

ARROYO

FINE LIVING IN THE GREATER PASADENA AREA
APRIL 2011

Design Pasadena 2011





Joshua Cain and Jeff Godbold, partners in Saxony Design Build, have ties to both California's old and new settlers. Godbold, a third-generation general contractor, is also a third-generation Californian, born and raised in the San Gabriel Valley. Cain, the newcomer, arrived here 10 years ago after a childhood in Bruce, Mississippi (population 3,000), and design school in Denver.

Cain says he and Godbold created a formal partnership in 2005, after meeting on a Pasadena Showcase project. "I was designing, Jeff was the contractor for the home's owner," he says. "It just made sense." They began offering full design and construction services to clients wanting new luxury homes and remodels in California, Hawaii, Colorado and Costa Rica.

The partnership works particularly well for the duo's latest Pasadena Showcase assignment: to build and design a guest house where a stable, potting shed and caretaker's digs once stood. "The stable had eight horse stalls and a dirt floor. We took it down to the studs and pretty much had to build the guest house from scratch."

What the team came up with is a 1,700-square-foot guest house with a great room, kitchen, two bedrooms and two baths. "We created the great room with its vaulted ceiling from two of the horse stalls," Cain says. "I used the old barn wood from the stalls to create a wood ceiling, then had the big beams distressed and aged to match the ceiling wood." Floors are antiqued Portuguese limestone and European oak that's been distressed. "We wanted the guest house to echo the antiquity and history of Paul Williams' original," Cain says. And a look at the firm's website (saxonydesignbuild.com) reveals that Cain has always been a devotee of the gracious comfort that marked so many fine homes of Williams' era, as well as the Southern mansions he remembers from childhood.

"My taste is traditional," Cain says. "I strive to make things comfortable and easy to live with, which is what I think most people want." His mellow interiors tend to feature classic pieces in fine wood and upholstery, with elegant accessories. And he is not a fan of the seemingly ubiquitous painted drywall, favoring walls with wood paneling, or fabric covering, or tile or stonework. His walls in the Pasadena great room are plaster with grass cloth. Furnishings include antiques, hand-carved woods, Tibetan rugs and comfortable seating, which includes a pair of dark chocolate-brown sofas. "This is the biggest project we've ever done for the Pasadena Showcase," Cain says. "It's also the most fun."



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Jeff Godbold (left) and Joshua Cain