

TIME TESTED DESIGN

Known for designing upscale homes for over 40 years, L. Craig Roberts is an established local architect with a few enjoyable side hustles. As talented as he is cheerful, and with no two homes alike, Craig gives us a peek into how Mobile has been good to him.

By Hayley Hill

I fell in love with Mobile after moving here. As poet Eugene Walter said about Mobile, 'Born in the land of lizard fever, in sweet lunacy's county seat, this untidy pilgrim of the world lived by the credo - when all else fails - throw a party!' Who couldn't love a place like that?" he shares. Raised in Gadsden, Craig received an architecture degree from Auburn University and, after an internship with Mobile's Dietz, Prince & Fischrupp, became a registered architect.

He resides in Spring Hill where he and his partner of 24 years, Rob Spicer, built a home 16 years ago. No stranger to accolades, his home, as well as two others he designed, were featured on HGTV's "Homes Across America." "I've been fortunate to be honored in many ways. At Auburn, I was inducted into ODK (top 40 men on campus), was elected President of the School of Architecture and Fine Arts for two years, and several of my designs have been featured in coffee table books such as '21st Century Homes - Designs by North America's Leading Architects' and 'Contemporary Southern Homes.' Additionally, I've served on various boards such as Mobile's Architectural Review Board, where I've overseen construction of 8,400 buildings and homes in Mobile's seven Historic Districts for 16 years," he adds. But the one he's very proud of was being named "Citizen Architect" by The American Institute of Architects.

"I enjoy working from home designing dream homes. My life's work has been like a hobby! Designing only two or three homes a year, I can concentrate on my clients' intricate desires for their new home. My goal is to design the finest home possible in the style my clients want, which is why all my designs are so different. I don't try to push a current look, and hopefully my designs stand the test of time. We often have 50 sheets of detailed drawings!" Craig tells us.

And he doesn't do it alone. "Henry Dunnam has worked for me for 35 years as a construction drawings and code expert. He's known locally as the best in his field," says Craig. However, he adds, "I do have a few enjoyable side hustles! I wrote 'Mardi Gras in Mobile' and have sold over 10,000 books. I also give regional lectures on our Historic Districts and Mardi Gras and give personal tours of our Historic Districts and the Mobile Carnival Museum," he concludes.

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