



Las Colinas architect Bob Anderson helped design the Jacksons' contemporary two-story Lakewood house.

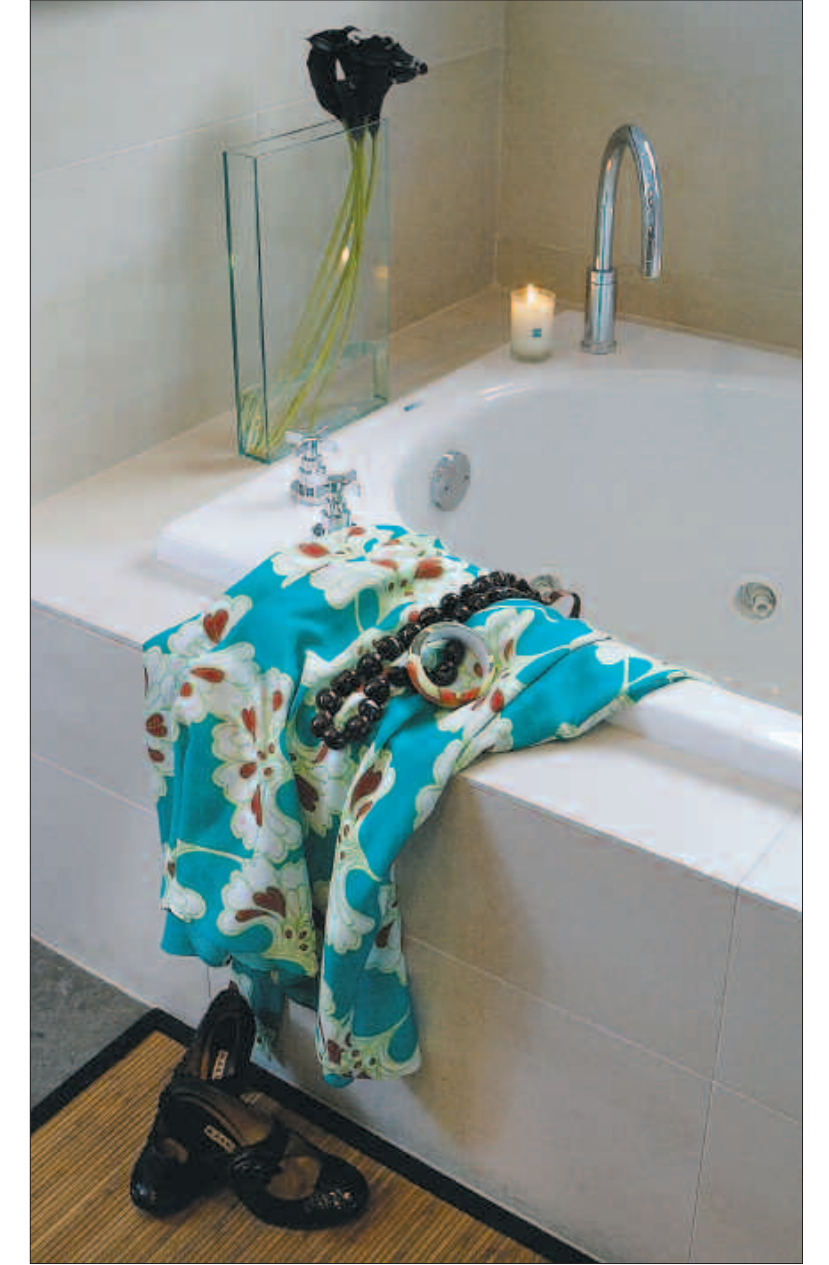


The back yard follows the home's contemporary flow with lots of bamboo, sleek Ikea metal pots and a custom streamlined pool and spa.



Kelle and Joe Jackson chose an open-style kitchen and living room outfitted with sleek stainless-steel fixtures and stream-lined furnishings from B & B Italia.

Photos by NATALIE CAUDILL/Staff Photographer



The couple splurged on the Zen-style master bath with a Jacuzzi bathtub, sleek chrome fixtures, and an oversize massage shower.



Plywood scraps from Joe's construction sites become the canvas for Kelle's paintings, including the work above their remote-control fireplace. Concrete floors became even more practical when Roxy joined the family.

Cool kids on the block

Newlyweds' custom contemporary mixes high and low in Lakewood

By BRITTANY EDWARDS
Staff Writer

We've all heard it: If a marriage can survive building a house, it can endure anything. If it's true, Kelle and Joe Jackson have nothing to worry about. They trumped all the trials and tribulations that come with construction, at the same time planning their destination wedding in Costa Rica.

November marked the couple's first year of nesting inside the 2,974-square-foot Lakewood contemporary they designed and built — from the smooth concrete floors to the speaker-infused ceilings, which on most days buzz with Radiohead and Coldplay.

Kelle, 28, is a public relations account executive at the Buzzell Company, while Joe owns a three-year-old construction company dubbed the Newport Group, after his favorite surf spot in Southern California. Working with houses is a way of life for the 32-year-old Lakewood native. He's the third generation of an East Dallas real estate dynasty that includes his great uncle, father, mother, brother, sister and brother-in-law. "I've always been interested in houses," says Joe. "Even when I was young. For me, it's what I know."

After he proposed to Kelle seven years into their courtship, he knew it was a no-brainer to build a home for his bride instead of buying an existing house. Although his jobs usually channel Mediterranean and Texas Hill Country architec-

ture, he craved a contemporary home that worked with the area's low-slung '50s aesthetic.

"We wanted the house to have contemporary elements but to still fit with the neighborhood," he says. "We didn't want just a big, white box."

The couple commissioned Las Colinas architect Bob Anderson to help with the design after admiring a house he did nearby. The result blends East Dallas signatures — low-pitched roof, brick accents, neutral colors — with fundamentals from Joe's favorite designer, Frank Lloyd Wright.

After the blueprints were inked and it was time to break ground, Joe and Kelle put priorities in place. For her, it was to move in by the wedding; keeping on budget was Joe's concern. They came close: The move-in date was two months af-

ter their nuptials. Otherwise, the home was completed as planned except for a budget-breaking \$1,200 Lightning Bug "Batons" chandelier for the entry — it's expected to arrive sometime this year.

To keep costs in check, they shrank the ceilings from 10 to 9 feet and went with concrete floors downstairs instead of wood, which later came in handy when the couple bought their semitrained French bulldog, Roxy. They also saved by using reclaimed wood flooring upstairs and by transplanting a Japanese maple, palm tree and dogwoods from Joe's teardown lots.

They scrimped in some areas so they could splurge on what mattered. There was no budging on the custom birch kitchen cabinets with front and back glass cutouts, a Newport Group signature, which offers full views of the outdoors.

The pool also hit the pocketbook hard, especially after Kelle saw a spray feature at the Hotel ZaZa pool she couldn't live without. Custom can lights, square-edged granite countertops, stainless-steel backsplashes and an oversize massage shower all added big bucks to the tab.

"There were certain things I was bent on having," says Joe. "Things we just couldn't live without."

When move-in time arrived, the delayed date actually worked out better since the couple's wedding registry raked in items to fill the house.

They display the collection of Nambé "Spinnaker" sleek white dishes and serving pieces in the glass kitchen cabinets. Under the bar, they

stashed two chrome bar stools bought with a Crate & Barrel gift certificate.

It's apparent the couple is extroverted: The bedrooms have little more than a mattress and reading lamp, while the common areas are covered.

In the living room, where they spend the most time, they splurged on a B & B Italia sofa and coffee tables, remote-control fireplace and top-of-the-line television and cowhide rug. For the rest of the house they had to watch the wallet.

They hit up Ikea to fill Joe's office off the entry with inexpensive, stylish furnishings including a metal desk, filing cabinet and cowhide rug. A surfboard, colorful oil painting by a childhood artist friend and a DIY cubby case filled with blueprints add personality to the den's minimalist decor.

The dining room and kitchen are also sleek and simple. Each room pairs an Ikea table and chairs with a higher-end hanging light — a Lightning Bug chandelier from Porter Lighting in Addison for the dining room and an IQ Light by Holger Strom from eBay for the kitchen nook.

To add some extra oomph, Kelle hung her own artwork — scraps of plywood she scored from Joe's job sites and painted.

"I'm just trying to fill all the white space in our house until we can collect real art," says Kelle. "But nice furniture and art will always be our thing. We'll get there one day."



Striking orchid arrangements from Cymbidium Flowers dress up the kitchen's sleek black-granite countertops.



A steel Lightning Bug chandelier with frosted Italian-glass teardrop bulbs sparkles in the stark dining room.

KELLE AND JOE'S LITTLE BLACK BOOK

- MODY & MODY**
4524 McKinney Ave.; 214-520-0334
- IKEA**
7171 Ikea Drive, Frisco; 972-712-4532
- CRATE & BARREL**
3104 Knox St.; 214-219-1500
- PORTER LIGHTING**
4555 Excel Pkwy., Addison; 972-248-7034
- CYMBIDIUM FLOWERS**
Mockingbird Station; 214-823-4311
- PLAN SOLUTIONS ARCHITECTS**
972-373-9999; www.plansolutions.net
- HORIZON TILE**
1617 Hi Line Drive, Suite 450; 214-741-4447
- WWW.NAMBE.COM**
WWW.EBAY.COM

DigitalEXTRA
Slide show: Log on for more photos of the Jacksons' cool, contemporary digs.
DallasNews.com/Home