

Dana and Ewell Pope are two people who aren't ready to retire yet, so they enjoy having a relaxing place to come home to after a busy day at the office. They also like to travel, and it was a trip to Spain coupled with a desire to have more outdoor living spaces that inspired the couple in the construction of their new home. Their large marsh front lot and the influence of the Spanish in island history also set the stage for the standards of Moorish construction—columns, horseshoe arched doorways, courtyards with fountains, and a white stucco exterior.

On a trip to Morocco, that took place four months after starting construction, the Popes were introduced to artisans, while visiting the ancient city of Fez, sitting in the dirt creating intricate and beautiful mosaics and tiles. Tile makers in Medina of Fez, the historic city center of Old Fez, have been practicing their craft since the town's founding in 790. Everything from making the clay to its final firing in a wood burning kiln is done by hand.

The Popes selected several different styles of tile for their house. Courtyards are paved in unusually small terra cotta tiles that are only 2 ½ by 5 inches and doorways are framed in blue tiles with natural terra cotta. Tile makers paint the tile with a solid color and then scrape off a portion of the glaze to reveal the terra cotta underneath in an intricate pattern. An Arabic inscription, "God loves beauty and is beautiful" is emblazoned in the tiles above the doors leading to the garage and Ewell's office.

Another purchase from the trip is a Moroccan lantern that is hanging in the powder room. Light filled rooms either from lanterns or large windows are another hallmark of Moorish design that has been incorporated in the house. Overstuffed sofas and chairs and beautiful wood case goods are long on style and natural elegance and provide plenty of seating for visiting family and friends. Adrian Johnson and Lisa Torbett of Lisa Torbett Interiors were the interior designers. The Popes have collaborated with Lisa Torbett Interiors on several previous design projects.

Architects Keith Summerour and Thad Truett gave the Popes a plan that also included one of their favorite rooms in the house, an outdoor pavilion on the second floor overlooking the marsh. In that room, a large fireplace and comfortable seating in the form of cushioned palettes makes the room a year-round option for entertaining.



*A belly dancer entertains party guests in the living room of the Pope's house.*



*Georgia Kellogg gets a henna tattoo.*

