

HOUSTON

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BEHIND THE SCENES



- **ARCHITECT:** Rice Residential Design LLC
 - **BUILDER:** Corbel Custom Homes
 - **INTERIOR DESIGN:** Don Connelly, Area
- LOCATION:** Houston, Texas
SQUARE FEET: 8,837 [total covered]
BEDROOMS: 5
BATHROOMS: 5
HALF BATHS: 3

MAYAKOBA REBORN



“We always discuss the cost of construction with our clients to verify that they have a realistic budget for the scope of the desired design.”

TODD D RICE

RICE RESIDENTIAL DESIGN LLC

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It's one thing to deliver on the promise of “cultural immersion” when the backdrop is a sprawling Mexican resort with 130 exclusive suites nestled alongside the Caribbean Sea. It's quite another to attempt to capture that same mesmerizing essence at a home site in Houston, Texas. But leave it to the experts at Rice Residential Design to seamlessly blend the best of both worlds in one arresting residential layout. As has been the case for each of its 20-plus years in the business, a creative and inspired team led by company president Todd Rice worked in harmony with the builder and homeowners—in this case, Mike and Anita Ramke—to bring life to this shared vision. Look no further than the use of Mayan limestone as an exterior wall surface, the distinctive column work, the reliance on natural timber details and the use of butted-glass windows. The process, from the initial meeting to the completed construction drawings, took just under five months; the result speaks for itself.



1 Clean lines blended with Spanish architectural style result in this contemporary hacienda. **2** The outdoor living space, pool and view of the lake are all seamlessly connected. **3** Capitalizing on the lake view, the family room features a large wall of butt-joint glass, allowing the room to feel like one with the outdoor setting.

1

2

3



1

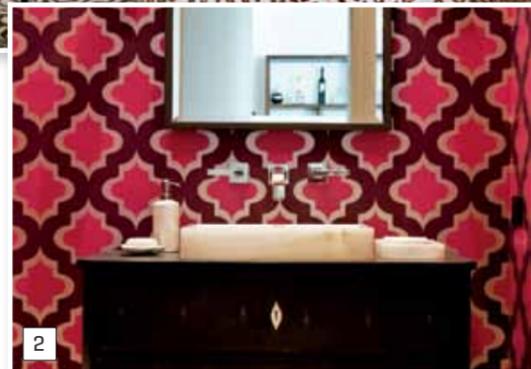


“The Ramkes trusted Corbel’s ability to find the perfect home site and bring together the perfect team of architect and decorator to accomplish building their dream home.”

MIKE AND NICK BREGENZER
CORBEL CUSTOM HOMES INC.

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In the fictional book *Rules of Civility*, a character asks if there really is anything nice that ever can be said about other people’s vacations. Had the author met Mike and Anita Ramke, or worked with Corbel Custom Homes Inc., perhaps he would have rephrased that passage. Inspired by the jaw-dropping Rosewood Mayakoba—the lavish 1,600-acre resort just north of Playa del Carmen that brilliantly meshes architecture and landscape—the Ramkes called on Corbel to infuse their dream residence in Houston with the spirit of their favorite Mexican paradise. As it turned out, Corbel was more than up to the challenge. After owners Mike and Nick Bregenzer, in conjunction with the Ramkes, meticulously planned a trip to the resort [and joined the family on an exploratory trip for key architectural and environmental details], the firm worked with design and architectural specialists to find the perfect waterfront site, determine the budget and ultimately, bring the dream to fruition over a two-year period. The finished product, combining stunning contemporary ambience, an open-resort vibe and residential comforts, is truly a sight to behold.

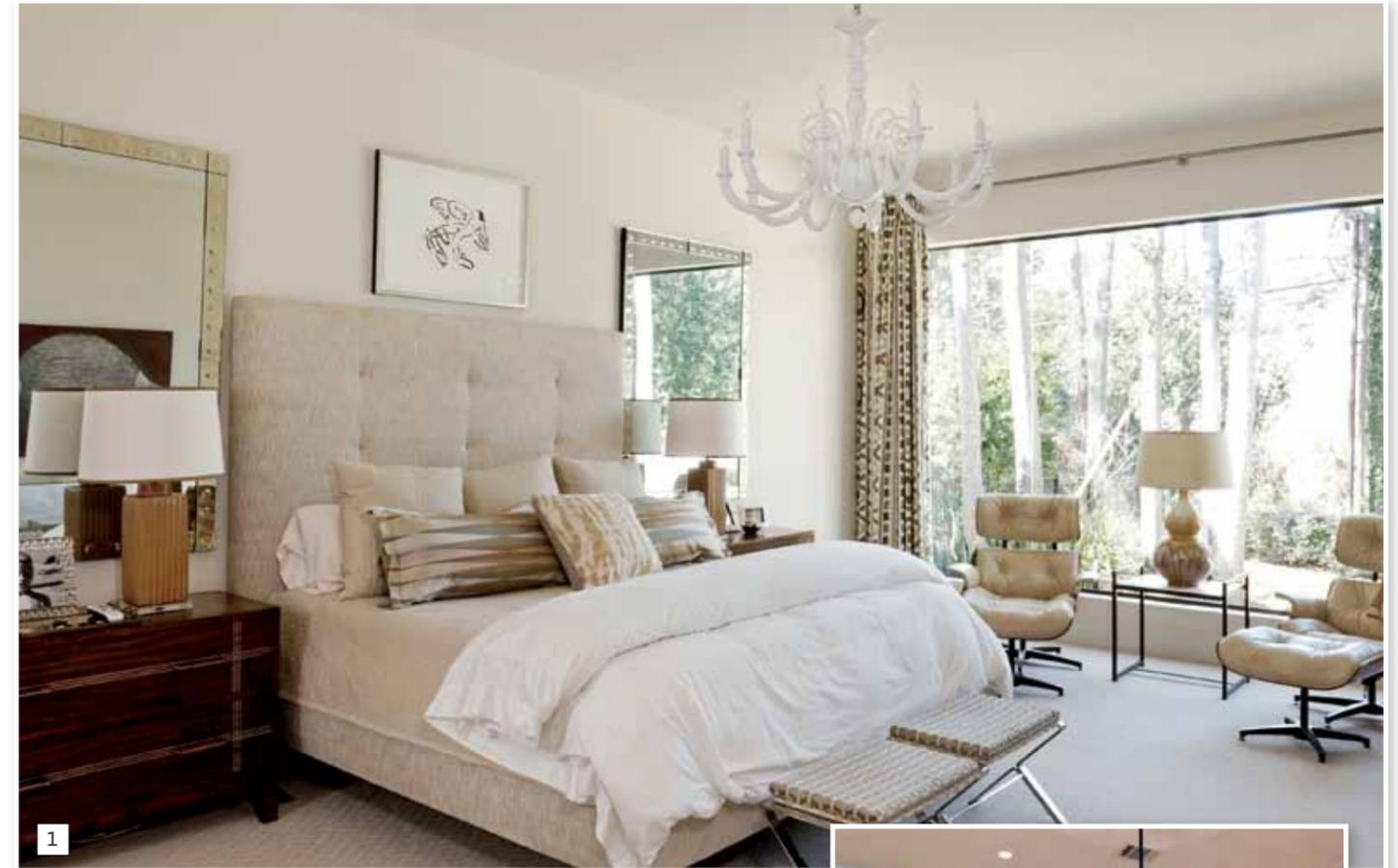


2



3

1 The open floor plan with floating art wall syncs together the main floor living areas. **2** The powder room boasts vibrant wallcoverings as well as a leather furniture piece topped with an onyx sink. **3** Contemporary cabinetry blends with solid-color limestone countertops, mosaic tile backsplash and plastered vent hood.



1



“It was the homeowners’ desire to feel like they were on vacation at their favorite destination.”

DON CONNELLY AND CALVIN AZZAM
AREA

3735 WESTHEIMER ROAD | HOUSTON, TEXAS

Over the years, clients have brought renowned Texas interior specialist Don Connelly everything from fabric swatches to torn magazine pages to convey ideas for their residential spaces. But Mike and Anita Ramke simply reached for their vacation album. Inspiration, in this case, was in the photos of the indigenous materials and contemporary elements used to enliven the rooms and spaces at the Rosewood Mayakoba, the Mexican vacation retreat with which the Ramkes had fallen in love. Connelly, owner of the wildly popular, two-story Area home store in Houston, followed the homeowners’ budget and worked closely with the architect and builder to achieve an aesthetic that brings more than just the soul of the 1,600-acre resort back to Texas. Connelly and his assistant Calvin Azzam spent considerable time with the Ramkes in order to select just the right slabs and tiles—including fieldstone brought directly from Mexico. In the same way that Connelly re-imagined a former dry-cleaner building and turned that into the new Area store, he saw all the possibilities in those vacation photos—and helped a husband and wife complete their dream home.



2

1 Light-colored textures and furnishings contrast with the dramatic views of the lake to create a true retreat in the master bedroom. **2** The dining room walls are covered with plastered pecky cypress and are adorned with colorful wall art.