



# UNIFIED VISION, TIMELESS APPEAL

By **ASHLEY FESTA** | Photography by **RACHEL KAY, APPLEBOX IMAGING**

**A builder and a designer made merry with a design that brought home nine awards in the San Antonio 2013 Spring Parade of Homes™.**

Wayne Moravits, of Monticello Homes, and Mary DeWalt, of Mary DeWalt Design Group, invoked their innermost creative talents for this home, which was featured in the Parade of Homes™ held in Cibolo Canyons. The home earned eight individual awards, including Best Floor Plan and Best Interior Design, plus the coveted President's Award, given to the most outstanding residence.





DeWalt's color and texture choices support Moravits' vision for a unified flow of spaces, both inside the home and out

**B**ecause this home was built without a buyer's custom decisions, Moravits and DeWalt catered to their own whimsy to create the warm contemporary elegance found throughout the house. "We were willing to take risks," says Moravits. "You would either love it, or you wouldn't understand what it's all about." Though no one supervised their choice of materials, flooring, colors, textures and fabrics, the two did work within some restraints.

"You want to make sure what you're doing will have market acceptance, but at same time you don't want it to be trite and typical," says DeWalt. "We try to show emerging trends in everything we do, but at the same time not have it be so far in the future that people don't relate to it."

To accomplish that task, DeWalt, along with her assistant designer Kate Souquette, took on the challenge of creating a contemporary design that's warm and inviting rather than cold

and sterile. By weaving cozy colors throughout the modern details, DeWalt achieved her goal.

"You have a whole package that's innovative and new and fresh, but at the same time is comfortable for the consumer," she says.

Moravits' objective was also to create a comfortable space for all who live there. Keeping in mind current trends, Moravits wanted to build a home that offers privacy while maintaining an open floor plan.

"This house was designed for the multigenerational family, with different generations living together that probably lived apart at some point," Moravits says. "If you look at what's happening today, kids grow up, then kids come back. Then you may have an elderly parent that lives with you."

To appeal to families that need extra privacy, Moravits designed the home around a central courtyard which offers a transitional space going to the casita, or guesthouse. The casita living area is





structurally attached to the home, but features a kitchenette and a separate entrance, offering added privacy for a guest, child or parent who may lodge there, either for short visits or longer stays. The courtyard also blends indoor and outdoor living areas.

DeWalt's color and texture choices support Moravits' vision for a unified flow of spaces, both inside the home and out. One of her favorite elements is the recurring zigzag pattern. From the floor to the walls to the accents, the pattern adds drama to each room.

Take the unique backsplash in the kitchen, for example. The zigzag tile from Palmer Todd is an Artistic Tile *éclat gris* ("gray luster" in French) material hand-carved in India. The zero-grout tile creates the effect of being one integrated piece.

Similarly, the Mohawk® Stage Pointe herringbone tile floor in Stormy Gray in the kitchen and great room keeps the pattern flowing into multiple spaces.

The pattern doesn't stop at the door, either. DeWalt's well-chosen accents carry the theme outside.

"People don't always take indoor and outdoor space into account when choosing materials," she says. "The chevron pattern (on the outdoor pillows) reinforces the zigzag pattern inside the house, creating a continuous flow all the way through."

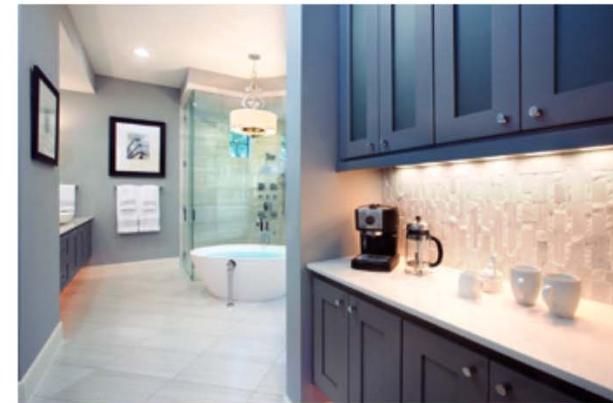
Not only do patterns maintain harmony throughout the home, but color also draws the eye from one space to the next, tying them together for a finished look.

Shades of cool gray are offset with splashes of warm accents. In the great room and kitchen, the master bath and bedroom, the media room and wet bar, and even outdoors in the courtyard and poolside, corals and oranges liven up each space, chasing away the cold that can sometimes settle in with a contemporary look.

DeWalt's reason for the pattern and color repetition is simple: "It makes it more memorable."

Certainly memorable in the great room is the unusual light fixture by David Trubridge. Seemingly floating in the room, the crisscross ball brings attention to the layered ceiling. The outside is natural wood, but the "added treat was the inside being painted orange," DeWalt says. "It brings in color without being glitzy. It has that organic, natural look to it. You want people to say 'Oh wow, look at that.' We like to have something that's unique in every room."

DeWalt also wanted a unique quality in the media room, but this time, she was going for the glitz.





creates a bold look with clean lines. The shower, with two Moen® Series 90 Degree faucets and a four-faucet body spray system, provides an indulgent spa experience every single day.

To keep the modern design warm and inviting, Moravits wrapped the shower around the tub. “It evokes a Hollywood look,” says DeWalt.

The unusual fireplace in the great room also warms up the home, literally and figuratively. The refreshing, beach-inspired tile is from Stone Solutions in San Antonio. “It looks like the wind blowing across the sand,” says DeWalt. “It’s really simple and classic looking.” And it’s more than just a pretty feature — sealed gas units generate an enormous amount of heat at the flip of a switch.

You’d never guess this was the first time DeWalt and Moravits worked together on a home, thanks to their unified vision for the project.

“We controlled the entire experience,” says Moravits of working with DeWalt without having a buyer upfront. But they weren’t worried about finding a taker, and it didn’t take long for someone to snatch it up. “The buyer says it’s the absolute perfect environment,” thanks to ample natural light and the comfortable flow of spaces.

“It’s timeless in its appeal,” says Moravits. “There’s nothing trendy about this house.” ❖

**BUILDER** Monticello Homes  
210.479.1978 | [Monticellohomes.com](http://Monticellohomes.com)

**DESIGNER** Mary DeWalt Design Group  
512.236.0017 | [Marydewaltdesigngroup.com](http://Marydewaltdesigngroup.com)

“Dark walls, bright coral pillows, graphic artwork — it’s a dark room, but has contrast with the white pillows, ottomans and light carpet,” she says. “The bar area has shiny, reflective tile on the backsplash, giving it a sparkly quality.”

Another room that boasts a memorable feature is the master suite, with its dramatic built-in — bookcase, television area, desk and plenty of storage space — that covers an entire wall. The built-in combines the utility of a den with the private retreat of the bedroom, creating a space that’s as useful as it is stylish.

Moravits and DeWalt continued the theme of contemporary elegance into the master bath with its luxurious, spa-inspired décor. A shower built for two and a freestanding tub create a focal point. Despite its simplicity, the tub, an MTI® Series Alissa 3,