

Masculinity meets creativity

O'More Designer Show House was once the home of Eddy Arnold

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FOR USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

Home builder Brady Fry knew his latest house had to be creative since it's located on the wooded site where Grand Ole Opry star and Country Music Hall of Fame member Eddy Arnold lived and found inspiration.

The home is also the 2017 O'More Designer Show House. It is being decorated by 18 designers — 16 of them affiliated with O'More College of Design — and will be open for public tours Oct. 19-Nov. 12. The Show House is located in the new Voce neighborhood being developed by Shannon Pollard, Arnold's grandson.

Fry and Architect Carson Looney rose to the challenge with a home that features innovations such as a concrete tile roof and high-end ship-lap siding made from fly ash, a by-product of coal-burning power stations.

The casual observer might not immediately notice those features, but the black exterior is impossible to miss.

"The design teams said, 'You're going to paint the house black? You must have lost your mind,'" said Fry, president of Fry Classic Construction.

He persisted, and the 4,015-square-foot house was painted in Black Panther, a popular color produced by Benjamin Moore.

"We've all done a million white houses. Let's do something different," Fry recalls telling his team.

The result is a "handsome" three bedroom, 3½-bath home that blends into the surrounding trees, said Shari Fox, president of Franklin-based O'More.

"There is nothing feminine about it. There is something masculine about this house," Fox said.

The Voce Show House is O'More's fourth. The first three were in Franklin, where the college is located. The Designer Show House is O'More's largest fundraiser each year. The sale of tickets, which are \$20, helps pay for scholarships, technology and other expenses, "and it attracts new audiences," Fox said.

The designers donate their time and the materials they use.

"It's a labor of love for them," Fox said.



The O'More Show House will be open for public tours Oct. 19-Nov. 12. ALAN POIZNER PHOTOS / FOR THE TENNESSEAN



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Pollard said everything about the Show House, from its use of “green” construction materials to the exterior color, “fits right in” with his grandfather’s desire that Voce be developed as sustainably as possible.

Exterior lighting throughout the site is designed to shine downward, not up. That “dark sky” lighting is intended to protect nearby Dyer Observatory. Voce also includes green spaces and walking trails.

Pollard, who grew up visiting his grandfather’s home on the 61 acre property, requires builders to preserve trees.

“I recognize these trees. They mean something to me,” he said.

As a result, the surrounding trees have become a design feature of the O’More Show House, said Kathy Sandler, one of the 18 designers who crafted the look of the interior spaces.

Looking out of the broad windows of the second-floor master suite, “you feel you’re in the treetops, and from the bath all you see are the tops of the trees,” said Sandler, who operates Sandler Design in Nashville.

She designed several spaces, including the master bath and adjacent laundry area – there is a second laundry on the main level – as well as coffee and wine bar in the master suite.

“The idea is to grab a cup of coffee in the morning or a nightcap before you go to bed,” Sandler said.

The second-floor master suite —

If you go

The O’More Show House will be open Oct. 19-Nov. 12 in the Voce subdivision on Granny White Pike in Nashville, across from Richland Country Club.

Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays for private groups.

Tickets are \$20 at omoreshowhouse.com/

which is reached by an elevator — frees more space on the main level for entertaining. The house also features a second scullery kitchen where the heavy work can go on while guests gather in the main kitchen, said Fry.

Other trend-setting features include manufactured quartz countertops that mimic marble but are far more durable and porcelain tiles that look like stone but are lighter and won’t stain, he said.

Whoever buys the house, which Fry is building on spec, will have the opportunity to purchase the decorations as well. That has happened when the first three Show Houses were purchased.

“Some rooms have sold totally. The buyer will purchase the whole room,” Fox said.

Tour guests who don’t buy the house will come away with ideas for their own projects.

“Some people will buy the room but not the house,” said Fox.



The interior of the O’More Show House. ALAN POIZNER / FOR THE TENNESSEAN