

# Perfectly Balanced

At the foot of Mount Olympus,  
classic style meets comfort in Luke  
and Holley Burbank's new family  
home in Salt Lake City

BY BRAD MEE PHOTOS BY REBEKAH WESTOVER



Floor-to-ceiling windows and an extraordinary white-oak beamed ceiling add charm to the light-filled dining room.

**OPPOSITE:** Luke and Holley Burbank's Olympus Cove house was designed and built by The Fox Group. Stately symmetry, white-painted brick and thoughtful architectural details give the family home the classic, understated character the owners craved. The front door, painted in Farrow & Ball's Stiffkey Blue, hints at the blue and green tones featured inside the home. Landscape by Emily Brooks Wayment.





In the great room's living area, a soaring fireplace sheathed in Utah Jericho limestone performs as a texture-rich focal point for the large, light-filled space. Oversized furnishings, including a daybed by the Fox Shop, fills the space with abundant, comfortable seating.

**TOP RIGHT:** The music room's walls and built-ins come alive with vertical tongue-and-groove planking, raised panels and the sophisticated, moody shade of Benjamin Moore's Salamander. The commissioned oil painting is by artist Michalle Sessions.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Raised panel wainscoting—painted with Benjamin Moore's Swiss Coffee—gives the two-story entry a somewhat formal vibe. Large brass lanterns foster the room's open, timeless style.



At first, Luke and Holley Burbank just wanted to dip their toes in the pool. When the couple moved to Salt Lake's Olympus Cove neighborhood, they weren't ready to dive in and build a new home for their large family. They needed to test the waters. The nomadic clan had previously lived downtown, in Sandy and twice in the Harvard-Yale area, so the Burbanks purchased a 1952 rambler-style house in "The Cove" to try the enclave on for size. If the area wasn't a good fit, the couple would sell the property and move on. Or, if they loved the neighborhood (which they did), they'd tear the old rambler down and build new on the site. "We quickly realized that this is where we wanted to put down roots," Luke explains.

Enter Tom and Cara Fox. As principals of The Fox Group, they had designed and built a beautiful house for some friends of Luke and Holley, so when the Burbanks decided to create their own forever home in the Olympus Cove neighborhood, they turned to the Foxes.

"Luke and Holley wanted a home that would be large enough to easily accommodate their family of nine, yet still be cozy and relaxing for everyday living," Cara says. Luke says simply, "We really wanted a comfortable place where we could gather and be together."





Designer Cara Fox arranges flowers on one of the kitchen's three islands, which boasts a combined butcher block and marble top  
**BELOW:** Velvet green bar stools add a pop of color to the light-toned kitchen.



The large kitchen acts as an extension of the great room's living area and is ideal for the large family's gatherings and entertaining. Classic Carrara marble tops custom white oak cabinetry crafted by Ryan Reeder Cabinets.



In response, Tom and Cara fashioned a stately, two-story brick house with breathtaking views of Mount Olympus and Neffs Canyon in back and a sweeping lawn and lovely gardens in front. "They wanted the exterior to feel classic and understated," says Tom, so he and his team graced the architecture with harmonious symmetry and subtle, well-thought-out details. A welcoming portico boasts simply trimmed columns, while two front-facing gabled forms feature intricate-yet-restrained brickwork and window-framing pop-outs crowned with dentil molding. There are no ornate flourishes, no decorative wainscoting and no showy copper rooflines. "It's simple and timeless," Cara says.

The same no-fuss aesthetic continues inside, where Cara

focused on filling the large spaces with comfort and character without introducing excess or pretense. "Holley wanted a cozy yet minimalist look," she explains. To that end, Cara and Tom began by adding their signature millwork and trim details to create interest and intrigue without visual clutter. In the slightly formal entry, for example, classic raised panels add depth and pattern to the two-story walls. Tongue-and-groove planking wraps the sky-blue primary bedroom, while in the off-the-entry music room, similar planking teams with raised panels and moody dark paint to help deliver an unexpected shot of drama to the space's walls. "They're really a work of art," Cara says.

To ensure comfort flows from room to room, the Foxes threaded natural materials throughout. White oak appears in planked floors, masterfully detailed ceilings, hand-crafted cabinets and select furnishings. "We chose a natural, matte finish that allows the wood's warmth and beauty to shine," Cara says. Natural stone recurs as well. In the kitchen, countertops and an expansive range wall boast beautifully veined Carrara marble, as do the primary and guest bathrooms. In the enormous great room, Utah Jericho limestone clads a towering, two-story fireplace that anchors the large space with its mass and unique shape. "Pulling in local materials makes a home extraordinarily special," Cara explains.



In the primary bedroom, Cara diluted Benjamin Moore's Boothbay Gray to create a soothing, sky-like color for the tongue-and-groove planked walls. An elegant canopy bed fills the large space without obstructing mountain views.

**TOP CENTER:** Crosswater London plumbing fixtures and loads of Calacatta marble elevate the sanctuary-like style of the spacious primary bathroom. Cabinetry crafted by Ryan Reeder Cabinets.

**BOTTOM CENTER:** Elegantly trimmed blinds adorn windows in the primary bedroom and bathroom, adding a sense of tailored elegance to both spaces.

**OPPOSITE:** An 18th-century mirror from France hangs above the primary bedroom's fireplace mantel.







For furnishings, Cara countered the great room's colossal volume with a wealth of generously sized, ultra-comfy seating pieces—one of Luke's must-haves. Extra-deep, back-to-back sofas face both the open kitchen and family room areas. A third roomy sofa and two oversized bobbin chairs face off over a six-foot-square coffee table. "We needed large furnishing to make the huge space feel cozy," the designer says. Everyone's go-to seat is a large, custom daybed that cozies up to the fireplace. "Holley and the kids love to pile up together on it in front of the fire," Luke explains.

Expansive windows also topped the homeowners' want list, and Tom delivered with abundant, oversized panes throughout the house. The most memorable is inarguably a two-story wall of glass doors and windows that floods the great room with natural light and a spectacular vista of Mount Olympus. "There's not a day that goes by when we don't stand at the windows and admire the views," Luke says.

Today, the Burbanks are thrilled that they took the plunge and built their family's dream home in Olympus Cove. Luke credits the Foxes for a gratifying experience and extraordinary outcome. "It was a very collaborative process, and they made it extremely easy for us," he explains. "Tom and Cara are incredible at what they do." ■



Satisfying one of the Burbanks' daughter's love for all things "girly" and outdoors, Cara chose Cole & Son's Winter Birds wallpaper for her bedroom. Pink-check window treatments and a delightful daybed give the space a "dollhouse quality," the designer says.

**UPPER LEFT:** A large antique flag adds a pop of color and English style to a boy's room. Horizontal tongue-and-groove planking details the headboard wall.

**LOWER LEFT:** Crowned with a planked ceiling, a casual gathering spot serves the home's six bedrooms—all located on the second floor.