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A Texas Farmhouse

Modern city dwelling honors tradition





he 2016 AIA Houston Design Award Home Tour on Oct. 29-30 showcases the finest residential architecture in Houston. One of the homes, 4153 Oberlin Street, is also the recipient of a 2016 AIA Houston Design Award for Residential Architecture.

The house is the second award-winning home that the architect, Natalye Appel, designed for her parents, Tom and Carolyn Caldwell. The first one, designed and built 25 years ago on the West End of Galveston Island won a Southern Living award, an American Wood Council award, graced the cover of Architecture magazine (among others) and was featured on HGTV.

"We always enjoyed seeing our children display their talents and sought ways to provide avenues where they could stretch themselves without boundaries," said Carolyn.

"When we got ready to build what will be our last home,"

 $\mathit{Text}\,\mathit{by}\,\mathsf{Cheryl}\,\mathsf{Alexander}\,\mid\,\mathit{Photography}\,\mathit{by}\,\mathsf{Benjamin}\,\mathsf{Hill}\,\mathsf{and}\,\mathsf{Claudia}\,\mathsf{Casbarian}$ Architecture by Natalye Appel, Natalye Appel + Associates Architects, LLC | Interiors by Carolyn Caldwell , with NA+AA Structural Engineering by Peter Hurley, PE, LLC | Landscape Design by Carolyn Caldwell, with The Office of James Burnett (OJB) Landscape Architects and NA+AA



Dal Tile subway tile; marble basketweave floor mosaic from Materials Marketing; custom etched glass toilet and shower partitions from Dauphin Sales; V & A York freestanding tub from Westheimer Plumbing.

energy usage were primary considerations. One hundred percent of the former cottage and garage was deconstructed and donated to Habitat for Humanity. As well, the project taps into community resources and connectivity; utilizes vent skin construction and high efficiency mechanical systems; uses local, regional and no-VOC materials, native plantings and rain water collection devices; and solar panels are equipped with a battery backup system for hurricane outages. Though the process was challenging and time-consuming, these details provide a peace of mind that comes from knowing the owners live in a healthy home that will allow low maintenance and low energy bills for the long term.

On what they enjoyed most about the project, the Caldwells and Natalye agree: getting to work together again.

"Collaborating with our daughter and working with her team were wonderful," said Carolyn.

Tom agreed. "Anytime we have a chance to allow our children to shine, we are equally illuminated."