





TRIPLE PLAY

A trio of styles lives together with ease

BY EVA DITLER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRENT HAYWOOD



IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to own your family home and it's especially wonderful if, like Birdrock's Jon and Carol Hangartner, you start from the bare ground up. Not only do you get to live the American dream, you get to live it your way. The upside? There's freedom of choice. The downside? There's freedom of choice.

Sometimes decisions are easy — like the decision the Hangartners made to hire Alexander Kacur and Mark Lee Christopher as their architectural/design team. Christopher is a LEED-accredited design professional, which pretty much guaranteed the greening of the Hangartner's American dream. In fact, Kacur and Christopher can't wait for the day when the trend toward environmentally friendly design becomes the norm.

"Homes should be sensible," says Christopher, "and I have the hope that at some point in the not-too-distant future the term 'green' will not be necessary because everything will be green."

In any case, incorporating eco-friendly aspects within their home designs is part of the way Christopher and Kacur always work. This home, for example, has photovoltaic electric power, insulation and dual-pane windows that exceed green-energy building requirements, natural ventilation wherever possible, highly durable composite cladding and trim, low or zero VOC paints, caulking and stains, low-flow toilets, a yard that is mostly hardscape, a solar-heated, saline-water pool and fireplaces that are ethanol — not gas or wood — burning.

Yes, sometimes decisions are easy and leaning toward green was another easy decision for the Hangartners. But sometimes

To add a modern touch to Jon and Carol Hangartner's Birdrock living room, the fireplace is faced with oyster-shell tile and bookcases are opened up to give them a streamlined look. Exterior fireplace burns corn fuel.



Left: Respectful of the neighborhood's modest one-story residences, harmony of scale is achieved with a recessed balcony that helps break the home's form into smaller components.

Below: The kitchen's Craftsman style was simplified by removing moldings and crowns in the final plans. Details were added back into the design with freeform, reed-glass panel windows. Urban hardware and a stainless-steel hood bring in a contemporary edge.

decisions are difficult — like cherry picking a style to define your home.

"We love Craftsman style," says Jon, "but we wanted a brighter style than the traditional Craftsman. We showed Mark and Alex pictures and they noticed how what we kept showing them were homes with Craftsman exteriors that had a more island or plantation style inside — bright, airy and open."

During the design process of giving the home Craftsman bones combined with plantation style, the Hangartners began gravitating toward a more contemporary aesthetic and wanted to shift gears. Traipsing through model homes on a vacation to Park City, Utah, they stumbled upon a modern interior that they loved on sight. They asked the designer, Sherry Russell, if she would get involved with their home project.

"I had grown up in La Jolla," says Russell, "so I agreed and they sent me the plans. Unlike other designers who are typically involved in colors and furnishings, I look at plans and adjust them. Traditionally I scrap quite a bit, but in this project, changing something that had already been beautifully thought through was quite a challenge. In the case of this house, the changes were more about the finish details to bring in the extra contemporary flair that the homeowners wanted."

With thoughtful collaboration, Russell, Christopher and Kacur puzzled it out together. The home is a sensitive mix that doesn't stray too far from its Craftsman beginnings but has suggestions of tropical delights with lighter exterior stone and trim colors, softer green siding tones and plantation-style cross-weave railing patterns. The shift to its contemporary spirit is serenely suggested on the interior with streamlined built-ins, simplified accessories, opened-up spaces and modern furnishings. The trio of styles mingles happily together.

"In general traditional rules apply," says Christopher, "but the rules are broken on things that might be changed over time. The results are successful." ♦

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Above: Architect Mark Christopher calls the outdoor deck the “fair-weather” family room. “It’s a compelling place to be in fair weather with views, fresh air and quality of light.”

Left: When Jack, Elle and Joshua are happy, everyone’s happy — including dad Jon Hangartner.

MARTIN MANN