







# Veranda Living

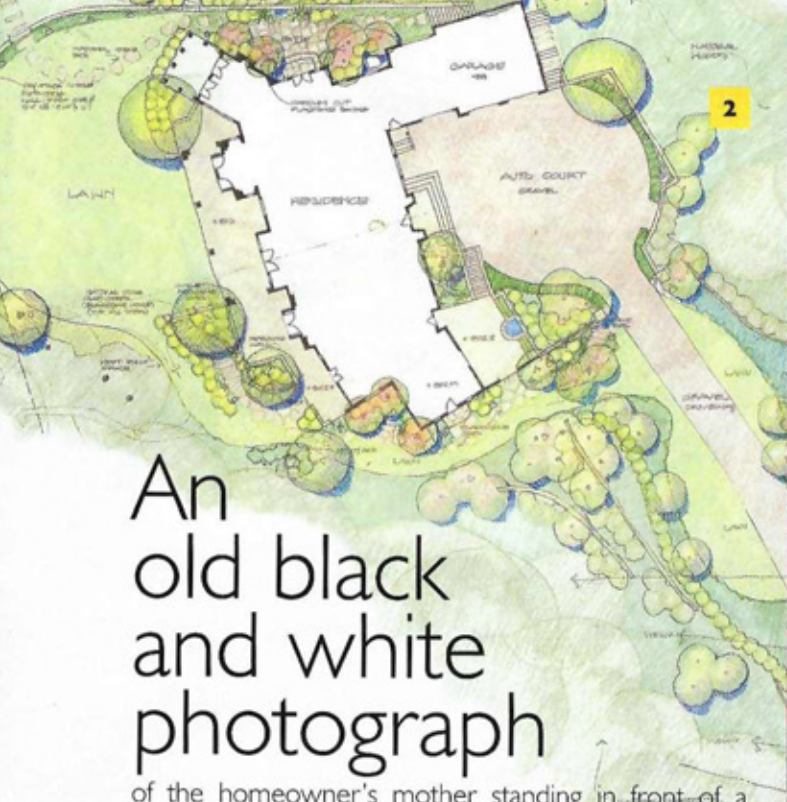
## Designing a Home from the Outside In

BY SUSAN ZINGRAF | Photos by Daniel Feldkamp/Visual Edge Imaging unless otherwise noted

| This veranda was the starting point for the rest of the home's design. Photo by Michael Houghton







# An old black and white photograph

of the homeowner's mother standing in front of a broad veranda with bold, white columns sparked the design inspiration for one couple's new home in Powell. Verandas hold fond memories for the husband who was born and raised in India. "My parents' home had wide verandas, so this feels like home," he reflects while sitting on the spacious columned veranda of the home he designed with his wife. "The veranda was the anchoring piece. The house followed." ♦ The couple spent several years researching architecture and design characteristics to hone the vision for their custom home. Finding an architect who understood their vision was the key starting point. "While interviewing architects, we talked about how we wanted to build the house from the outside in, rather than the inside out," she says. The couple selected architect Gary Bruck, of Sullivan Bruck Architects in Columbus, whose concept drawing for the house delivered on what the couple envisioned. "The final house is really close to initial concept. It's amazing," she remembers. ♦♦

2 The landscape plan was created by Sue Jacobs Grant.

3 Double doors in the homeowner's office open up to a meditation courtyard. Photo by David Bernstein











## Rolling terrain

The setting for the couple's new home honors her Irish upbringing. "Growing up near the coast, my wife wanted to be close to the water. The lot on the Olentangy River with rolling terrain would remind us of Ireland's undulations," he remarks of the rugged lot they selected. Its landscape posed some challenges, including two ravines requiring extensive retaining walls to create a driveway, a setback requirement from the Olentangy River flowing along the back of the lot, and a host of variances and approvals needed from the township. Despite all of its requirements, it was their desired lot. "I pushed for it, it really spoke to me," she recalls.

To build the home, they chose Bob Webb Group after seeing and admiring their work over the years. With five bedrooms, six and a half baths, his and her offices, an upper level terrace and lower level theater room, the house is well-suited for working, entertaining and hosting overnight guests. The rear veranda is an integral part of the home's main floor with its ease of accessibility from several different rooms. The kitchen, gathering room and great room all provide their own access to optimize dining and entertaining on the veranda. His study and her master bathroom have doorways to the veranda as well for reaching the backyard retreat. From almost anywhere on the main floor, the veranda is just a step or two away. What you see from the veranda's vantage point are sweeping views of the property's meticulous gardens, lawn, mature woods and the Olentangy River just beyond. Sue Jacobs Grant of Jacobs Grant Design was the landscape architect who transformed the challenging landscape into a visual paradise. ➤➤

➤ Oval shapes repeat in the entry to the master suite, including a dome on the ceiling, a medallion on the floor and two leaded glass windows on both his and her bathroom walls. ➤ A gathering room is raised four steps above the kitchen and office areas. Over the mantle hangs a painting of a Paris street scene by Jens Kongshammer that the couple purchased from Brandt-Roberts Galleries.













## Combined styles

For the interior design, the couple chose to work with Pam Yost of Grand DesignGroup in Columbus. "Pam was with us from the very beginning, in all aspects of the materials picked for the house," she comments. "We worked with her for about three years, she was great." The home has mostly an "old world feel" of European styles combined with Indian influences. "It's just us," she says. "We blended both our backgrounds, it's seen throughout the house," he adds. The lower level has a more modern take, "modeled after a New York apartment," he says, evidenced by its clean lines and contemporary furnishings. The couple's world travels and affinity for art are showcased by various sculptures and artifacts displayed around the home, and paintings from Brandt-Roberts Galleries in Columbus and other galleries from cities around the country including Chicago and Miami.

Intriguing details about the home's construction include the foyer for the first floor master bedroom, with ambient lighting overhead from an oval dome trimmed with custom bent wood. A special oven was built onsite to heat and mold the wood trim to the precise curved shape of the dome's opening. Also, for the stairways, each hickory wood stair was custom built onsite by expert woodworker Perry Troyer from Bob Webb Group. The steel work on the stairs, by Suburban Steel, was custom designed by Pam Yost and Gary Bruck. ▶▶

6 The kitchen's island was designed to play a major role when the couple entertains family and friends. 7 Custom designed steel doors between the dining room and kitchen needed dedicated structural supports. 8 A statue of a Buddhist monk sits on a hall table and is reflected, along with the striking staircase, in an antique mirror.







## Details, details

Technical points of interest about the house include its geothermal heating and cooling system, hyper-insulation, 5,000 gallon rain catch system with drip irrigation, and a Smart technology system to remotely control all settings in the house. A lighting expert was used to masterfully light each area of the house, and each room has customized light settings controlled from the remote home system as well. "We wanted a very earth-friendly, energy efficient home. That was the goal," she remarks. ➡➡

9 A white abstract painting picked up in Chicago hangs in the front entry. The male homeowner's study is seen to the left. 10 Her office is located just steps away from the kitchen. 11 This painting in the master bedroom was purchased at the Columbus Arts Festival. 12 Kubera, an Indian god, stands in front of a black abstract painting in the upstairs hallway.













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With all the decision-making and two years of construction behind them now, the couple now enjoys every inch of their new home. "The final outcome did turn out the way we envisioned," he comments. "With a top class architect, builder, designers and subcontractors, we have no regrets and would not change anything." As far as the veranda goes, "April to October, that's where we spend more time than anywhere else in the house," she says. "It's my favorite room," he concludes. 🍷

## RESOURCES

**Architect:** Gary Bruck, of Sullivan Bruck Architects; **Builder:** Bob Webb Group, Project Coordinator-Tom Brown, Supervisor-Dave Otavi; **Designer:** Pam Yost of Grand DesignGroup, and David M. Berg Ltd., Terri Cain, Lombards; **Hickory stair:** Custom built by Perry Troyer, Bob Webb Group; **Banister:** Built by Bob Webb Group, Steel Work by Suburban Steel Supply, custom designed by Pam Yost and Gary Bruck; **Artwork:** Brandt-Roberts Galleries; **Flooring medallion in master suite:** Authentic Tile & Marble Co.; **Leaded glass in master suite, transoms and doors in study:** Franklin Art Glass; **Kitchen cabinetry:** Cooley Custom Cabinetry; **Appliances:** Builders Appliance Supply; **Lighting design:** Amanda Bennett, CD+M Lighting Design Group; **Home theatre, lighting and music automation:** Genesis Audio Ltd.; **Landscape architect:** Sue Jacobs Grant, Jacobs Grant Design; **Landscape lighting:** NiteLites; **Landscape install:** Yard Solutions; **Landscape maintenance:** MJ Design Associates; **Irrigation:** Rain Brothers; **Exterior stonework:** Richard Gibbons Masonry; **Window treatments:** Grand DesignGroup, David M. Berg Ltd., Sheri's at 5th Avenue

13 Like most of the rooms on the first level, her bathroom opens to the veranda. 14 A lower level entertainment area features cabinetry made of sustainable lpe wood. A billiards area, home theatre, exercise room, and spacious guest quarters are on this level as well. 15 Ambient light from an arched ceiling lends drama to the master bedroom.



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