

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

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CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE



CUSTOMIZE TO MAXIMIZE

By Dana W. Todd



WHEN MARK AND SHELLEY MCLEAN decided it was time to build their family home in south Charlotte at Carmel Country Club, the couple turned to Shea Custom Homes so they could take advantage of the inventory of customizable floor plans.

“We are both visual people,” Shelley McLean explains, “so we needed to see a house we could use as a foundation and then make the necessary changes to fit our family’s needs. We are not good at looking at paper blueprints and getting a feel for what the house looks like. Shea Custom did a good job of finding the right house plan for us, and we were able to walk through a model home in Greensboro. We knew we had found our starting point.”

The McLeans chose The Cypress, one of Shea Custom’s many floor plans, and customized 75 percent of it to meet their specific needs. By adding a basement game room, stacked patio and covered porch with double outdoor fireplaces, the McLeans exponentially increased the original plan’s family living and outdoor entertaining spaces. The Shea Custom team’s flexibility enabled the family to have a new custom home adhering to their precise requirements in an established, prestigious neighborhood in town.

The McLeans were even able to reconfigure spaces so the house could serve as their forever home. By placing all central family rooms, master suite and the office on the main floor, the family can close off unused portions in the future.

Using their own professional interior designer alongside Shea Custom’s in-house design center, the McLeans doubled their options in lighting, countertops, fixtures, cabinetry and hardware for the finished three-level home. Cooperation between the design teams resulted in a comfortable family home with high-end upgrades such as marble and granite countertops, durable random-width red oak hardwood floors, rustic cedar mantels and retractable cedar barn doors that hide a flat screen TV above one of the house’s four fireplaces.

“In order to make the new home feel like it has been in the neighborhood all along, we helped the McLeans choose a traditional Colonial-style



house,” says Charlie O’Melveny, Shea Custom’s operations manager. “The back of the house, facing the golf course, is all about modern outdoor living...it’s just awesome.”

With their many years of experience in the industry, the team also helped the family make some construction decisions that differed from their initial impulses. Wanting originally to paint the brick -- in a traditional Southern manner— the Shea team instead helped the McLeans choose a tumbled brick that was beautiful enough to stand on its own, sans-paint.

What is the takeaway message of this completed project? If you have the right team in place, you can achieve any design goal, even a highly customized one like this. Being able to make changes to an existing blueprint to make it fit their needs, the McLeans took a smart route to building a unique home with more functional family and outdoor living.❖

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