

Cordillera Ranch retirement home an entertainer's dream with 2 kitchens, 6 guest rooms with en suites, outdoor play area and infinity pool

Richard A. Marini , Staff writer April 22, 2021 Updated: April 26, 2021 3:29 p.m. Comments

[Richard A. Marini](#)



The backyard of the Rymer house has a simple, Italianate feel with plenty of grass and a pool built with minimal

coping and a faux infinity edge.

Richard A. Marini /Staff

When Bryan and Sherry Rymer were planning their new home in Cordillera Ranch, they knew they wanted it to be a place where they could regularly host friends and family for parties and overnight stays. They wanted to build a place where their guests would be comfortable, have lots to do and enjoy plenty of privacy.

And where they'd never have to share a bathroom.

The house they built and moved into at the beginning of the year was designed with three separate guest areas, each unconnected from the others to limit noise and avoid any uncomfortable middle-of-the-night hallway encounters. And each of its six guest rooms has its own full, en suite bathroom.

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The couple calls it a case of "If we build it, they will want to come."

"We have two sons and other family and friends spread across the country," said Sherry, a retired teacher. "We want people who visit to be as comfortable as possible."

Before moving to Texas in 2015, the couple lived for many years in Arizona, where they'd entertain three to five times a month, according to Bryan. "Hosting people at home allows us to spend quality time with our friends and family in a more intimate environment than you can ever achieve in a restaurant or club," he explained.

The 8,300-square-foot home sits on 8½ acres overlooking the Guadalupe River Valley. Construction took about 18 months and cost \$3.6 million, including \$550,000 in add-ons, according to Bryan, who is retired from the construction industry.

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The living room that has 16-foot ceilings a 60-inch, see-through, propane fireplace at the center that separates a seating area from the billiard table, TV room and a full bar.

Jerry Lara /Staff photographer

Relying on Bryan's experience building residential homes, the couple borrowed several design cues while developing the home with architect [Jim Terrian](#) and builder [Garner Homes](#).

"The original inspiration came from Italian villas," Bryan said. "But we didn't want the Tuscan look. There have been lots of Tuscan-style homes built in the last few years. I know, because I built plenty of them."

To add a Hill Country vibe, they chose limestone for the exterior walls and, here and there, for the interiors. But they selected a whiter version instead of the iron oxide-stained variety typically used in area buildings. A whitewash was painted over the mortar for emphasis.

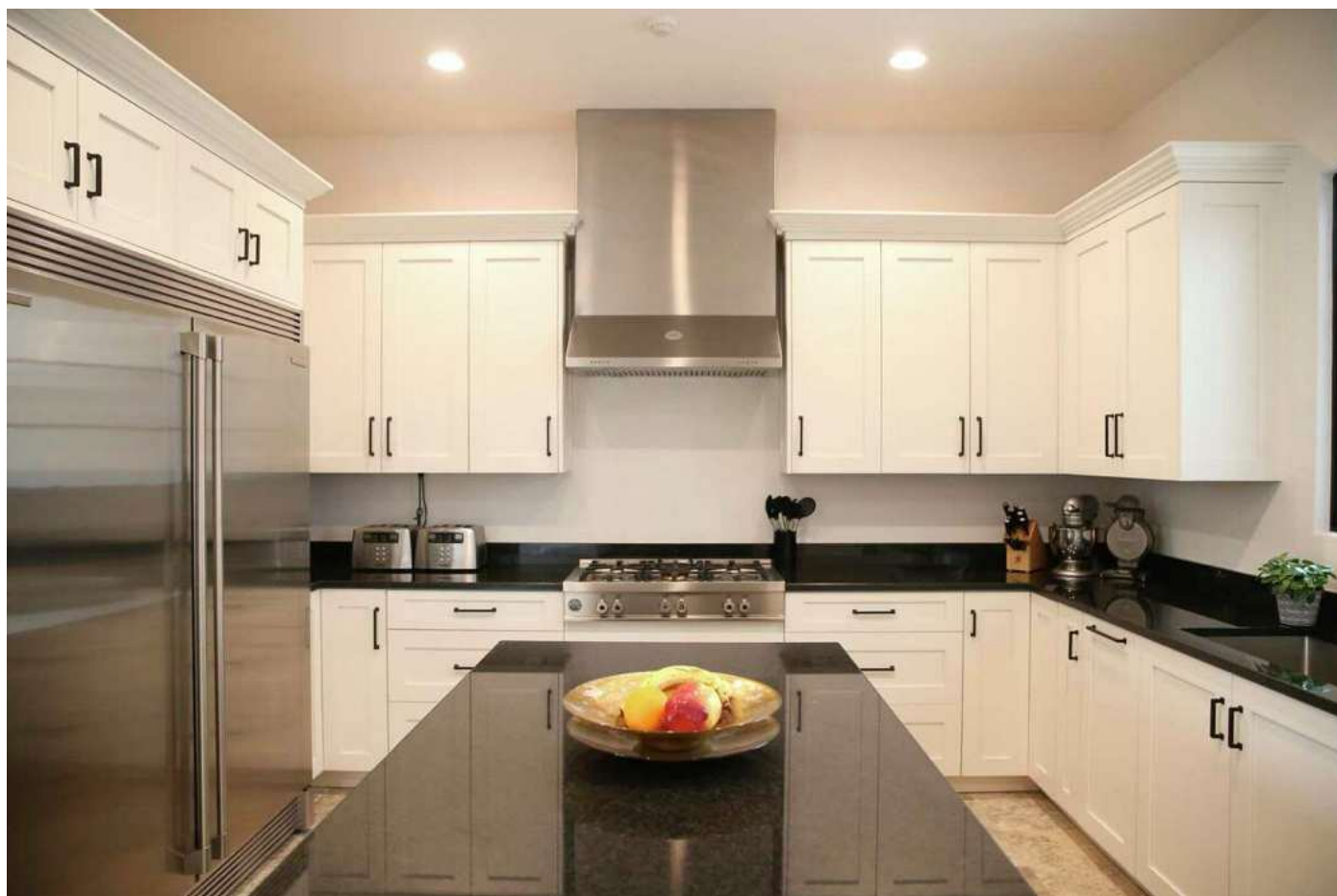
They christened the look "Italian villa-Hill Country transitional."

Visitors to the house enter into an imposing great room with 24-foot ceilings

and a pair of 72-inch circular chandeliers overhead. There's a dining area to the right and a long, open staircase to the left leading to the second-floor master suite.

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To the right of the foyer and past a butler's pantry is the main kitchen, a totally tricked-out, all-Viking affair, including a battleship of a stove outfitted with six burners and two ovens.



Adjacent to the main kitchen, the catering kitchen is all-business, with high-gloss, black counter tops, enough cabinets to run a food bank and silver travertine flooring capable of withstanding the heaviest of foot traffic.

Jerry Lara /Staff photographer

But the centerpiece is the massive, 12-by-5-foot island topped with a 2½-

inch slab of matte-finished quartzite that seats up to 10. "We wanted a really big island because in our previous homes, this is where people congregate," Bryan said.

Adjacent to the main kitchen is a separate catering kitchen that's all business, with black, high-gloss counter tops, enough cabinets to stock a supermarket and silver travertine flooring capable of withstanding the heaviest of foot traffic. With a free-standing refrigerator/freezer, steam oven, convection oven and microwave, this is where Sherry does most of her day-to-day cooking, she confesses.

"And if I don't want to clean up right away, I can just close the door, and it'll get done tomorrow," she said.

But for all the toys, it's the 20-year-old Hamilton Beach triple spindle commercial milkshake machine that Bryan's most proud of. "I had to have the cabinet raised so it'll fit underneath. My family loves milkshakes, and when the kids were playing football in high school, we'd make milkshakes for half a dozen players at a time."



One of Bryan Rymer's favorite toys in the house is the 20-year-old Hamilton Beach triple spindle commercial milkshake machine they put in the catering kitchen.

Richard A. Marini /Staff

The catering kitchen is also located off what they call the gallery hallway that runs from the garage, so when the pandemic is over and they can throw parties again, caterers can come in without having to enter through the front door. The hallway also leads to the library, a pleasant, clubby room with a wall of bookshelves the couple is still in the process of filling.

"Originally we were going to set this up as a billiards room," Bryan said. "But then we realized it was a great place to have breakfast in the morning, with a nice view of the deer feeding outside."

The room also overlooks the outdoor play area, which includes a bocce court and a large fire pit.

"We want the house to feel like a retreat," Sherry said. "So when people come to visit, there's lots for them to do."

The flooring throughout the house is French oak that's been smoked, scraped and oiled, leaving it striated in subtle golds and yellows. Oversize steel and glass windows run throughout the ground floor, providing expansive views from the backyard to the Twin Sisters hills in the distance.

While the steel and glass look is certainly on-trend, it's also, Bryan insisted, timeless.

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"If you look at old magazines, you'll see pictures of homes with the same kind of windows," he said. "We tried to pick elements that are classic but look modern at the same time. And, of course, they're engineered to be much more energy efficient."



The backyard area has a simple, Italianate feel with plenty of grass and a pool built with minimal coping and a faux infinity edge at one end and that 16-person hot tub at the other.

Jerry Lara /Staff photographer

The yard immediately beyond the living area has a large outdoor kitchen with a grill and seating for up to 20. Elsewhere, the yard has a simple, Italianate feel with plenty of grass and a pool built with a faux infinity edge at one end and a 16-person hot tub at the other.

The three separate guest-room areas are well-appointed; each bedroom has its own thermostat, king-size bed, and bathroom with Carrara marble countertops and porcelain tile flooring. "They even have a beverage station so guests can make themselves a cup of coffee in the morning without having to go downstairs first," Bryan said.



Each guestroom has its own king-size bed, thermostat and en suite bathroom with Carrara marble countertops and porcelain tile flooring.

Jerry Lara /Staff photographer

When they were warned that older buyers tend to shy away from two-story homes, they decided to install a snug elevator, complete with an old-style collapsible scissor gate, that rises to the second-floor master suite. They even added a mirror to make the inside feel larger.

"My mother-in-law uses it," Bryan said. "But other than that, the only time we use the elevator is when we're schlepping suitcases and other big things up and down."

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