



Builder's CHOICE

INSPIRED BY THE WIDE-OPEN SPACES AND
NATURAL COLORS OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS,
HOMEOWNERS SHERRY AND DAMON CHRISTOFILIS ENJOY
THE CONTEMPORARY FARMHOUSE CHARM OF THEIR
LATEST CORDILLERA RANCH HOME CREATION.

By **Janis Turk** | Photography by **Chris Mendiola**



WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY LOVE BEST ABOUT THEIR home at Cordillera Ranch in Boerne, Sherry and Damon Christofilis say it's the stunning Texas Hill Country vistas and close proximity to the golf course that are its biggest draws.

But they're being modest, for Damon actually designed and built their current residence, which doubles as a model home for his business, Christofilis Custom Homes. In fact, there are so many things Damon and Sherry love about the house, it'd be impossible to list them all. It's but one of eight homes they have designed, built and lived in at Cordillera Ranch over the years.

The couple's keen focus on new home building remains grounded in their deep personal connection to the Hill Country landscapes, explains Damon. Leaning on earthy materials awash in the textures and colors of the country, juxtaposed against modern design elements, their home offers a glimpse of the myriad directions homeowners can go with design choices.

Christofilis has been involved in the design and construction of more than 130 custom homes in this sprawling gated community, and the couple has lived in Cordillera Ranch since 2003. For the past year, they have resided in this four-bedroom, four-and-a-half bathroom, 4,700-square-foot home, set on a one-acre lot, with a pool, a three-car garage, laundry room, office, two indoor living rooms and two outdoor living spaces.



"Our vision for this house was a 'transitional' home reflective of the current trends in today's Hill Country homes, but that also leans toward modern design," says Sherry.

Damon wanted it to merge seamlessly into the ruggedly beautiful natural landscape. To achieve that, he began with the judicious use of reclaimed barnwood and other textures and materials, including stained timber and beams in the ceilings of the front and back patios, the use of window awnings made of hardy metals, and lots of light-giving aluminum clad, JELD-WEN Steel Grey wood windows, along with Texas limestone and other native elements.

While intent on making the space comfortable, casual and





livable, as well as perfect for entertaining, the interior design employs light neutral colors, natural limestone, glass and wood textures, and cool gleaming marble countertops, as well as soft textiles.

“The overall interior concept was to tie in with the exterior flavor and blend in with our mostly existing furniture. We were trying to be modern without being over-the-top contemporary, which would seem a little out of place in the Hill Country environment. So, we kept the bones of the house simple and basic, and that allowed Sherry to mix in the transitional feel with her wonderful touches and accessorizing,” says Damon. Theirs is a joint dedication to luxury design that arose from their collaboration with the very capable decorator, Barbara Burger.

Overlooking the 14th tee box of the Cordillera Ranch Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, the house’s uniquely interesting features begin out front where the home beguiles visitors with lush landscaping and pops of bright colorful flowers. Set against the neutral natural stone, metal, glass and barnwood materials, the color palate was inspired by the cedar, cypress and juniper colors of the Hill Country, the blue cloud-filled South Texas skies and the ruddy warm colors of the earth.

Enter the home’s foyer with towering 14-foot ceilings, clean, pale off-white walls and warm hardwood floors, and

one instantly understands this house is special. Above the entry, an intricate barnwood ceiling design creates interest and a farmhouse flair.

Opening to a large living area, kitchen and dining room, guests are drawn in to a serene space. A floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace centers the main living room, lifting the eye to grand 25-foot-long Douglas fir beams in the ceiling. Flanked by built-in shelves and cabinetry, the fireplace looks utterly modern.

Softer touches found in the textiles and furnishings give the home a comfortable, cozy yet clean feeling. Contemporary end tables and shiny silver art accessories seem fresh and modern. It works well when design elements combine an array of hard edges, soft curves and inviting lighting. A wall of floor-to-ceiling windows draws attention to blue skies outside — the only really vibrant color the room requires.

Off the main living space is a gleaming open-concept kitchen. Colorado Silver honed travertine floors create a backdrop



for a space showcasing a large, sleek marble island with a waterfall edge. A farmhouse sink and lots of storage in the custom cabinetry below the island are just a few of the ways the kitchen is both beautiful and useful. The kitchen features 12-foot-tall European-style, full-overlay cabinets and lighted display shelves, with a four-burner Wolf® Range featuring a large central griddle, a Sub-Zero® refrigerator hidden by custom cabinetry and double ovens along one wall that contain



both a convection oven and a steam convection. “We have the microwave set back in a granite cabinet, as I don’t like to see appliances on the countertops,” Sherry says.

A dining table sits adjacent to the kitchen with windows overlooking the outdoor living spaces and pool. “We have two distinct outdoor living spaces,” explains Sherry. “One is more casual and informal for grilling, chilling and watching television. The other is a little more formal where we will host friends for dinner out on the covered patio listening to the water.”

Another favorite space in the home is the bar and television game room. “That’s where everyone wants to hang; it has an icemaker and a wine fridge, too, along with three televisions for watching games for different teams at the same time or watching different sports,” says Sherry. An arresting mosaic effect of wood, glass and tile covers the front of the bar.

Other inviting rooms include the spacious master bedroom and ensuite bath, awash in cool neutral colors and minimalist styling. “We have three guest rooms, but one of those is used as our workout space. It even has a full bath with a beautiful view,” says Sherry.

A warm, masculine office space with leather furnishings is Damon’s domain, where the inspiration for the next Christofilis Custom Home comes to life. ♦

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