

A Custom Touch of History

By Tracy Dickinson | Photography by Tim Abramowitz

On a street of typical brick executive homes, the house at the end of the cul-de-sac stands out. Not because of its extravagance, but because it looks like it's been on that site for generations. For HomeShowExpo 2009, K&V Homes designed a home that incorporates all the best of a historic farmhouse with the comfort and amenities worthy of a golf-course view.

"The homeowners wanted a house that suited their lifestyle," says Dean Vogel of K&V Homes. "They wanted a home that provided outdoor living practically year-round, but they also wanted it to feel like a family home, not a show home."

As always, K&V surpassed the clients' expectations, combining the homeowners' wish list and budget into the home of their dreams.



This photo: The kitchen's espresso-stained cabinetry and granite countertops marry the old with the new.

Below: The home's wide front porch and soft colors welcome homeowners and guests alike.
Right: Tucked between the kitchen and family room, a private deck overlooks the pool.



Wrapped in light

From the moment you step on the wide front porch, you feel yourself relaxing, recalling the days of porch swings and Sunday afternoon walks. Even the exterior of the home is refreshing, with its natural stone and the soft sea-green and cream paint.

Inside, the home seems to open its arms to welcome you. Filled with light, even on an overcast day, each room offers views of green space and the nearby golf course. The breezeway/mudroom between the main entrance and the garage has windows on both sides, overlooking the rear patio and the covered front porch. With its cozy tile floor and cushioned window seat, the space whispers of lazy afternoons with a good book and a cat curled nearby.

Throughout the main level, wide-plank floors in a rich finish recall century-old farmsteads and provide a warmth that accents the light painted trim and the espresso-stained cabinetry that graces most of the rooms on this floor. The combination is a nod to Colonial design, and K&V added wainscoting and ceiling accents to enhance that impression. The grand, two-story entry hall further reinforces the historic feel without overwhelming.

“We included some pretty neat features in just about every room,” Vogel explains, “so even though it feels like a historic house, it lives like a modern one.” The study, for example, includes a separate file room, a pantry-style area with built-in file drawers and work surface in the same custom finish as the rest of the cabinetry.





And in the kitchen, contemporary touches like a granite-topped dining island and separate bar with wine cooler are softened by the antique-style cabinetry and mullioned windows overlooking the patio and deck. A separate, walk-in pantry with sliding door offers additional storage.

The kitchen also provides access to a screened porch with fireplace, allowing for bug-free respite in summer and outdoor enjoyment on into the fall. The natural-surface flooring and weather-resistant furnishings give the family a cool place to enjoy those sultry Iowa days when they're not taking advantage of the pool just outside.

Yesterday and today

Like most of yesterday's traditional homes, all the bedrooms are situated on the second level, including two on the north end of the house that share a Jack-and-Jill bath. But as in many contemporary designs, the upper floor is also home to the laundry area. And this one is no hidden workroom. Offering built-in drying racks, a wealth of cupboard space, granite countertops, and windows with a magnificent view out the back, this is a room that might even take the drudgery out of ironing.

The master suite, located at the south end of the second level, beautifully expresses the K&V approach to this design. All the expected features are there—the soaking tub, separate shower, dual sinks, and closets—but it's the creative touches that make it a unique space. From the soothing feel of the stone-tile floor in the bathroom to the tray ceiling and rich trim details, the suite combines style and comfort perfectly.

Left: Cabinet details in the family room coordinate with the adjoining kitchen and dining area.

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A team with history
K&V Homes has been designing custom homes for more than a decade, and together, Colin King and Dean Vogel have more than 25 years' experience in the industry. Yet they manage to create truly unique homes rather than houses that have that "K&V look."
"We really take time to get to know every one of our clients," King says. "Whether it's Dean or I who heads up the project, we make sure the relationship is established with us as a team. And there's no middleman or project manager who takes over after the initial contact. When a homeowner hires K&V Homes, they get us."
It's this personal foundation that enables the team to turn dreams into reality—because they've taken the time to get to know their clients and can design a home that suits each one's individual lifestyle. That's how they've achieved a 100% customer satisfaction record. And that's why they can say, "When you choose K&V Homes, you get more than a beautiful home. You get your home." ■

This page: A spacious first floor office and its adjoining file room are rich with custom details. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** Light fills the breezeway/mudroom between the garage and the main entry, making the area truly usable living space.
• Cabinet details add historic character to the master bath. • An arched ceiling between the two-story entry hall and dining area enhances the historic detailing of the home.
• Built-in drying racks and tile counters give a luxury feel to the second floor laundry room.

