



The Ideal

Above: The bright living area has a 12-foot wide door wall that reveals a relaxing view of Poppleton Park. Below: Rose and Brian Bolyard display their wine cellar tucked under the stairway and enclosed behind a unique door gifted by Brian's parents.



“Starter” Home

Birmingham Home Tour
features newlyweds' house.

By Susan Kehoe, Ph.D.

Photography by Jerry Zolynsky

Nestled in the thriving family area of Poppleton Park, at the corner of Wimbleton Drive and Abbey Street, lies a charming house for newly married couple Brian and Rose Bolyard.

Brian, the fourth-generation son of the Bolyard Lumber family, found the empty lot and worked with his father, Jake, to build the house before he ever met Rose. But he left the decorating to her and between them they created a tour de force that will be featured in the Birmingham Home Tour on Sept. 24.

The custom home has a striking classic American exterior,
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Clockwise from top left: House exterior designed in classic American style. Kitchen has custom cabinets made from eco-friendly Lyptus, and quartz and granite countertops. Study with coffered ceiling and custom paneling in Knotty Alder wood demonstrates Traditional European styling. Expansive master bath with barrel ceiling and arched privacy window above the tub.

designed by the Martini-Samartino Design Group. But as you step inside, you may be surprised to find the choice of transitional European styling. The first impression is one of light radiating from large custom windows in the foyer and a direct view to the 12-foot-wide door wall overlooking a quiet area of Poppleton Park on the far end of the house.

The flowing layout creates the feeling that this 2,800-square-foot house is bigger than it appears. Tall cased archways delineate the rooms while the 5-inch, rift-cut white oak floors unite them with a sense of homey intimacy.

The main room, bathed in the light from the door wall and windows, houses a television mounted in a nook on the Fond du Lac stone fireplace, the same stone on the exterior's facade. The living area opens to the kitchen where arches echo in prep areas, and pieces from Rose's Mackenzie Childs Parchment Check collection blend fun with elegance.

In the mixed woods kitchen design, quartz countertops highlight rich, red-brown cabinets made from Lyptus, a sustainable wood species. Granite sits atop a light-colored island of distressed, glazed wood. The well-crafted cabinets, which also conceal the refrigerator and freezer, appear to be an extension of the living room furniture as the spaces intermingle.

A hallway punctuated with cased arches leads to the study from the kitchen. The walk-through houses a butler's pantry, complete with icemaker, refrigerator and sink, as well as a large walk-in pantry.

"This area is especially helpful when entertaining large family gatherings and friends," Rose says.

Rich Knotty Alder wood paneling brings the full influence of European Transitional style in the study, which is complemented by a dramatic coffered ceiling. This room opens to the foyer to complete the subtle, circular flow of the first floor, where you can easily envision a toddler riding a tricycle from room to room.

The two-story foyer staircase with a high-pan ceiling leads upstairs to the Jack-and-Jill bedrooms and master suite. Large windows march up the steps, flooding the inside with light and providing a brilliant beacon on the outside. Upper balcony shelves display wedding gifts and favorite items.

Archways shape the entryway that opens into the master suite with tall, stepped ceilings. Double doors with frosted glass lead to the spacious five-piece ensuite with a barrel ceiling and a walk-in closet spacious enough for use as a fourth bedroom. All of the private areas have coated, custom glass windows.

A finished lower level brings the usable space to

4,000 square feet. A small wine cellar slipped under the staircase houses the beginnings of a wine collection. The door enclosing the room is remarkable in its unusual black nickel and glass design. Rumor has it that there is a hidden room disguised behind a secret door, but it remains a mystery.

This brand new home oozes with character, from its custom moldings and archways to stepped, pan and barrel ceilings throughout. To personalize the interior, Rose uses enlarged photos of the couple's vacations to Paris, Greece, Rome and Tuscany and mementos from their first years traveling together.

This house is a showcase of what can be done to create a comfortable yet chic home for a professional couple just starting out. **NS**

The Community House (TCH) Birmingham House Tour takes place on Sept. 24 and features this home and six others, ranging in style from traditional to contemporary. Hours are from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 the day of the tour. If you want to make a day of it, you can purchase a ticket with lunch at TCH for \$55 (\$60 the day of the tour). Lunch is served on the terrace, weather permitting, between 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Contact TCH, 380 S. Bates St., Birmingham, (249) 644-5832, www.tchserver.org.