

21ST CENTURY TENNESSEE FARM

Master Builder Achieves Classic Patina

Written by Gloria Houghland / Photographed by Emily Followill



There are few more gorgeous vistas than those of the gently rolling hills along the winding Duck River in south central Tennessee. Fifty miles from the hustle and bustle of downtown Nashville in Bedford County, locals have established such iconic festivals and events as the Moon Pie Festival in Bell Buckle, the Wartrace MusicFest and, of course, the renowned Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. The peaceful lifestyle here, dubbed by some as a place “where time stood still,” attracts legions of tourists, some of whom arrive but ultimately decide to never leave.

This is the story of just such a couple. Retiring from the stress-filled life as CFO of a multi-national company and seeking a bucolic locale where they could play a responsible role in the environment, they opted for 400 acres in the countryside rather than the typical country club existence. Having two grown, married sons and three grandchildren, who visit often, they wanted a space where everyone would feel welcome. The husband envisioned a working farm: the wife dreamt of preparing farm to table meals from a carefully tended garden. They were introduced to builder Craig Huseby of Huseby Homes by legendary landscape guru, Ben Page of Nashville’s Page Duke Landscape Architects, who assisted in the master planning of the farm. Page understood that they were

seeking the highest quality general contractor available. From his introduction to Huseby, they began assembling their team.

Craig Huseby and his wife, Nichole, founded Huseby Homes twenty years ago. Craig’s grandfather was a residential builder and developer who imparted a standard of quality that is endangered in our present building culture. For a time it seemed as though Craig might follow in his footsteps. But, in college, Craig considered becoming a teacher, to do something he hoped would lead to a life of loftier conviction. Then, in 1992 he met Nichole and they knew they wanted to unite her artistic gifts with his inherent passion for building, so together; in 1998 they began to build the next generation of Huseby Homes.

“I realized that behind every countertop, every finish, every desire to reach perfection, there is a family. We personally impact, not only our clients, but our collaborators and our employees. We could also use our talents to impact our community. I knew then that I had found my purpose-driven vocation,” confided Huseby. It was this commitment to principle and responsibility that attracted the owners to Huseby’s award-winning company, as they were quite serious about making a difference as well in this new chapter of their lives.





And so it began. Once the team assembled to discuss the project, they initially considered renovating the property's existing home, built in the 1800s. But Huseby, who specializes in remodeling as well as new construction, quickly helped them rule out that possibility. "The most noteworthy feature of the existing home was an Italianate classical entablature that spanned the front porch, but unfortunately it was in a state of deep disrepair. And there were just not enough interior architectural features to justify remodeling," he explained. With the help of architect, Steven Fuller and Interior Designer Barbara Westbrook, they set about designing a Neo Classical Southern farmhouse which would exude the character of an older home.

The three stories of brick and siding, wrap-around porches, floor-to-ceiling windows and a porte-cochere connect to a three-

car garage; evoke a rambling, plantation estate quality that would have been lovingly added to over generations. The more formal circular drive and brick walkway to the home's front door provide an elevated flare to the rustic charm of the all-white, classical farmhouse. Completed less than two years ago, the home's elegant simplicity lends itself to a timeless informal family feel which was precisely what the owners had in mind.

The layout of this 9,000-square-foot home, originated by Architect Stephen Fuller, (14,000 if you count the abundance of porches and breezeways) is traditional and enduring. The classical moldings, the curved staircase and the replicated, arched-room entryways throughout the house, all add to its transcendence. "We are the exception in Middle TN as we employ a team of true craftsmen rather than relying solely on subcontractors," Huseby noted.





