

# DEFINING HOME RUSTIC ELEGANCE



Written by Valerie Ginsburg  
Photography by Todd Marchese



Vance and Terri Dobyms and their two girls enjoyed living on the lake. “We loved being lake people,” says Vance. “But there is something about being confined to a 100 by 300 foot lot. I just wanted space. I really enjoy being outdoors and being able to be outdoors with some privacy when I want it,” Vance explains.

The family’s previous home was a typical lake house where people hung out in the kitchen and the neighbors were in close proximity. Vance said it never really felt quite like home because it had been designed for someone else and didn’t really suit the family’s lifestyle of entertaining guests. He had his eye on the property for 20 years and snatched it up when he drove by it and saw a “For Sale” sign. Contracting with local Hot Springs building professionals and with the help of friends, Vance set out to build his family’s dream home.

The wooded backdrop and the stone entry with a stately front door makes for a comfortable and warm entry into the contemporary lodge house built by home-owner Vance Dobyms. Guests will forget they are in a new home because of the way it sits on the property.

Beamed ceilings and alder wood columns that match the alder wood kitchen cabinets are hints of the lodge feel the Dobyms’ were going for. An abundance of diffused light filters in through the French doors along the back of the house and makes the natural features in the home radiate warmth and welcome.



“My vision was rustic/elegant,” says Vance. “When people come in, I want them to feel comfortable where they are.”

Because guests like to hang out in the kitchen, he made sure that the kitchen is open to the living room and the dining room. Long-time friend and designer Cindy English placed the hutch/bar across from the kitchen that allows guests to use the space between the living room and the dining room and eliminating dead space.

Christmastime inspired Cindy to begin decorating. She started decorating for Christmas for herself and then friends. Soon it grew into helping friends with room makeovers and book shelf makeovers to give a fresh new look, which evolved into entire home makeovers. Cindy decorated the Doby's previous home and the new buyers bought everything but one bedroom set. So she got to start over and buy and place all new furniture and art for the Vance and Terri's new home. Cindy just completed a Tom Chandler Course on design that helped her refine her idea of symmetry. Cindy also likes to buy local. “We purchased the furniture and accessories from Hot Springs merchants,” says Cindy.

The kitchen is a balance of natural materials with rough-cut granite countertops on alder wood cabinets by McClain's Custom Cabinets contrasted with stainless appliances. A set of three amber Millennium Lighting hanging pendant fixtures that match the amber pendant that lights the foyer from MOR Electric add just enough color and a flair of art to the natural setting. Keeping with the lodge theme, Cindy suggested a huge bear rug for the expansive wall space between the 23 foot vaulted ceiling in the living room and the 10 foot ceiling in the dining room.

The wide open living room boasts a fireplace of Centurion Stone from Stoneworks LLC that reaches the heights of the vaulted 23 foot ceiling. The hardwood floors and the hardwood staircase that winds behind the fireplace to the loft area that overlooks the living area are from Clark's Building & Decorating Center.

From the loft, the elliptical window that tops the French Doors in the living room comes alive. An inspiration from Boca Raton, Florida, James Medley, owner of Medley's Drywall, created an illusion with curved peak above the window, moving across the loft the shadows change to make the shape of the peak look as if it is moving. The view from the top of the home and the outdoors is inspiring. “James was a great help. He went above and beyond to help me build this house,” says Vance.





French doors across the back of the house, from The Millworks Co., accentuate the wooded view and to give continuity across the back of the house which adds to the lodge feel of the home. The spacious master bedroom is home to exquisite paintings by Terri's mother. The only thing Terri insisted on was that her mother's paintings were hung where Terri could see them every day.

One particular painting that is close to Terri's heart is of the couple's daughters, Courtney and Brittney, walking on the beach into the water when they were little. Terri made Cindy promise that she would not move it from the wall between the shower and the rest of the bathroom. "Not only is Terri a client but also a close friend and I knew how much it meant to her," says Cindy. "I was concerned that it was too small for



facing page: Wide open spaces in the living room, dining room and kitchen allow guests to mill around and still feel connected to the action in the kitchen. The loft area and bear rug lend to the lodge feel of the home. Hunter ceiling fan is from Mor Electric.

top: The modern picnic style dining room table and elegant chairs contrast antler chandelier in the dining room for the rustic-elegant look Vance and Terri envisioned.

bottom: Alder wood cabinets from McClain's Custom Cabinets, and the Amber colored Millennium Lighting fixture provide warmth to the kitchen.



left: The furniture-like details of the custom cabinets and rough-cut granite counter tops are visible. Colorful art glass and stainless appliances modernize the rustic kitchen.

top: Close-up view of drawer pulls from The Millworks Co. and rough-cut granite.

bottom: Drawer pulls are from The Millworks Co. and the hardwood floor is from Clarks Building & Decorating Center.



the space,” says Cindy. “So I attached it to a large mirror to fill the space and increase the light.”

When it was time to hang the art in the house, Cindy, Vance and the girls completed the project in one day while Terri was away. “Terri was so thrilled when she got home that she was overwhelmed,” says Cindy.

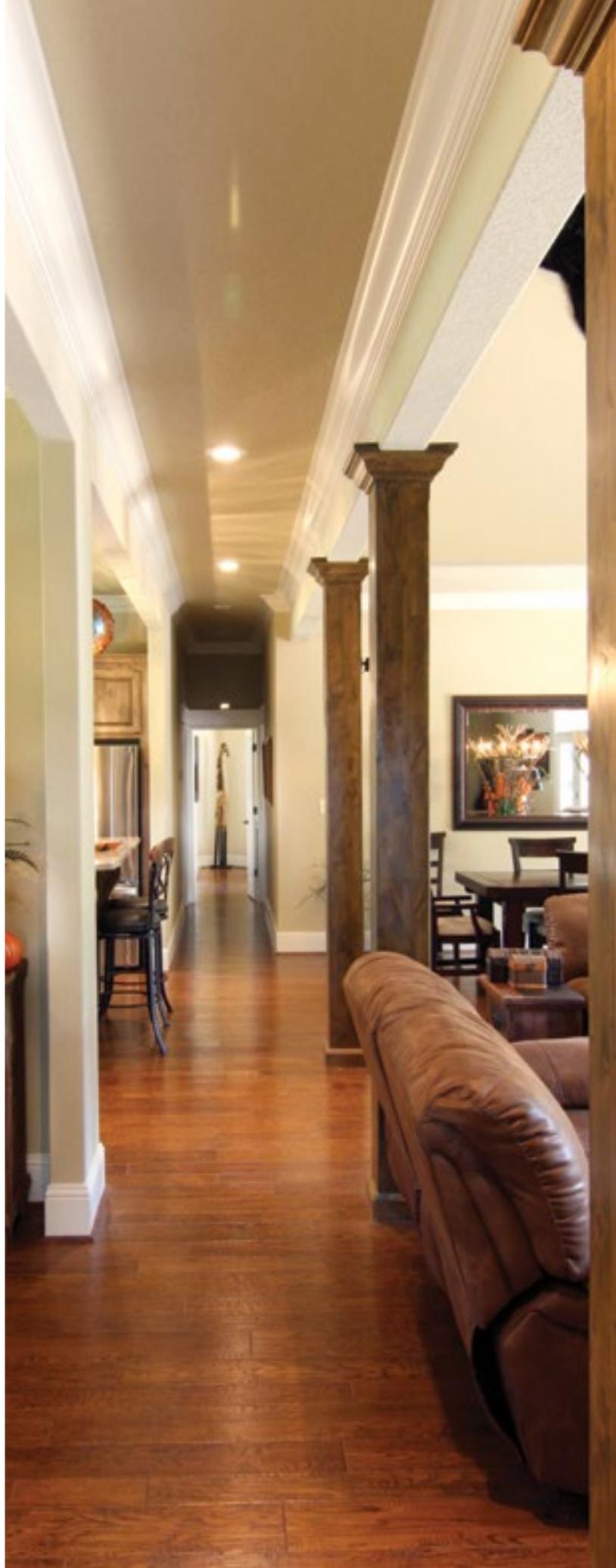
The tile in the master bath, on the floor and in the walk-through shower that is open from both sides, is from Hot Springs Hardwood. “Michelle and Pam really know their business inside and out. They were a great help,” says Vance.

A few more of Terri’s mother’s paintings line the hall that leads to the girls’ rooms. Cindy took the girls shopping and helped them decorate their rooms. Each bedroom includes a bathroom for the teen-age girls’ privacy. The girls also helped choose the granite tops for their bathroom vanities.

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right: Crown moulding from The Millworks Co. lends to the elegance of the home and contrasts the warm hardwood floors and alder wood columns.

left: Cindy hung a beloved painting of the children by Terri’s mother on a mirror to fill the wall space. The tile floor and in the walk-through shower is from Hot Springs Hardwood.



A hidden passageway accessible from the garage leads to Vance's man cave where he keeps his memorabilia and collections. His goal is to fill the walls with memorabilia. It is meant to be an entertaining space to hang out with friends and play his bass guitar or just decompress.

To keep the house comfortable, Vance chose a Carrier Green Speed Infinity Series Heat Pump unit from Carpenter Heating and Air. The unit includes three thermostats located throughout the house and remote access. Vance and Terri can operate the unit from anywhere in the United States where there is internet.

Vance and owner Greg Carpenter have known each other for quite a while. Greg and his father started the family business in 1991 servicing all the Cooper homes in Hot Springs Village. Greg says he has been installing the Green Speed Infinity unit for three years with a 100 percent guarantee and has had no go-backs. In the first year of installing the system the difference in the electric bill makes up the cost difference.

The eight-and-a-half foot deep pool by Yarborough Pools is a place of amusement for the family and friends. "Yarborough Pools are such perfectionist that they make sure the water is level across the pool, and they are the nicest guys you ever met," says Vance. The family enjoys having friends over and the back yard is built for that very purpose. The covered deck extends the length of the house with plenty of room for guests to meander.

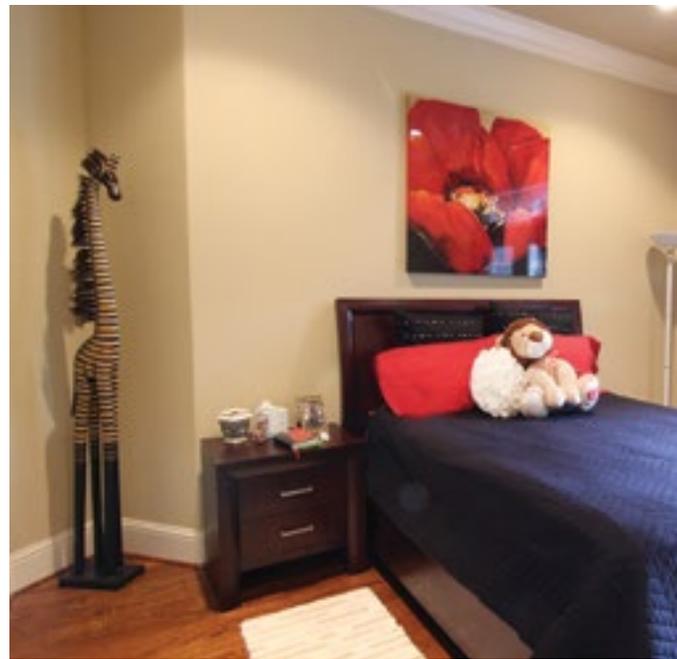
Around the front of the house guests are welcomed with a flag stone porch by Stoneworks LLC and cedar columns. The cedar was originally meant for use as the living room columns, but when Vance saw them with the alder wood kitchen cabinets as the back drop he decided to use alder wood for the columns.

"I'll tell you one thing you can't buy is your neighbors and the neighborhood. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful during the process from helping to clear trees to bringing picnic lunches when we were here working on the weekend," says Vance. "This is home. I'm staying here."

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right: Stairs to the loft wind behind the stone fireplace chimney from Stoneworks LLC.





top left: The man cave includes a red leather sofa and is a place for Vance's memorabilia including trophies from his off-shore power boat racing and Best Chopper award in the Easy Rider Bike Show, a jackalope, a prized guitar, and concert memorabilia.

top right: Bright colors and a tall giraffe basket in the natural light in the bedroom.

bottom: An elegant bedroom set luxuriates in the master bedroom bathed in natural light.





above: The deck extends the length of the house. Materials from Clarks Building & Decorating Center.

below: View of the back of the home, dual staircases support the flow of guests during large gatherings. – Pool by Yarbrough Pools, Roof by Final Touch Roofing, Hunter ceiling fans from Mor Electric. Stone work on the front of the home by Stoneworks LLC.



# Resource Guide

Cindy English  
Designer

Carpenter Heating & Air  
**501-767-5197 • 501-922-9114**  
Carrier Green Speed Infinity Series  
Heat Pump

Clarks Building & Decorating Center  
**501-262-2288**  
Flooring & Decking

Final Touch Roofing  
**501-622-7474**  
Roofing

Hot Springs Hardwood & Supply  
**501-767-8664**  
Flooring and Tile

McClain's Custom Cabinets  
**501-767-2007**  
Custom Cabinetry

Medley's Drywall  
**501-627-5665**  
Drywall, Elliptical Window

The Millwork Co.  
**501-318-0919**  
Windows, Doors, Trim, Moulding,  
Hardware

MOR Electric  
**501-624-5577**  
Lighting Fixtures, Ceiling Fans

Stoneworks LLC  
**501-812-0003**  
Stone work on fireplace and front  
exterior

Yarborough Pools  
**501-762-3023**  
Pool

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