



Upon entering the front doors, you are greeted with colorful ceramic stalks donning a seasonal decoration. From flower toppers in the summer to Santa hats in December, the fountains and their accessories provide an opportunity for conversation and awe upon entering the house.



# Every Piece Tells a Story

BY SHELBY AKIN  
PHOTOS BY MATT CORNELIUS

**HOMEOWNERS**  
Caroline and Mike Craven

**LOCATION**  
Texarkana, Arkansas

**YEAR BUILT**  
1975

**BUILDER**  
Larry McGowan

**LOT SIZE**  
Over 1 acre

**SPLURGE**  
A Gino Hollander piece of artwork

**FAVORITE PIECE**  
Louise Craven's (Mike's mom) paint-by-number original artwork

**FUN FACT**  
Built by Gayle and Henry Moore. Henry Moore grew up in the Ace of Clubs house in downtown Texarkana.



Every view of the living room is exquisite. Looking up, a white lantern gently lights the room. A tiled piece of art brings memories from San Miguel. Caroline carried the piece home on an airplane, tile by tile, in her bag. Perfect for entertaining or an intimate conversation, the living room accurately reflects the Cravens' attention to detail and appreciation for art.

**WALL COLOR**  
Sherwin Williams  
Sea Salt



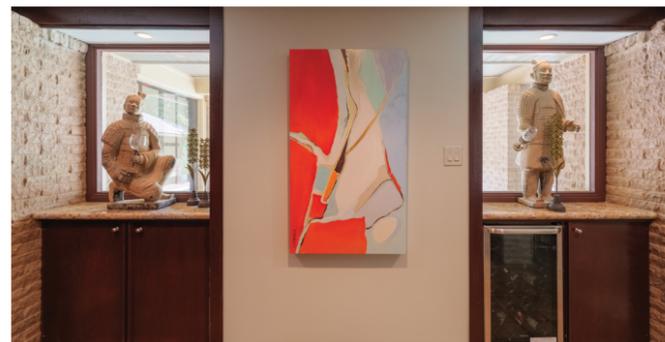
Caroline and Mike Craven's mid-century modern home in Texarkana, Arkansas, is a pure reflection of their style and personality. Built in 1975, the custom home was built by Gayle and Henry Moore. Growing up in the current Ace of Clubs House in downtown Texarkana, Moore decided to build a home with the help of a commercial builder and architect, Larry McGowan, to create a home with space for entertaining and functional living. Throughout the house, you can feel the historical inspiration, custom choices, and the impact of natural light from windows facing the backyard pool and entertainment area.

The original textured wooden front doors painted a bold orange set the tone for the rest of the home. An entryway sets the tone for the rest of the home, displaying fountains centered in the room used as vases, and bold planters on each side of the doorway. The rest of the home continues the reasonable mixture of creativity and functionality, and the Cravens have designed each room to feel comfortable yet chic.

With an art collection that started during Caroline's college years, each piece holds a story that brings a smile to Caroline's face when she talks about it. "I choose things for my home that make me happy," Caroline said. "I love to sprinkle whimsical, little surprises throughout that make people stop and think."

**Making the way from the living room to the primary bedroom, the hallway holds a wet bar with easy access to the pool and entertainment areas. Standing boldly in the windows, Asian-inspired statues hold wine glasses gifted to Caroline by a friend. A contemporary painting sits between the statues, bringing the colors of the home together in one place.**

**The study provides pops of humor and whimsy, but the true showstopper sits above the fireplace. A Gino Hollander piece, a striking drawing of a woman looking to her right shoulder, provides a focal point and tone for the study.**



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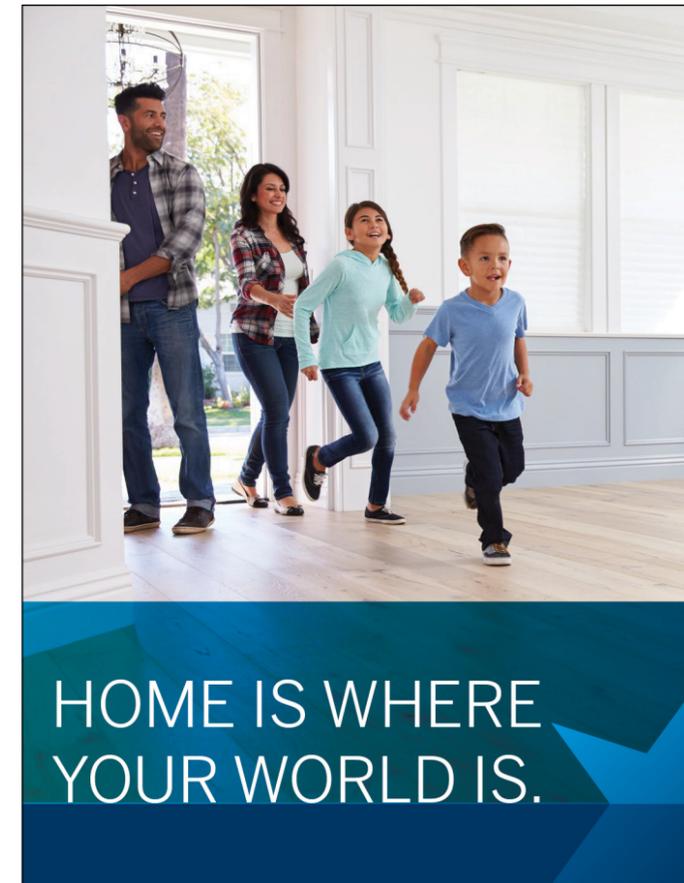


Walking the hallways, every turn of the head brings a new view. "I love the little vistas throughout our home," Caroline said. From the kitchen, you can see an art-filled hallway with a stunning lit vase in the media room. The media room transports you to another time period with a white leather couch.

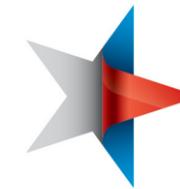
Immediately to the right of the entry, a wallpapered dining room with strategically hung bamboo and custom art by Kathi Couch greets guests. A James Hayes bowl sits atop the glass dining table made by Tom Chandler. The light fixture, previously owned by Dr. Freddy Contreras, sets the tone for an elegant dining experience.



A modern, simple kitchen holds one of Caroline's favorite art pieces. A one-eyed clown by Alex Popoff overlooks the kitchen's happenings, demanding attention from all who pass by. Two pieces of art draw near to the Cravens' hearts in the laundry room. "Mike lived on Alcatraz for a short time during his childhood, and his mom, Louise Craven, completed a paint-by-number of farm houses while living there," Caroline said. Completed in 1954, and beautifully framed and surrounded by Caroline's signature orange paint color, the pieces bring nostalgia and a personal touch to the space.



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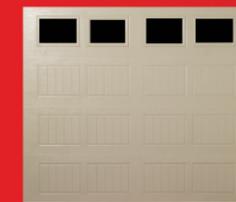
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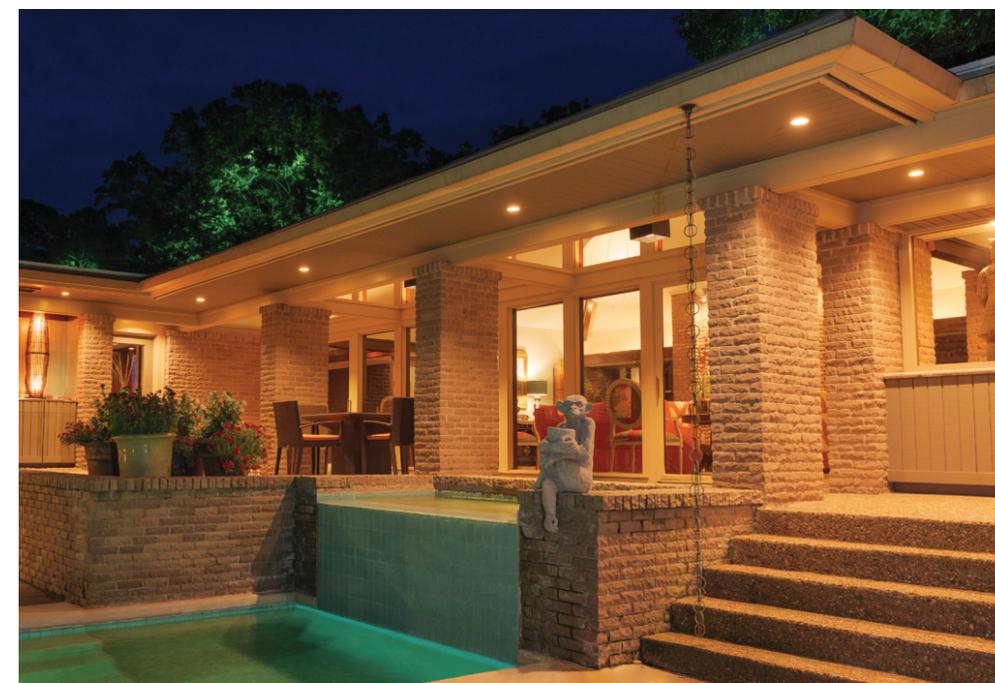
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The Cravens' backyard is equally as elegant, relaxing, and charismatic as their home. A true beauty at night, the home's distinct paint colors shine through the windows. The front doors are painted Caroline's favorite orange and unmistakable to passersby.





The primary bedroom displays the perfect mixture of functionality and contemporary flare. The space feels modern yet comfortable with custom bedding and non-traditional bedside tables. Three unique fixtures light the closet, perfectly aligned with chosen vases for those “extras” you accumulate.



The distinctive turquoise guest room gives guests an oasis. Purposely painted to complement the bright blue water of the pool, the room gives access to the backyard and pool. “One of my favorite things about this house is that guests have their own space,” Caroline said.



The home echoes the vibrant, creative personality of the Cravens with a sense of who they are and their appreciation for both local and international artists. A few of Caroline’s self-made pieces are even mixed into the art on the walls.

Each room provides a new experience. The eyes first draw in the paint color that drifts onto the ceiling from the walls. Each room’s personality comes to life, from a warm orange to light sea salt on the walls, with furniture to complement the space. Two recovered Chicago wormwood chairs sit in the living room windows. “I bought the chairs 30 years ago on Olive Street at an estate sale for \$35,” Caroline said. “I do not think the woman selling the chairs appreciated what she had.” A salvaged architectural remnant sits on the coffee table and a river rock in the fireplace bring a bit of natural form to the room.

The hallway to the main bedroom displays distinct statues holding beautiful

wine glasses given to Caroline by a dear friend. The main bedroom displays everything from a playful Etsy Rubix cube kleenex holder on the nightstand to a concrete lion’s head on the wall. Each bedroom in the home is a different color, evident from the backyard in the evening when the windows are open. “Sometimes we sit outside at night and admire the individuality of each bedroom, almost as if it was built this way on purpose,” Caroline said.

From the custom front doors to the exquisite backyard, the Cravens have created a home that prioritizes freedom of artistic expression. They share the love of their home with their friends and family. With a recent retirement, Caroline looks forward to spending more time at home and their recently completed lake house (another sight to be seen!) A true beauty and nod to culture, the Cravens’ home compiles pieces of art and individuality that come together for one perfect story. ❶



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