wood Flooring
 Hardware—doors Kaufman By Design
 Lighting K. Lewis Interior Design and TEC Electric
 Millwork Perry Fuller Construction
 Mirrors Binswanger Glass
 Outdoor furnishings and planting containers Antique Brick Outdoors
 Paint Sherwin-Williams
 Painting I Rios Construction
 Rugs Art of Design, K. Lewis Interior Design, and Providence Design
 Tile Inside Effects and ProSource
 Windows ABC Supply Co., Inc.
 Window treatments Arkansas Shades Blinds & Shutters

Clockwise from top left: Designed as a retreat, the master bath features a shower and freestanding tub as well as his-and-her vanities. While neutral at first glance, the home's blue palette is picked up in the veining on the marble countertops. For ease of use, the spacious laundry room is located on the home's top floor near the bedrooms and the elevator. A landing area at the top of the staircase became Lorraine's office. The lamp and artwork speak to her desire for bold hues. Facing page: Simple furnishings allow the view to come to the forefront of the master bedroom's design. With the touch of a button, motorized blackout shades can be lowered at night for privacy and peace.