



Don and Amy Chapman

Build **BEAUTIFUL HOMES**
and long lasting friendships along the way!

By Terry Hughes



Don Chapman takes time to discuss his personal approach to the business.

I “I truly love what I do,” says architect Don Chapman, who along with his wife Amy owns Chapman Design Group in Anderson. “Designing somebody’s dream and then turning it into reality is something I truly enjoy. I guess that’s why I’m so interested in understanding what the owner’s personality is — I want the work to reflect their personality rather than mine.”

It’s this personal approach that has successfully built his business and wonderful client relationships, like Dr. John Doster, Amy’s grandfather’s oncologist.

“John told us when his second son turned two, he was going to come and see us and he did. He was very fond of Two Meeting Street in Charleston and made arrangements for Amy and me to stay at the bed-and-breakfast to get the feel of it before we designed their house,” says Don. “We then adapted the design to suit his family’s personal style and needs.”

While John and Sydel Doster’s home is a Queen Anne Victorian style of

architecture, the home of Pam and Tom Roose on Lake Hartwell is more modern. "The entire home was designed around the client's artwork, which is regional and from their travels," says Don. "We designed a 3-dimensional structure on the main level which really showcases their art." The Home Builders Association of South Carolina recognized the Chapman's work with a Pinnacle award. "You get a Merit award if you meet their expectations in overall quality and construction, and a Pinnacle if you exceed it."

A favorite home of Chapman's that's just 1,500 square feet is Annie Leonard's. "Annie's cottage was more about renewing the spirit — with bright interior colors, an open floor plan, vaulted ceilings with wood, and lots of views of the pasture," says Chapman, adding, "She's one of the most spirit-lifting people you could ever meet." The Leonard home won "Small Home of the Year" in 2003 in Builder/Architect Magazine.

The Chapmans are friendly with nature, too. "We try to design specific

to the site. We see where the sun rises and sets, and try to maintain as many of the natural resources and trees as we can," says Don. One of the most beautiful examples of their nature-friendly attitude is Stonebridge at Rankin's Lake. In addition to designing, developing and building Stonebridge, the Chapmans also live there and left 17 of the 44 acres natural in order to keep a blue heron, turkey and deer in the area.

As you might expect, their commitment to conservation doesn't stop there. "We are the first all-electric Energy Star Certified community in South Carolina," Don says proudly. "Most electric bills of the homeowners at Stonebridge average less than \$100 per month, some as low as \$50." They call the quiet neighborhood a porch community because the homes feature front porches and screened-in porches, sidewalks and rear garages. "Stonebridge has more of a community feel. It's about getting back to basics and getting to know your neighbors," Don says. Indeed it is. ↗

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