

About the Builder of Laura Creek

Award-winning architectural designer brings his "Craftsman-cottage-farmhouse" style to Marietta at "Laura Creek"

By Karen Pressley

profitablewords@msn.com

678-640-0535

Owning a dream home is on the priority list of many Americans. Fortunately, there are architects of dreams among us who help make that possible by designing and building houses that quench the varied tastes of homebuyers. When one architectural designer relocated to Atlanta from Florida 11 years ago, there was no doubt in his mind that he could provide dream homes to Atlantans and experience success in the city's home construction boom.

Award-winning architectural designer Thomas Markovic has provided custom homes from Chicago to northern Michigan to Florida gulf coast towns like Venice and Sarasota. Since 1994, Markovic has been responsible for several thousand homes built in the Atlanta area, whether as the builder or as the designer for some of Atlanta's largest builders. Locations of his home designs in the Woodstock area include Towne Lake, The Cottages at Bells Ferry, and The Enclave at Towne Lake Hills. In the Canton area, you can see his homes in Bridge Mill, River Green, The Villas at Downing Creek and the Falls of Cherokee. Laura Creek, his current development in Cobb County's Town Center Mall area off Barrett Parkway and Prado Lane, has brought Markovic's unique version of "Craftsman" style to Marietta.

"People want to come home to a warm, comfortable atmosphere. We get that feeling from older things like antiques and things of history like family photographs, so coming home to Laura Creek feels like walking into a part of your heritage."

- Tom Markovic

Markovic has a long-established love affair with designing homes. His career began in 1965 when he started his architectural training at Chicago Technical College. By 1970, Markovic's designs appeared in "Modern Carpentry," a textbook featuring construction methods, and used in trade schools across the country. His home designs have been featured in trade publications including "Professional Builder," "Architect/Builder," and "Builder" Magazine. Since 1994, Markovic has won numerous awards from the Atlanta Homebuilder's Association.

His design style is unlike traditional, contemporary, or Victorian houses widely available across Atlanta. A homebuyer who walks into one of his homes is struck by the sense of space, the openness of the rooms, and a rustic, boldly square styling with details borrowed from the past.

Markovic describes his Laura Creek development as "a blend of Craftsman-cottage-farmhouse style" which he said is "almost a contradiction of architectural terms" that make Laura Creek homes unique. The emergence of this blended style springs from his desire to respond to the needs of homeowners by providing warmth and comfort with practicality and unique style.

Amazingly, Laura Creek homes are available in the \$290,000 - \$350,000 price range, whereas one would expect to find these unique homes at a higher price point. The "Misty Meadow" model provides ample ideas on how to decorate the interior with furnishings and colors in harmony with the natural materials and architectural details of Laura Creek's houses. His color palette includes rich earth tones in shades of terra cotta, pewter, leather browns, rusty metals, dusty turquoise and muted golds. These colors offer an attractive backdrop for personal collections of antiques, original art, woven rugs, leaded glass windows, and tapestries.

"Creative" is the first word that springs to mind when you walk into a Laura Creek home. Interesting architectural details accent windows, archways and staircases. Markovic infuses

handcrafted touches into nearly every nook and cranny, underscoring his passion for well-crafted woodwork and artistic usage of natural materials: handcrafted wood trim, natural tile in kitchens and bathrooms, leaded or stained glass accents in windows and doors, stacked stone fireplaces, and hammered copper, bronze or pewter doorknobs. Bead board, rough-cut beams and textured walls are seen on his kitchen ceilings, porches, or bathroom walls. Hardware accents including door and cabinet hinges, latches, and knobs, look individually selected for each house. Even his light fixtures look hand-wrought by blacksmiths or stained-glass artisans.

Markovic's concept of a comfortable home includes a well-thought out floor plan centered on entertaining and family unity. His roomy kitchens include a spacious eating area conducive to family gatherings, with no formal dining room. In two of his floor plans, a double-sided fireplace between the kitchen and living room adds warmth to both sides, making the hearth the family center. Laura Creek homes typically include cozy front porches, with the option to leave them open, make a screened porch, or glass them in to create a sunroom for more living space.

Markovic's memories and feelings about the small town neighborhoods of his past serve as the strongest influence in his designs. "People want to come home to a warm, comfortable atmosphere," he said. "We get that feeling from older things like antiques and mementos of history like family photographs, so coming home to Laura Creek feels like walking into a part of your heritage. You can't achieve that in a modern home."