

good.



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moving to town

Relocating to a town 300 miles away is tough enough. Add to that, building a new home from the ground up, and you can imagine the anxiety Jerry and Kittie Stauffer must have experienced when they decided to move from their home in Memphis and build a new house on Elder Mountain.

Of course, if they did have anxiety, you would have never known it. The amiable couple took on the project with an open mind and a spirit of enthusiasm - despite remaining in Memphis during the construction process.

The Stauffers recently took some time to revisit the process and tell us more about their experience.



image courtesy of Elemi Architects



image courtesy of Elemi Architects



image courtesy of Elemi Architects

good.

challenge

The couple was drawn to their lot on Elder Mountain because of its wooded landscape and slope. The sloping lot, however, challenged their initial vision for their home.

"I originally wanted a one story house with a garage underneath, but the lot sloped too much for that design," explained Mrs. Stauffer.

As they worked through the design with Elemi Architects, they discovered that building a one-story home on the sloped lot was not cost-effective.



image courtesy of Elemi Architects



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design

The solution was a 4,000 square foot, two-story home that seamlessly harmonizes with its surroundings. As a result, Mrs. Stauffer explained, they have become most appreciative of the stonework.

“It is a perfect fit with the setting,” she said. The stonework also helped them accomplish their goal - a classically designed home with modern amenities.



image courtesy of Elemi Architects

“We’ve lived in several homes and decided to build just what we wanted,” said Mrs. Stauffer.

Their home boasts an open and spacious den with towering ceilings accented by a stone fireplace on one side and a balcony library on the other.

She also explained that the den, with its fireplace and AV equipment, is Mr. Stauffer’s favorite room in the house. As for Mrs. Stauffer, the living room with its piano and fireplace is the perfect room.

energy

Beyond the design, their home was also built with energy efficiency as a top priority. As Dustin Douglass, the project superintendent, explained, the home integrates a dual fuel HVAC system that switches between electricity and gas for optimal efficiency. For the foundation/basement walls, Collier used Superior Walls, which insulate the basement and create a better environment for the HVAC unit to run.



image courtesy of Elemi Architects

“We used 1/2” foam sheathing everywhere we could,” Douglass said. Foam sheathing provides an additional layer of insulation between the home’s exterior and its framing. “The attic space is sealed and sprayed with 6 inches of open cell foam and conditioned for a more suitable environment for the unit in the attic,” he added. The home also includes tankless water heaters.

good.



image courtesy of Elemi Architects

experience

Mrs. Stauffer said, “We found most all of the contractors to be so nice to work with. They made building this house a pleasant experience. At this stage in our lives, never having built a house, we were a little cautious about the experience.”

“I can tell you that building a house from afar was a leap of faith,” added Mr. Stauffer. “But our faith turned out to be well-placed.”