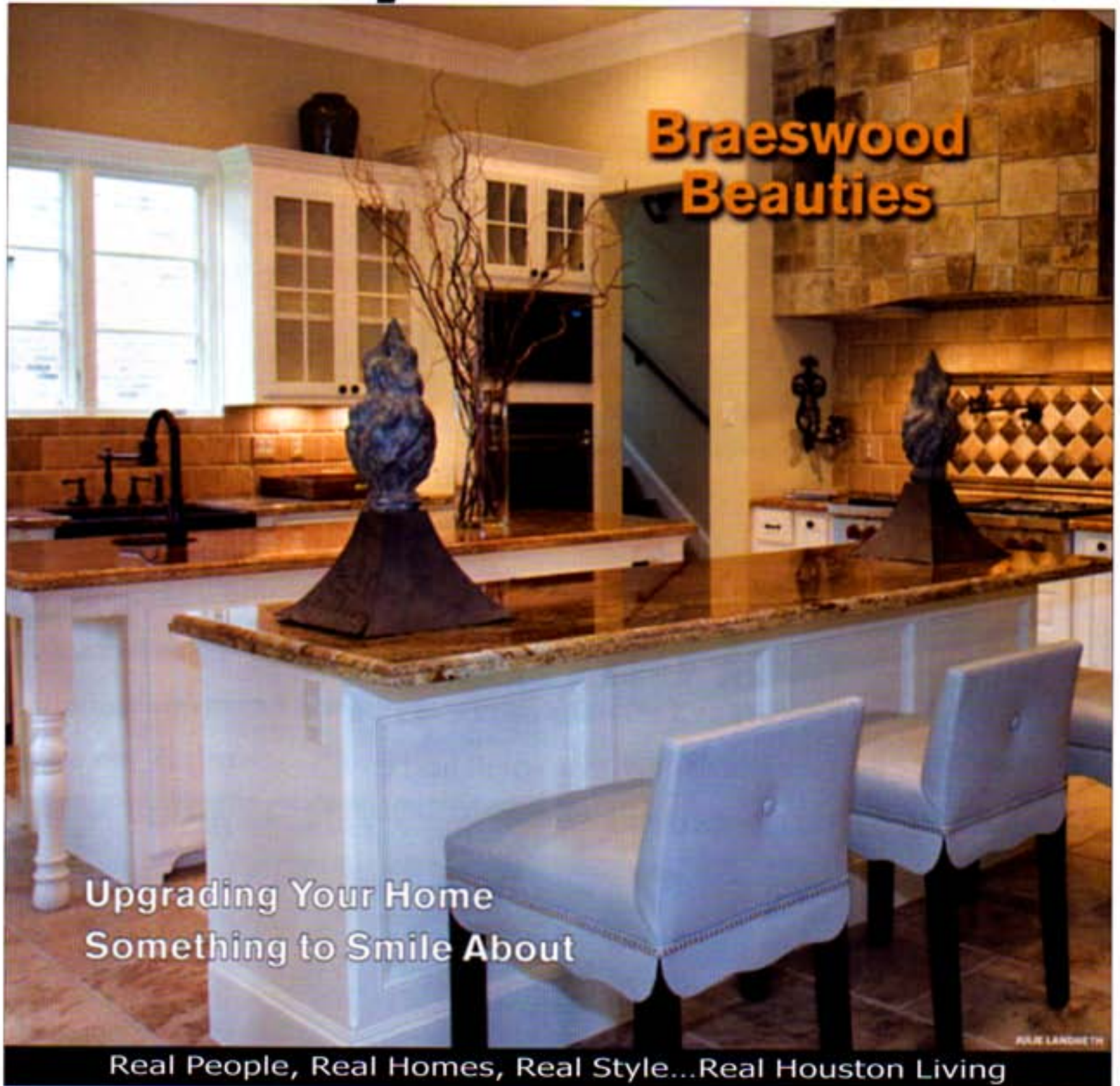


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**Braeswood
Beauties**

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COVINGTON BUILDERS



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BRAESWOOD BEAUTIES

2008 Braeswood Showcase of Homes spotlights showstoppers in burgeoning neighborhood

Text by Cheryl Alexander ♦ Photos by Julie Landreth

Best Design

- 1st place—Cronin Builders
- 2nd place—BAS Concepts
- 3rd place—Kirsten Construction

Best Exterior

- 1st place—BAS Concepts
- 2nd place—Cronin Builders
- 3rd place—Scott Frasier Homes

Best Kitchen

- 1st place—Cronin Builders
- 2nd place—BAS Concepts
- 3rd place—Gerring Properties

Best Master Suite

- 1st place—Cronin Builders
- 2nd place—BAS Concepts
- 3rd place—Gerring Properties

Over the past 10 years, the growth in Braeswood, one of Houston's oldest and most prestigious communities, has been—in a word—amazing. And for two weekends in April, this unprecedented expansion was celebrated city-style in the inaugural Braeswood Showcase of Homes, benefiting Braeswood Place Homeowners Association.

The Braeswood Place Homeowners Association is a neighborhood association chartered in 1951, created to promote the welfare and protect the property values in an area encompassing 2,200 residences in Ayrshire, Braes Heights, Braes Manor, Braes Oaks, Braes Terrace, Emerald Forest and Southern Oaks subdivisions.

The showcase featured eight extraordinary homes priced from \$975,000 to \$1.5 million and the talents of local interior design firms. Most are new properties that are listed for sale. Participating builders and properties included BAS Concepts – 4126 Tartan Lane; CMC Custom Homes – 3850 Merrick St.; Covington Builders – 3807 Merrick St.; Cronin Builders – 3606 Blue Bonnet Blvd.; Gerring Properties Inc. – 3519 Merrick St.; K. Hovnanian Homes – 3527 Aberdeen Way; Kirsten Construction; 3655 Blue Bonnet Blvd.; Scott Frasier Homes – 3515 Merrick St.

The showcased homes include such luxury build-outs as barrel vaulted ceilings, walk-in wet bars, outside loggia with fireplaces and grills, intricate tile work, gamerooms, media and sun rooms and state-of-the-art pools. This year, eight premier homes were featured, highlighting the latest trends, technology and design from Braeswood's finest builders, designers and architects.

Houstonians from all over the city came to visit and take advantage of the opportunity to meet the homebuilders, interior designers, decorators and sponsors of the tour, and also to vote for their favorites in various categories.

Each ticket stub for the tour doubled as a voting ballot. After touring all of the homes, visitors voted in four categories: Best Design, Best Exterior, Best

Kitchen and Best Master Suite. Ballot boxes were located at the entrance of each home.

The 2008 Braeswood Showcase of Homes offered Houstonians a tremendous opportunity to explore several builder options when building in Braeswood Place and the surrounding neighborhoods. Whether building a custom home, remodeling or looking to relocate, browsing these showstopping, showcase homes afforded ideas aplenty.

Sponsors of the 2008 Braeswood Showcase of Homes included Apex Cast Stone, BMC West Millwork, Cornerstone Hardware, Custom Audio Video, Factory Builder Stores, Ferguson Bath & Kitchen Galleries, Lighting Inc., Master Tile and Venetian Blind Carpet One. →



COVINGTON BUILDERS arrested attention with their grand tuscan stucco and stone performer. The house itself was built around two beautiful trees that shade the home, and a large front porch overlooks the front yard, trees and landscaping.

One step inside the foyer reveals a dazzling natural stone floor, which flows throughout the downstairs, but here is highlighted beautifully by a diamond-shaped mosaic pattern. An impressive stained alder wood study grounded by a hardwood floor sits to one side of the entryway, and the entry stairwell is on the other side underscoring the bold tuscan design of the home with its heavy, decorative wrought iron railing.

Further down the hallway, the warm, intimate dining room is dynamic with an antique brick wall and groin vaulted ceiling covered in the same amazing brick.

A bar with built-in wine storage houses the owner's collection cozily and provides additional customization and luxury to

this Italian abode.

The kitchen boasts a stone-clad hood covering a Wolf professional cooktop, matched by the Sub-Zero Wolf appliances. A nifty breakfast nook adjacent to the kitchen is large enough for any breakfast table and offers a small built-in desk to assist Mom with organizing daily activities, meals and busy schedules.

Two islands overlook the family room, crowned by a triple-barrel vaulted ceiling and accented with wooden beams, and three pairs of French doors overlook the back porch and outdoor kitchen. The outdoor room offers space enough for lounge chairs and easy entertainment.

The back stairwell off the kitchen provides easy access to upstairs from the back of the home, and the side entry makes grocery unloading easily accessible to the pantry and kitchen. The handy mud room provides a great place for unloading backpacks and sporting equipment.

All upstairs bedrooms are ensuite and each private bath is tiled



in natural stone. Each oversized bedroom is finished out with vaulted ceilings and walk-in closets providing plenty of storage. The large utility room upstairs keeps laundry simultaneously convenient and out of the way.

The master bedroom also boasts a vaulted ceiling and its large sitting area is made even cozier with the inclusion of pocket doors. Marble countertops in the master bath feature custom accent designs and two separate walk-in closets. The ceiling in the master bath is also vaulted and set off sumptuously by a shimmering chandelier.

On the third floor, the gameroom/media room provides a spacious getaway for entertaining adults and kids alike.

PREVIOUS PAGES Linen sofas, antique French chairs and tables, along with the turkish rug and iron grill coffee table, achieve balance beneath the exposed beams and dark wood accents in the family room of the Covington Builders home. ♦ A unique chocolate brown wool headboard, an antique settee, bedding from Plush Home and a large antique pillow from Gray Door bring comfort and style to the master bedroom of the Covington home. The bedside tables—wood tops with iron bases—are elegantly complemented by exceptional accessories, including antique star mirrors, glass cylinder lamps and linen ottomans under the windows. ♦ *THESE PAGES* Beautiful stone tile defines the kitchen in the Covington Builders home. The space is gently garnished with beautifully tailored barstools in light blue vinyl upholstery, antique zinc finials and old iron sconces on side walls under the stone hood. ♦ Designer Trisha Dodson brought the dining room of the Covington home to life by incorporating a wooden gateleg table, painted chairs with slipcovered seats, abstract art from Gremillion Gallery and an exquisite Turkish rug. The bricked wall and ceiling lend old world charm to this inviting space.



CRONIN BUILDERS also produced some award-winning architecture and style in their Braeswood beauty. This two-story home, designed by Hallenbeck Architects and decorated by Ashley Gaforth Designs, boasts a refined, open floorplan that follows principles of Arts and Crafts: simplicity of design, functional form and superior craftsmanship.

Stucco, antique Chicago brick and a wide, shaded front porch characterize the exterior of this sophisticated dwelling. In addition, lpe Brazilian hardwood flooring offers fabulous form to the front porch. Just inside, the broad entry hall features wide plank hickory underfoot, flanked by the formal living and dining space. The wetbar and butler's pantry extend a warm welcome to all who enter, and stained white oak trim in the fully-wired library sustain the luxurious warmth and attention to detail found in this handsome abode.

The traditional Arts and Crafts kitchen is modernized with Sub-Zero Wolf appliances and granite countertops. The carrera marble-topped island holds the vegetable prep sink, and custom designed stained decorative beams finish the distinctive look.

In the family room—wired for surround sound—a masonry fireplace with brick surround and a wall of windows revealing another deep, shaded porch segue nicely into the backyard.

A huge picture window lights the way up the stairs where a window seat invites you to spend a moment. The upstairs hallway leads to bedrooms, a game room, computer center and utility room.

The master suite stuns with its fireplace, large closet and even a breakfast bar. Carrera marble tile and polished nickel fixtures add formal flair to the bath.



The Cronin Builders Home living room features a custom slip-covered tuxedo style sofa, a pair of English arm club chairs and a French parlour chair, all dressed in flax Belgium linen. The gold gilded coffee table and mirrored three-tiered side table give the room a contemporary touch. The wool oushak rug is from Creative Flooring; the furniture from Shabby Slips. Art here is John Pavlicek Mixed Media on canvas from Gremillion Art Gallery. ✨ Custom seafoam and chocolate brown decorative pillows from Ashley Gaforth Design bring color out of the rug and into the family room of the Cronin Builders home. A pair of walnut throne chairs flank the fireplace. Large scaled white ginger jars bring interest to the center of the room.