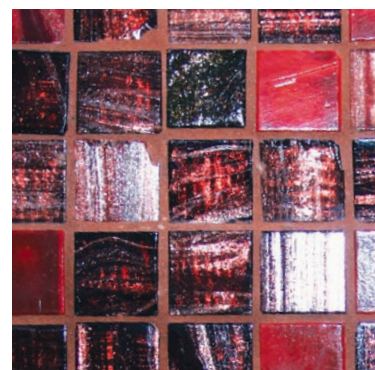


THE *Passion* OF THE **PROCESS**

By Jeanna Goodrich

“We tell people that God brought us here,” Ron said.

As the morning sun shines through the canopies of oak trees in a quiet backyard paradise, there is little question as to how the Robertses found such peace and serenity in the land. Coming to Cordillera from a bustling suburb of Chicago, Ron and Phyllis, along with their daughter, Lexi, and son, Gregory, discovered a beautiful piece of creation in the nature around them.



After spending time in San Antonio for their tenth anniversary, Phyllis and Ron began mulling over moving south. "At the same time [we visited Texas], we were looking at moving anyway," Phyllis said. "We knew [Ron] was going to retire in a few years, so we knew that we could pretty much go anywhere—our minds were completely open."

They found a realtor in the area who connected them with Cordillera sales representative Kevin Best, and the Robertses' journey began. "Kevin took us around to several locations, and Cordillera seemed like it was a good community, even though there was still the question about the golf course," Ron laughed. "But we saw this, and we really liked it."

"We looked at each other and at that point, we said, 'Should we do this?' Well, we had nothing to lose!" Phyllis said happily. "So, we bought the lot that day. After the purchase, we spoke with Kevin about potential home builders, and he suggested we check out Ray Stadler. We began a conversation with him, and he met us the next time we came out here. He walked the lot with us, and he showed us the homes in Cordillera that were under construction."

But Stadler didn't stop there. "It was the deciding factor, the moment we knew he truly cared," Phyllis continued. "When we were finished at Cordillera, Ray turned to us and said 'I don't think I've showed you everything I can show you—do you mind following me for about twenty minutes?' He ended up taking us to his personal home to show us what he had done. We knew instantly that he was passionate about working with us, and we ended up becoming friends."

"For him to have taken us to his personal home really meant a lot to us," Ron added. "With all the personal attention he had given us, and looking at the quality in the construction he'd shown us, we were overwhelmed with what we saw as a fantastic person, in addition to a really great builder. We were excited: this was it! We had our builder, we had our property, and now we just needed a time to start the construction."

The family was more than excited about relocating to Cordillera. "The kids fell in love with the area," Ron said, "and, of course, so did we. The Boerne

school district is one of the best in the state—which was the whole intent of our move. That, along with the wonderful people that we met no matter where we went—everyone was so friendly, so much different than what we were walking away from—made us know that we were going to the right place."

"Learning a few Spanish words" along the way, the Robertses became very involved in their homebuilding process. "We took our time, we tweaked and twisted some things and got everything in place, and a few years later we broke ground," Ron said. "As the house was being built, I was still working in Illinois, but Phyllis came down here to work with the house. We started construction and had a fantastic time with it. Phyllis was very involved in the process, working every day on-site. We brought cantaloupes and watermelon and bottles of water for everyone who was working; it was a really fun experience."

And the experience shows. Walking in to the Robertses' home, one is greeted by a giant window looking out over the pool and the gorgeous backyard, giving an instant feeling of a bright and open home. Beautiful red glass tiles set into the floor add a unique sparkle to the entryway, and various decorations with simple, geometric patterns add color and clean lines to the Hill Country home.

Wrapping next to the foyer is a set of winding stairs, finished with wrought-iron rails. Phyllis and Ron both explained that the staircase was a large part of the custom design process, as they needed the steps to be extra wide. "Ray had me walk up the stairs after they finished them, and I still didn't feel completely comfortable," Phyllis said. "He had no problem starting over—he wanted to make sure that I was absolutely comfortable with the stairs I'd be walking up and down every day."

"Most people don't like building a home; Stadler made it completely a fun experience," Phyllis continued. "There was no stress. They made sure everything was done one hundred percent, but were open to any input we wanted to give them. They would go out of their way to listen to our ideas."

In fact, it was such a great experience for the Robertses, they didn't want to stop there. "When everything was com-



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pleted, Phyllis turned to me and said, 'What am I going to do from here?' She'd had all the fun and excitement of building the house while I was traveling for my business," Ron said. "We talked about it for a while, and decided we wanted to build another house. We approached Ray about doing a spec home with him, even though it wasn't anything Stadler had done before."

"After talking for a number of weeks, we eventually partnered up with him, and we bought a piece of property almost right across the street," Ron continued. "Phyllis could look out the front door and watch progress, or walk over there to work. She went through the whole process again with the Stadlers, adding personal touches along the

way." The home sold a month before completion, giving the Robertses even more motivation to continue in their building ventures.

Lexi and Gregory even added a few touches to make the home building process more enjoyable. "The kids cut out flowers out of construction paper and decorated the outhouse that was over there—we did fun things like that to motivate us to stay on top of things," Phyllis said with a laugh.

"I can't say enough about the fact that I have not met anyone here who has not helped us," Phyllis said. "Starting from Kevin [Best]'s hospitality when he took us around and answered our questions without rushing us, to Catherine and the time she spent with me

decorating and picking out colors and fabrics.

"All in all, everyone we worked with was so friendly and nice. Plus, to have friends in the Stadlers that honest and that Christian made our whole experience wonderful," Phyllis said. Ron added, "We're part of the from-Chicago-to-Cordillera group around here, and everyone is so friendly and open. The neighbors, the schools, the golf course—yeah, we did get our golf course!—everything, in comparison to anywhere else we could raise our kids, this is definitely it."

