

memorial- area house is a study in how to frame the bayou

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Bill and Judy Tink had good reason to be pleased. In August of 1998, after an extended search, the couple found just the right setting for their new home in the Memorial area. Located on a serene stretch of Buffalo Bayou, the land they bought was a symphony of green. Rabbits and other small creatures scurried along its lush banks, and throughout the summer the trees were thick with cardinals.

"We wanted a modern house with simple, clean lines," says Judy, "one that would complement the beauty of the natural setting and bring the outdoors in. And, of course, it had to fit our lifestyle and financial restraints. There's just the two of us, so we really didn't need or want a mansion."

Unfortunately, the architect they chose could never translate that vision into a reality the couple could afford. After two

years of growing frustration, Bill and Judy prepared to abandon their dream. But before they gave up, they visited their land one last time.

"The tranquility of the setting just drew us in," says Judy. "You could hear the water lapping the shore. Everything was green and blooming, and a flock of egrets was circling overhead. Finally I turned to Bill and said, 'Oh well, what's another year?'"

This time, Bill and Judy turned to Brent Nyquist of Atticus Architecture, Inc. Judy had attended Nyquist's popular Rice University class on *Building Your Dream Home* and liked his sensitive, pragmatic approach. For the builder, they chose Don Welsh, and he also proved to be an excellent choice.

"The goal was to create a house that fit Bill and Judy's lifestyle given some fairly significant constraints," says Nyquist. "Because it is a bayou lot, their home had to be raised 7 feet above the curb to protect it from potential flooding. At the same time, we didn't want something on stilts like a beach house. And the design had to be fun and exciting while still remaining affordable."

LIGHT AND AIRY

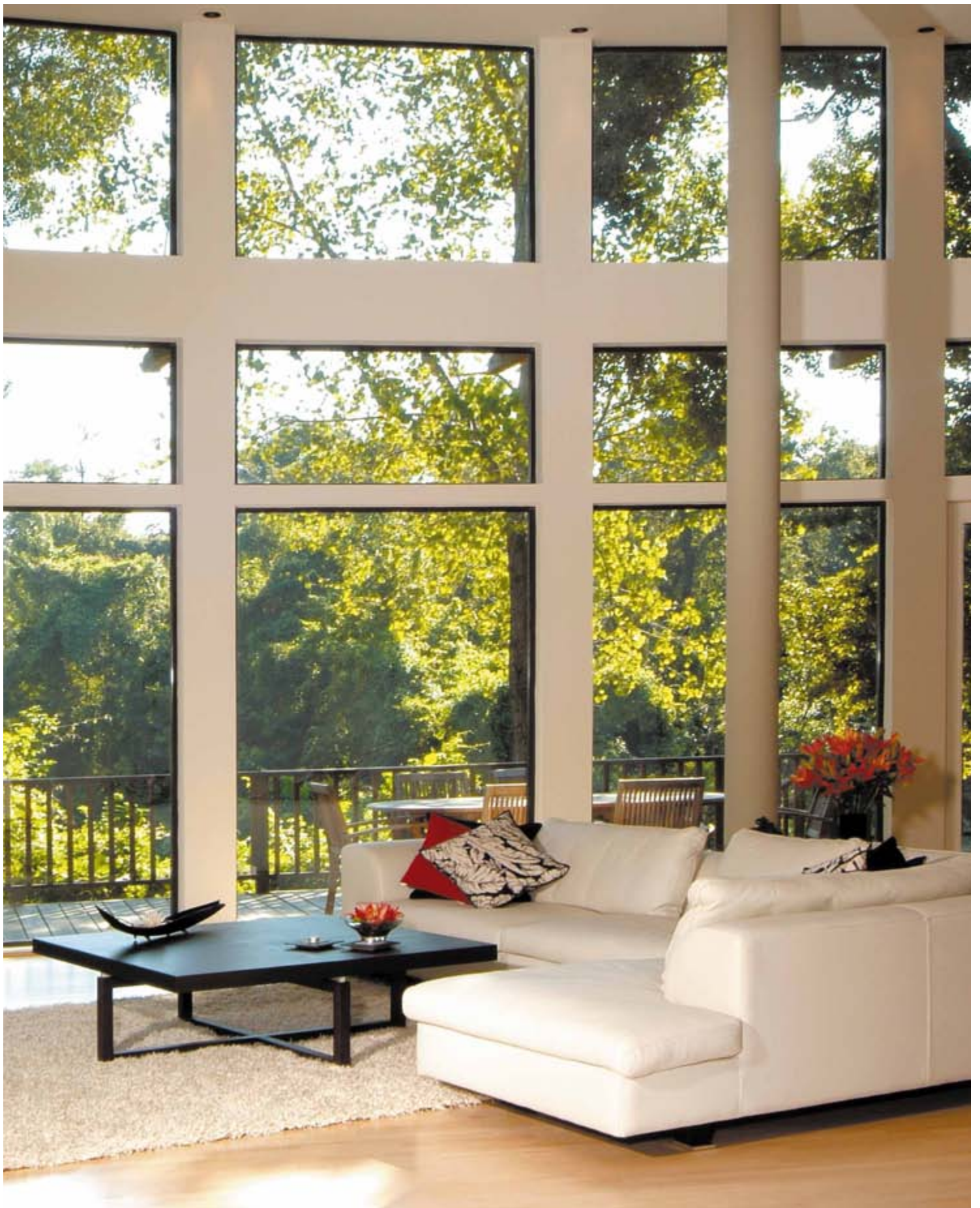
Approximately one year later, in September 2002, the house was completed. The downstairs has an open layout ideal for entertaining. Large windows look

natural advantage



Architect Brent Nyquist's plan raised the house 7 feet above the curb to protect it from bayou flooding. The raised house rises gracefully above the flood plain without looking like a beach house on stilts.





The house of Judy and Bill Tink is about 3,400 square feet, but its wall of windows makes the space feel infinite. The windows, seen from all the major rooms of the house, frame Buffalo Bayou like a pretty picture.



The kitchen's open plan allows Bill and Judy, who are great cooks, to visit with their guests while preparing dinner.

SOURCES

Brent Nyquist

Atticus Architecture, Inc.
www.atticusarch.com
713.526.1978

Don Welsh, Builder

www.ddl-enterprises.com
713.202.0558

The Stone Shop

1499 North Post Oak Road
713.880.0093
Granite countertops and
travertine backsplashes
throughout the house

Pete Pearce

Alamo Stone
13020 South Kirkwood
281.240.4600
Limestone mantels in dining
room and entry

Philip Morningfield

Morningfield Studio
713.222.2424
Framing of lithographs and art

Johnny Diaz

Johnny Diaz Upholstering Co.
5111 Jensen Drive
713.861.9804
Reupholstering of dining room
chairs and
media room sofas

Plus Klasse

5120 Woodway
713.626.1037
B&B Italia dining table

Roche Bobois

4810 San Felipe
713.629.0442
Living room sofas

Don Rapp

MD Adventures
2030 Old Dixie Drive
281.633.2840
Lighting systems and media
room electronics

Jacqueline Gartland

Art Consultant
713-529-0363
Assisted homeowners in
acquiring lithographs on living
room wall



The view from the kitchen.



Every afternoon, the living room wall catches the play of sunlight and shadows from bayou trees. The wall color is Sherwin Williams' City Line. Lithographs over the sofa are by Ana Vilarrubias, an artist from northern Spain.



For the landing above the staircase, Nyquist designed a spacious bookshelf/storage cabinet.

out on the bayou and allow the subtle play of light throughout the day. Because the windows face south, they are low-E, insulated, tinted glass. The house also has an overhang that has been angled to shield the inside from the harsh summer heat while allowing the winter light and warmth to shine through. A patio in back along the bayou is ideal for barbecuing and connects to a small lawn and a garden which is still in the planning stage.

Both Bill and Judy are gourmet chefs, and the kitchen reflects their enthusiasm. Appliances avoid the heavy industrial look while still being designed to stand up to the rigors of producing good food. Granite counters offer ample work space and the maple cabinets, built on site, are attractively complemented by the maple floor. Equally important, the open layout allows anyone

working in the kitchen to remain a part of social occasions.

Furniture throughout the house carefully blends new pieces with prized possessions. The downstairs couch was recently purchased from Roche-Bobois; the dining room table from B&B Italia. The chairs around the table date back to 1986 and have been handsomely reupholstered by Johnny Diaz, a local Houston craftsman.

Other special touches include a dining room mantel made from a broken-edged piece of Texas limestone. It, in turn, is counterpointed by a similar shelf at the diagonally opposite end of the downstairs. Both pieces of limestone are from Alamo Stone.

SETTING THE SCENE

Throughout the house, lighting has been automated to provide pre-set intensity levels and patterns suited for various situations and moods. Settings



“Showering in the jungle” is how Judy describes the master bath experience. The master bedroom is also open to the “jungle” of Buffalo Bayou.

include “Breakfast,” “Entertaining” and “Reading,” as well as “Midnight Snack” which creates a path of low-level lighting leading from the bedroom directly to the refrigerator. Work on the lighting system was expertly handled by Don Rapp of MD Adventures.

The master bedroom is furnished in the same modern, minimalist style as the rest of the house. The room’s real focus is the large picture windows that allow Bill and Judy to lie in bed and look out into the bayou.

The master bath features the soft look of natural stone with a travertine marble floor and counters. The mirror above the sink has small lights built into the glass to provide precise levels of illumination and to help with tasks like applying makeup. However, the room’s most dramatic feature is the positioning of the bath and shower to look directly out a large window onto a

panoramic view of the bayou. “Showering in the jungle” is how Judy puts it, and she is quick to point out that the window does have a drop down drape for occasions when additional privacy might be required. In addition, there is a large mirror built into the wall that reflects a similar view of the outdoors.

The upstairs features a loft with built-in file cabinets that Judy uses as a home office. A media room is currently under construction. Bill is a passionate audiophile, and the acoustics in the room were designed to accommodate his interests.

Of special interest is the room’s “Togo” couch, purchased from Ligne Roset. Bill and Judy first saw it 20 years ago in the company’s showroom in Abu Dhabi, then bought the couch two years later in Canada. Houston’s Ligne Roset store is currently celebrating the thirtieth

anniversary of the Togo design, a testimony to the piece’s classic beauty and versatility. As with other furniture owned by Bill and Judy, the couch has recently been reupholstered by Johnny Diaz. Finally, the guest bedroom has a bed by Cantoni and offers an attractive view of the front of the house. The guest bathroom matches the architecture elsewhere in the house with natural stone floors and counters.

Bill and Judy have now been in their new home for about a year. “This is our sanctuary,” she says, “the place we can relax and just be ourselves. Bill and I love coming home.”

“They’re dream clients,” adds Nyquist. “Bill and Judy are articulate, fun to be around, and they stayed intelligently involved in the process without ever micromanaging it. As an architect, you can’t ask for better than that.” ■



The media room's electronics are by MD Adventures. It's furnished with Ligne Roset "Togo" sofas that have been recovered by Johnny Diaz Upholstering. Lithographs on the walls are by artist Marzo Mart.

In good weather, the backyard deck is a favorite dining spot. Two overhangs shield the south-facing windows from harsh summer sun while allowing winter light to shine through.

