

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

by Terry Beck
 Photography by George Cott

STEVEN AND SUSAN FREEDMAN turned their dreams into reality when they built this home. Twenty years ago, Steven delivered a desk to a client who lives in Avila and was awestruck by the community. Although he had just started his office furniture business, he knew he wanted to live there some day. His wife shared his goal and this is the result. They worked with Jay Fechtel of The Fechtel Company to build this spectacular residence.

The Freedmans wanted highly-detailed architecture and impeccable craftsmanship, both inside and out. Since The Fechtel Company is committed to unsurpassed quality, they chose Jay Fechtel to translate their very specific needs into this overall masterpiece.

Steven's ideas for the exterior uses striking elements of architectural design that are enhanced by the use of brick. The home has repeated pediments, pre-cast stone columns and frieze trim with keystones over arched windows. The Freedmans love their motor court that uses a custom iron gate to reflect a New Orleans look. Even the solid wood garage doors with their millwork detailing are spectacular. The floor plan flows from an elegant entry that includes a grand staircase with marble flooring and the use of intricate millwork, such as customized columns, arches and crown molding. The step-down living area repeats the architectural features of the entry. Susan wanted a home that had an understated transition from the clean, crisp entrance to the warmth and comfort of the open kitchen, that joins the family room and game room. Jay Fechtel and his team of professionals were able to accomplish this goal.

Susan and Steve describe the design of their home as "Texas grandeur with a Florida lifestyle." The home surrounds the over-sized lanai, that can be seen from the soaring walls of windows, both upstairs and downstairs.

This 7,000 plus square foot home has a warm, inviting atmosphere, despite its size. Steven and Susan are living their dream due to Freedman Furniture having grown from a small Tampa based firm to a national operation. The Fechtel Company made their dream come true.





Owners: Susan and Steven Freedman

Site: Avila

Builder: The Fechtel Company

Clockwise from upper left:

Their unique kitchen was designed by Olde World Cabinetry and includes an aquarium and kitchen office.

Detailed architectural millwork enhances the brick exterior of this custom- built residence by The Fechtel Company.

The exquisite woodworking, moldings and columns by Stairparts and Millwork add drama and height to this luxurious living room.

Elegant furnishings, such as these from Annabelle's, complete the traditional look of the Freedman's dream home.

