

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2012

BOWLING GREEN

# Home Lifestyle

## THESE WALLS HAVE SPOKEN

IN BOWLING GREEN

### WELCOMING THE SEASON

FESTIVE DECORATING  
& ENTERTAINING  
FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS

### SHOPPING LOCALLY

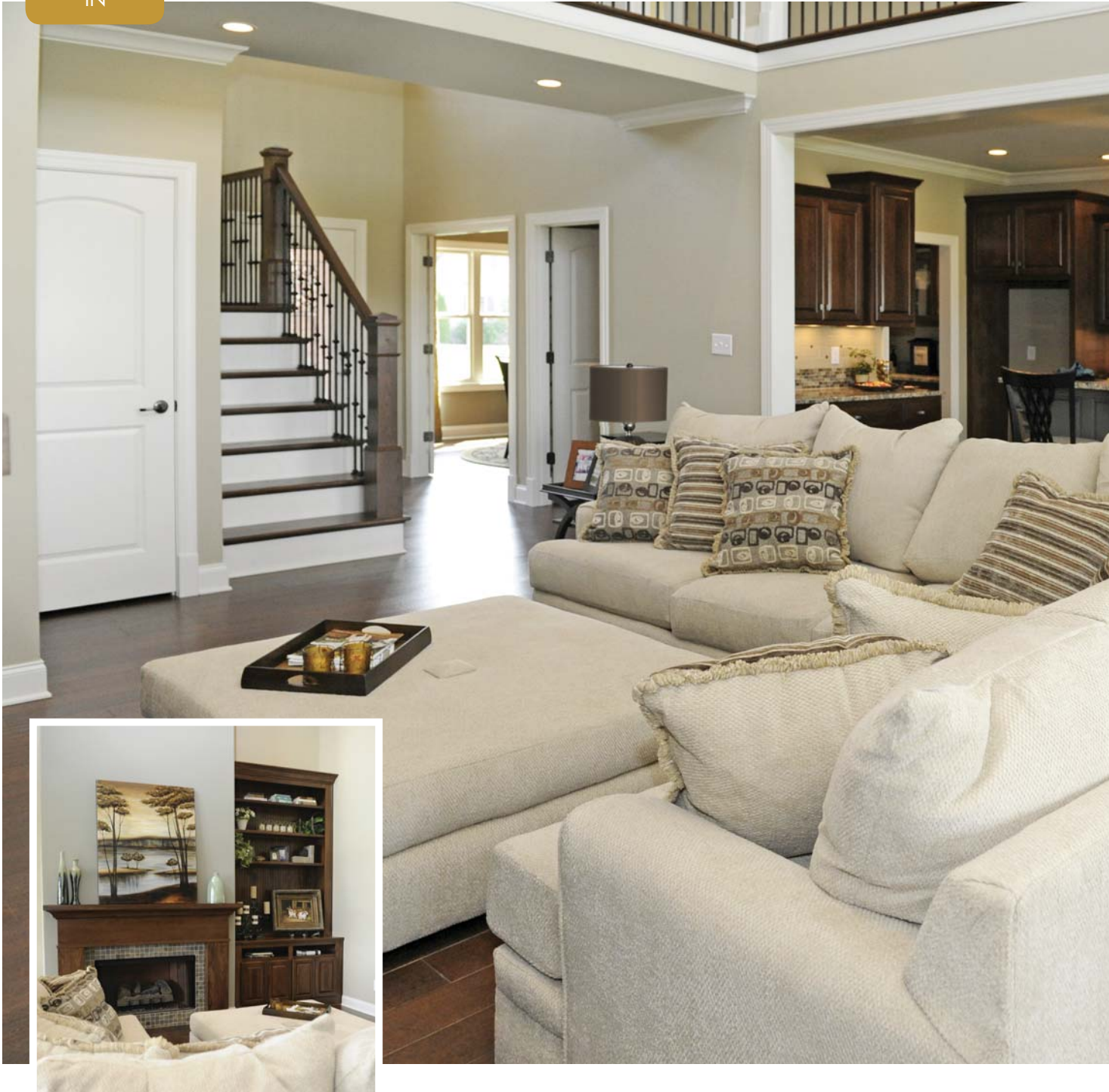
FOR A GOOD CAUSE

### CHANDELIERS THAT DAZZLE

*Fabulous*  
**COCKTAIL  
PARTIES!**



LIVING  
IN



Plenty of natural light enhances the homes proprietary blends of Porter Paint. From feather down to raccoon hollow, the special mixes pair perfectly with the interiors. Here in the great room, a box sofa with an oversized tufted ottoman offers an excuse for lounging in the great room watching the game or enjoying a fire in the custom fireplace.

## Walls That Talk *and* a Builder Who Listens

Wall-mounted cabinets, in old panel cut poplar with brown cherry stain, custom made by Brooks Cabinets, are staggered to create movement across the back wall of the kitchen.



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 BUILT BY **GEMINI HOMES**



The staircase and upstairs balcony features oil rubbed bronze balusters, with red oak banister and newel posts. The persimmon wide-plank flooring used throughout the downstairs offers a subtle contrast.

**KELLY ARNOLD** is only one man, but sometimes he has to think like a family of four. He has to put his imaginary children in a school system. He has to design patios for backyard barbecues that haven't happened yet. But more importantly, he has to put his signature — energy efficient homes with custom finishes and affordable prices — on every project for clients both real and imagined.

Arnold and his wife Kristy own Gemini Homes in Bowling Green. He says Kristy, "goes by her gut feeling," when it comes to knowing what works and what doesn't, but Arnold takes a more academic approach.

He does his homework.

One of his favorite "classrooms" is the annual Parade of Homes where he likes to be a "fly on the wall" and sit quietly as visitors explore his finished projects.





Gettysburg grey on the walls and Minka Lighting in antique ivory add elegance to the formal dining room.

“Bottom line is this,” he says, “we listen to our clients. We listen to comments from people coming through the shows and open houses and we feed on it.”

Maybe because he is in construction, Arnold isn’t afraid of constructive criticism, either. “I make mental notes. Sometimes I ask people what they would do differently.”

His most recent project is at 351 Roseberry Circle in Sutherland Farms where he was one of only five builders invited when developers broke ground several years ago. Since then, Arnold has enjoyed watching one by one as families put down roots in the neighborhood that once existed only in the builder’s imagination.

This home has over 3,000 square feet and none of it is wasted.

A sunny, inviting foyer features a switchback staircase that serves more than one purpose. Rather than announce itself in grand-style, it simply does its job. It leads upstairs. But it also balances the space between the front of the house and the back of the house, accommodates two large second story windows, and introduces the home’s contemporary craftsman aesthetic.

Just off the foyer, a powder bath draws this comment from the builder who likes to know what people think. “Look at this,” he says, flipping on the light. “Wallpaper. When’s the last time you saw wallpaper?” And sure enough, a lush forest of river birch suddenly surrounds us. “It was Dee Dee’s idea,” he says referring to his decorator Dee Dee Murphy, of Murphy’s Interiors. “What do you think: Do you like it?”

From here, he heads toward a formal dining room, which he imagines could just as easily be used as a home office because there is plenty of room for a large table and chairs in the breakfast area on the opposite end of the kitchen.

Arnold always builds with an eye toward energy efficiency and this home is no exception. It is Energy Star Certified at a Level 5. The process requires third party documentation on everything from appliances to windows, to airflow and



“Nook” is not the best word to describe the generous proportions of the breakfast dining area. Natural light pours in from three walls of windows.





*This kitchen island works overtime to make sure the cook can clean veggies or dishes while keeping current with her guests.*

caulking. This certification translates to lower energy bills and also more comfortable interiors.

The great room features 18-foot ceilings, custom wood trim around the fireplace and media center, and plenty of natural light thanks to windows placed both high and low along the back wall.

“There seems to be a big explosion in covered porches,” the builder says almost to himself as he looks out those windows across the backyard. Always the student, he continues thinking aloud. “In fact, I sort of wish I would have extended this one even more,” he says.

It is as if having created it from the ground up, Arnold could just as easily take it apart. Suddenly things that seemed integral to the design become options and finishes up for negotiation.

But the porch in question is actually very generous and perfectly situated. It spans the distance between the breakfast area on one side of the great room and the master suite with outdoor access on the other.



⚡ Energy Star appliances used throughout the home will help keep energy costs low.

🔪 Granite countertops and a ceramic tile backsplash add more than an elegant touch. Easy clean up, and energy efficiency is integral to the design.



*A sleigh bed in black lacquer is paired with linens in tones of gray and taupe. The double tray ceiling and brushed metal fan frame are an ideal blend of masculine and feminine.*





⤿ Upstairs there are three bedrooms, each with its own bath, along with this bonus room.

⤿ A covered back porch features bead board ceiling and a pair of outdoor fans.

In the master, 9-foot ceilings finished in a double tray add a dramatic touch. His and her walk-in-closets separate the bedroom from the bath where a glass-front shower features dual showerheads and a beautiful Calcutta pearl tile. A two-person whirlpool tub is tucked into the corner beneath a textured glass panel window.

Upstairs, there is a balcony, which overlooks the great room and divides the bedrooms two-and-two on opposite ends of the house. Every bedroom adjoins a bath and one of them has vaulted ceilings and could easily convert to a playroom or a media room.

Clearly Arnold isn't afraid to be flexible. But he also knows how to deliver the goods. During the 2011 Parade of Homes, one family made a unique request. When they break ground on their own dream home, they won't have a lot of questions because they already have the answers. They want this house on a different lot. They want this house exactly. They want the covered porch, the river birch wallpaper, the dual showerheads, the breakfast room, the butler's pantry and the natural light pouring in from windows high above the great room.

Arnold says he can't honor the request to keep every single finish, because "cookie cutter" is his least favorite combination of words. But, he continues, "Within a week of the Parade, we signed a contract to build the exact same house." And despite his years of experience, and despite his willingness to listen to his clients, this was not what he imagined. □

⤿ The master bath makes a big splash thanks to custom cabinets and tile work. Cultured granite surrounds the two-person whirlpool, while Calcutta pearl is offset by a band of tiny mosaics in the large glass-front shower.

