





A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

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We'd all love to build a home exactly the way we desire. The difference between Steve Weaver and the rest of the world is, he had the tools, the knowledge and the assistance to do so.

With the help of local architect Jeff Jeannette, the 45-year-old owner of Weaver Builders Inc. and his wife Marie created and designed a 3,600 livable square-foot Craftsman home featuring four bedrooms, four-and-a-half bathrooms, two offices, an enclosed patio, a personal gym and a garage tall enough to stack two automobiles. Weaver used aesthetics created by Charles and Henry Greene, Frank Lloyd Wright and furniture maker Gustav Stickley as a roadmap to blend turn-of-the-century design with subtle modern touches. The result is a combination of old and new that has dog walkers and joggers asking for tours on a regular basis.

"Due to our combined efforts and techniques," Weaver says, "we've created a home that is as good as what was built in the early 1900s. People take pictures and comment on the character of our home."

"We wanted to build like they built in the early 1900s."

– Steve Weaver

The design team of Greene & Greene – along with Weaver's mother, who had a penchant for Stickley furniture – were major influences in the construction of the Weavers' residence. The brothers are known for their asymmetrical design, which includes Japanese-inspired roof-lines with slight rises, joinery, lanterns, art glass and the use of stones, bricks and wood, all of which are present in the house. The Greens and their creations became popular in the early 1900s, but the burgeoning mid-century modern movement made Craftsman homes nearly worthless a few decades after their halcyon days.

Weaver, who resides in his Belmont Park home with son Tyler and wife Marie, describes himself as a "detail guy" and it's easy to see why. With the goal being a home that looked like a restoration and not a new creation, the



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team commissioned an artist to craft more than 100 copper interior and exterior light fixtures and period handmade tile for the showers, laid down handmade white quarter-sawn oak floors, used hand-forged nail-less straps for column joinery and placed quarter-sawn Honduran mahogany through the entire home, the staircase, all doors, crowns, and moldings. This attention to detail meant most of the millwork was done on site. Even his beagles, Chester and Chelsea, have a homemade Craftsman doghouse.

"We had everything to do with making this home look as it does," Weaver says. "We wanted to build like they built in the early 1900s. We decided to make as much of the millwork as we could because I wanted to take the challenge so my home would have as many elements resembling that era."

The computers, televisions, refrigerator and microwave are obvious signs of items not found in pre-1920 Craftsman homes, but the most engaging aspect of the Weavers' modernization comes from the family's eco-conscious elements. This, Weaver says, came from his partnering with Jeannette, who uses daylighting in his work. This process takes natural light and guides it into living spaces as a way to reduce the need for heat and lighting.

"This house was built with energy conservation in mind," Weaver says. "We wanted to do our best to make sure we have lots of green trees and drought-resistant plants. That's where Jeff came in. He knew what I wanted and I knew how he works. We did it on the fly, but it worked."

Weaver is a fourth generation Long Beach resident and has never lived farther than four miles away from the home he grew up in. For him, the city represents the best environment for business and pleasure.

"I've never left the city and I never intend to," Weaver says. "I love Long Beach. I was born and raised here and we're raising our family here. It's a cool town because the people are awesome. It's a great place to live and socialize because we're surrounded by opportunity." ■



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