



↑ Designer Sheryl Lett Chapman pulled out the stops to give this home its sparkle. Barbara Stewart Interiors provided most of the furnishings for this project that took Best of Show in the 2012 Parade of Homes.

→ Curb appeal is critical and here, the dynamic roofline, the combination of Tuscan stone and brick on the façade, a covered front porch and expert landscaping make a winning combination.



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↑ The view toward the front door showcases the arched passageways, with squared columns as well as the iron details on the balustrade.

Behind the Scenes of Best in Show

THE DISTINCTION OF “BEST IN SHOW” is made annually during the Parade of Homes celebration. A Best in Show is a peer award that speaks to the level of craftsmanship and the integrity of the design. It also recognizes the innovative and stylized finishes that give a home panache.

Of course, Best in Show honors the finished home, but it’s always fun to peek behind the curtain to see how the project developed...

Kelly Arnold of Gemini Homes has been building homes in Bowling Green for many years and he puts a premium on being graceful under pressure. In fact he says, he “works better” when the rush is on.

Maybe that explains how, in the four month run up to the Parade, he customized a blueprint, took a chance on a new designer and delivered last year’s 2012 Best in Show for a home less than 3,000 square feet.

The “new” designer Sheryl Lett Chapman is a pastor’s wife, who had never even owned her own home. Before settling in Bowling Green she says she, “always lived in a parsonage.” But



from their first meeting, which took place in one of Arnold's model homes, the conversation turned to design and very quickly, a deal was struck.

Arnold felt he had a very livable blueprint for a family home. Even before he broke ground he specified certain signature elements of a Gemini Home like a dramatic roofline, covered porches, a large laundry room, energy efficient building methods that save money and resources, and an efficient, flexible layout.

For her part, Lett Chapman jumped at the chance to do the project. A newcomer to Bowling Green, she moved here with her husband from Hardin County where she founded a program that actively mentored at risk youth using art and art

↑ The designer chose Porter Paints for the wall color. The great room is "Assateague Sand" and the dining room is "Classic Brown." "Lotus Petal" was used for the trim throughout the home.

↓ The plate rail that circles the perimeter of the dining room was a defining touch inspired by the functional architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.

↑ A Thomasville Collection® dining arrangement is capped by a candelabra style chandelier from Capital Lighting.



history to help them better see their own creative potential.

She says she really enjoyed working with Arnold because it offered an opportunity to "sparkle," and because he is a perfectionist who isn't afraid to rework elements on site. From granite countertops and arched passageways, to the more intimate touches like the "Moulin Rouge" wallpaper in the powder bath, both the architectural and design details were always open for discussion between builder and designer.

A perfect example of their collaboration can be found in the finished fireplace with its crisp white tile and contrasting black mantle. Initially the design was much more "pedestrian." The designer wanted to up the ante and she had an idea. She and Arnold took a break in the middle of construction. He used a discarded milk carton to sketch while she talked and then he went to work building this two-tiered two-toned fireplace that creates a more dramatic focal point.

Even Lady Luck seemed to play a part in making sure that this project stood out. Arnold says that he had intended to use a

↑ In the kitchen, the designer sought "diamond" perfection. She paired glazed maple and ebony finishes on the custom cabinets, with a stack-stoned veneer backsplash, and Caravaggio granite countertops all lit up with a Crystorama Chandelier sourced locally from Winn-Electric.



↑ Energy Star appliances were used throughout, including the range in this prep island. The intricate detail of the granite surround is the primary focal point of the open kitchen.



↑ Brooks Cabinets of Bowling Green did the cabinets throughout the home. Here raised panel glazed maple with a staggered profile pairs visual interest with high-functionality.





← The designer's daughter is a self-described "Moulin Rouge" freak and she encouraged her mother to go "Spectacular, Spectacular" in choosing finishes for the powder bath.

different wood for the floors, but at the last minute, that color was unavailable. He can't help but appreciate the difference. "I love this floor," he admits as he surveys the rich hues of the engineered hardwood that replaced his original plan.

Opposite the fireplace is a Caravaggio granite counter top that anchors the large kitchen island. Lett Chapman chose raised panel glazed maple cabinets and illuminated the kitchen area with wrought iron fixtures.

Arnold's flexible blueprint will allow homeowners to customize their living space. The three upstairs bedrooms can be mixed and matched for use as guest rooms, a playroom, a home office, a man cave, or a craft room. The master suite is on the first level and again combines Lett Chapman's eye for the dramatic with Arnold's ability to bring a project to fruition.

In the master bath, they chose a large frosted glass shower with a scalloped ribbon along the top. It is a decorative detail enhanced by the simple fact of being placed opposite the mirror. The granite countertops and glazed maple cabinets are actually the same finishes they used in the kitchen. This technique of transporting finishes from one room to the next helps maintain continuity throughout.

And although aesthetics are crucial to success, Best in Show has its foundation in the combined effect of form and function. According to Anita Napier of the Bowling Green Home Builder's Association, the jury looks for custom styling but also for the quality of the workmanship. They chart interiors and exteriors and give points for such broad categories as how a home is sited on the lot.

Arnold is honored by the distinction of being named best in show. All the judges are themselves registered builders, and he believes that the Parade offers everybody the chance to see what is trending and measure it against the tried and true. ✱

← Best of Show rewards big picture building blocks as well as the smallest of details. The designer says she thoroughly enjoyed the entire process, right down to choosing the bathroom sink!



↑ ↑ In the master bath, the same architectural details that made an appearance in the kitchen are repeated. This technique creates an imperceptible but essential continuum in the design.

↗ ↗ The bathroom should be peaceful and easy to clean, and here are subtle hues of linen on walls, floors, cabinets and countertops. By keeping it simple, the palette is both restful and easy to maintain.

↑ The foyer is illuminated with plenty of natural light as well as the worked iron Capital chandelier.

↗ Engineered hardwood flooring was used throughout the communal spaces to enhance the glow.

→ A bead board ceiling, crisp white trim, and the brick detail gives the back porch its style, while the ceiling fan, open circulation and easy access from the kitchen make it an ideal environ for relaxing at home.

