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# Jack Arnold Companies

DECADES IN THE DESIGN BUSINESS HAVE LED THIS VETERAN DOWN A SUCCESSFUL ROAD

by *Melissa Fears*

*Having an eye for design* and architecture since he was a teen, architect Jack Arnold began his path early on. Dedicated and motivated, the day after he graduated from school at the University of Oklahoma and received his license, Arnold started his own design firm.

“The work is all his vision,” says Monica Roberts, marketing consultant for Jack Arnold Companies. “Everything originates with him listening to what the client wants to finishing the drawings.” With a plethora of custom homes around the country to add to his portfolio, Arnold can also boast plenty of design and building experience.

“He knows all the building codes in each state, the terrains, and what kind of building products work

and don’t work,” says Roberts. “What is really unique about the company and Jack is that he really understands construction. There is always that classic struggle between builders and architects in that architects may have this grand vision, but the builders know that it’s not practical in the real world. That doesn’t happen with Jack.”

Practicality and beauty go hand in hand with this firm, as they are known all over for their high-end European country designs. Italian, French and Mediterranean are a few of the styles that get requested the most.

“He goes to the source in Europe nearly every year taking photos and sketches to bring back,” says Roberts. The firm is broken down into two com-

panies, one of which does purely custom high-end homes and the other sells ready-made house plans that can be customized to the client’s taste and budget.

“The client starts by coming in with their vision,” says Roberts. “Jack is a listener. He doesn’t force his vision on the client. There’s that balance.” The firm’s office is located in Tulsa, but Arnold still manages to work with clients all over the country.

“It has never been a hindrance,” she says. “He will occasionally make a site visit if he needs to, but a lot of the work is done over phone or email. He will even do conference calls with builders.” Roberts warns that plans can often get lost in the final translation, saying that even minor changes to the

The Smith Residence  
Completed: 2005  
Location: Tulsa, OK

jackarnold.com

01



PHOTO: HAWKS PHOTOGRAPHY



*The Smith Residence*

Livable first-floor space was a must for the retired couple of this beautiful Italian-inspired home in Tulsa, OK. "They wanted limited maintenance in materials and for it to be really comfortable and charming," says Roberts. "They had been to Italy and wanted that look. They wanted it to be very open, have lots of outdoor living areas, fountains, outdoor fireplace, courtyards and French doors. Details, such as ceiling beams, deeply recessed windows and thick walls all add to the charm. The homeowners, along with Arnold, went to great lengths to make the home look old and authentic. Variegated red and brown tile is showcased throughout the roofline of the house. The exterior stone comes from Southern Kansas and is a near perfect match to photos the homeowners had shown. A focal point was made in the courtyard with a mini reflecting pool. The relaxing sound of the water soothes the homeowners. It was important that the master suite and living area be connected to this space. "Almost every room has a view," says Roberts. "They wanted it to be very oriented to the outside and have dark floors, limestone countertops, cypress beams and a tile roof."

**01**

The Smith Residence features a red and brown tile roof and details that perfectly capture the specifications the owner's provided.

**02**

Charming touches and a warm interior add to the home's comfortable living room.

**03**

A pop of color in the bedroom complements the neutral walls and furniture.

plans makes a big difference in the final outcome. Whether it is ceiling height, types of windows or doors or even the placement of the garage, it can make all the difference in the final result.

Meticulous attention to details such as chimney caps are what make Jack Arnold Companies stand out. Starting about eight or nine years ago, Arnold came out with a line of high-end copper chimney caps that are compatible with both wood-burning and gas fireplaces.

The gas fireplaces require a chimney cap atop the chimney, which helps to ventilate the flue. However they can look cheap looking on an expensive home, Roberts says.

"What was on the market at the time were either these inexpensive standard chimney caps or super heavy clay chimney pots weighing up to 500 pounds and they had to get it up with a crane," Roberts says. "It was a huge weight load and not covered on top. Pests and water could come in."

Working with an engineer in Tulsa, Arnold was able to get his copper chimney caps UL listed,

approved by all testing agencies as well as building code compliant. It also received approval by all fireplace manufacturers to prevent warranties becoming voided. The copper is 85% recycled content, which contributes to LEED points. A lower-price point option made of steel hits the market in late 2012.

"He is an innovator," says Roberts. "He is a designer and you don't really have to think about him in a traditional architecture sense. He has a gift of a design mind." ■

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