

ARTS & STYLE

By Carol McGarvey, Photography by Tim Abramowitz

An Arts and Crafts home in Polk City exudes warmth, freshness, and timelessness.

One of the earmarks of the Arts and Crafts style is its close tie to nature—leaf, tree, stylized flower, and dragonfly motifs, along with organic colors of brown, mustard, terra-cotta, and mossy green. With its woodsy setting and ginormous windows, a home in Polk City carries out the theme beautifully.

The homeowners, both central Iowa natives, lived and worked out of state for 17 years. When they moved back six years ago, they looked at various outlying areas around Des Moines before deciding on the development around the Tournament Club of Iowa (TCI) at Polk City.

Process Worked Well

They had found a house plan online they kept tweaking and going back to and interviewed three builders. "It was so important that we trust our builder since we would be building from a distance of 1,200 miles," the wife explains. "We flew back every few weeks during the process." They chose K&V Homes because their personalities clicked with co-owner Colin King. With lots of calls, emails, and sending photos back and forth, the system worked well.

"Before building this house, we did our homework on the Arts and Crafts style," King says. "It has become a popular style because it is timeless. Yes, this is a new home, but it feels as if it has been here for awhile. It has so much character."

He says the building process worked well, even with the distance issues. "They provided pictures of what they had in mind, and we implemented their dreams. We all worked together beautifully."

With massive windows overlooking woods, an Arts and Crafts home in Polk City lives up to the style's mission of being close to nature.



The home, a walkout ranch with about 3,200 square feet on each floor, has become a lovely haven for the couple and their daughter. The floor plan offers open spaces, yet each room is defined. The living room's story-and-a-half configuration plays directly to the woods behind the home. With oversize windows, plus banks of windows high at the clerestory level above the front entry and the back of the living room, the room is bathed in light. It adds a glow to the large amount of quartersawn oak, also a signature of the style.

Because of the height of the entry area, the owners used oversize accessories brought from their previous home. On one wall two large antique wheel forms add interest. A four-foot-square textured ceiling tile from an old hotel on the facing wall is a conversation starter. Walls were finished with the skip-trowel technique, which gives a rich texture.

Fireplace Focal Point

The floor-to-ceiling wood-front fireplace is the focal point of the living room. To break up the wood, the homeowners commissioned panels of stained glass with a tree-branch design to be inset as an artful touch. In a nod to contemporary living, a flat-screen TV is behind the glass panels.

Old and new Stickley furniture pieces, including classic sofas with wood arms and wood and leather side chairs, lend a welcoming look. Vibrant-looking rugs with stylized motifs add color underfoot, and the living room walls are a mellow macadamia color, a soft wheat tone.



Clockwise from above: The home's curved footprint fits beautifully in the lot at Tournament Club of Iowa in Polk City. • The open floor plan, here showing the entry, living room, dining room, and kitchen is great for entertaining. • Stained glass panels on the quarter-sawn oak fireplace hide a big-screen TV. • Outside the dining room are an open porch and a screened porch. • The kitchen has a classic look, but also contemporary efficiency.





The Mission-style look is a compromise for the couple. "My taste tends to be a little more contemporary, and my husband likes a more traditional look, so we met on this style and enjoy it," the wife explains. "Plus, from having lived on the East Coast, we have a number of antiques from that area, including a pie safe, some crocks, and slipware plates. They blend nicely with the Arts and Crafts style."

The open kitchen features quartersawn oak cabinetry, granite counters, and a two-level island. It opens onto the dining room,

which has deep brown walls. Out the dining room one direction is an open eating porch. Out another direction is a screened porch, perfect for when bugs arrive. The inviting porch can be used during all four seasons because it has windows which that can come out and just have screens; plus, it has an insulated floor. Also, there's a floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace, perfect for warming things up on chilly evenings. Built-in stone benches around the perimeter provide more seating for gatherings. Teak chairs and tables are on both porches.

Clockwise from above: The porch, with windows, screens, and a stone fireplace, can be enjoyed all year. • The bar area, in a corner of the living room, is perfect for parties. • Large antique wheel forms add interest to the entry.



Master Suite

The master suite, off the living room, also has a small covered porch, a perfect spot for morning coffee, and a sitting room with a leather love seat and a computer desk. The master bath is chock-full of storage—cabinetry under two vanity sinks and mirrors and a tall storage unit between them. The suite also has a walk-in master closet and a wall of built-in dresser storage. The master bedroom has a four-poster walnut bed, deep brown walls, and a bank of huge windows. The couple has talked of installing window treatments, but with solid woods and being on the second level, they prefer the spare look.

In another bedroom wing is their daughter's fun and funky room, full of pink, orange, and lime green accents and even a hanging mesh swing from Mexico. A Jack and Jill bathroom opens from both her room and an inviting guest room.

On the home's lower level are an office, another guest room, exercise room, recreation room space, and a workshop.

As the TCI continues to develop, the family has found exactly what they want as a great spot to raise their daughter. Among the pluses are a grade school a few blocks away, lots of youngsters in the area, and a progressive dinner party at the holidays that adds a lovely neighborhood feel. ■

Want to see more? Go to WelcomeHomeDesMoines.com to see additional photos of this Arts and Crafts home.



This page, above: The master bath is full of built-in storage. • The walk-in shower, with classic tile, is beautiful and practical, with easy-to-clean windows.

Opposite page, top: The Arts and Crafts style blends easily with East Coast antiques, including a pie safe and slipware plates and stone crocks. • The master bedroom takes on a restful feel with its natural canopy of trees.

