

# THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition

[themetropolitanbuilder.com](http://themetropolitanbuilder.com)



## Savannah Grace Homes - More Than A Custom Home



# Savannah Grace Homes – More Than A Custom Home

By Mary Lynn Mabray, ASID

Cullen Franz is part of a third-generation home-building dynasty. His maternal grandfather, John Attaway, lit the first home-building torch in Alief, Texas, and created Lancaster Homes. Cullen's father and mother, Eddie & Evonne, joined the company and later became president and Vice President of Dover Homes. Dover was one of the largest high-volume building companies during the '80s and '90s in the Greater Houston area. Suffice it to say home building is engrained in Cullen's blood.

From a young age, Cullen was on the job after school, sweeping out houses and shoveling mud out of the streets. His mother and father taught him the importance of learning the business from the ground up. "I was very fortunate to have such amazing role models.". Even after

her death, he carries his mother's spirit with him daily. "She taught me the importance of working hard, communication, and treating every employee and sub-contractor like family."

After attending The Village School and Kinkaid, Cullen attended The Fay School as a boarding student in Southborough, Massachusetts. Boarding school taught him self-discipline and self-reliance, two skills uniquely necessary in the building industry.

It was also through Fay that he later reconnected with his former classmate, Erica. They dated long distance for a year when he decided to move from Texas back to Massachusetts, where her parents owned a large residential construction company. Cullen began working in her family



business while simultaneously attending college at the Wentworth Institute of Technology, one of the premier building science and construction management colleges in the United States.

Wentworth was instrumental in expanding Cullen's knowledge of construction and growing his desire to learn more about the scientific advancements in building products and practices. While attending school, Cullen also learned real-world experience as a superintendent on a large 92 lot, custom home subdivision.

When Cullen moved back to Houston seven years ago,

he started Savannah Grace Homes, a custom home and remodeling company. Savannah for his daughter, and to portray the importance of family and Grace for the Grace God bestows on Cullen and his family daily. Without his family's support and his faith, Cullen feels that he would never have come this far in his career. "God leads my life and this business for His purpose and not that of my own," Cullen stated.

Cullen has a unique perspective on building and one that all builders should adopt. "I am privileged to build a product that is the canvas for so many family memories."

Before



After



Through his education and experience, Cullen learned the importance of transparency and education in building a durable and efficient home. “Many builders can build a beautiful house. Educating my customers on the process and the thought I put into every aspect of building their home creates a relationship based on trust”.

Grading the land for positive drainage, the placement of the slab, and the envelope of the house are vital to building a good home and avoiding future issues. Water, air, vapor, and thermal management are all critical elements that require careful thought and deliberate decisions in each home.

“Details that seem small and are often overlooked are the most important. Knowing what type of water-resistant barrier you have on your home or if your HVAC system includes humidity control is essential. We discuss what is

behind your walls with the same amount of passion that we discuss designer finishes”.

Speaking of designer finishes, Cullen recognized early on that working with designers was paramount to his homeowners’ smooth home-building experience. “We work as a team. Hiring a designer for all my projects allows me to focus solely on the construction and allows my customers to work with an expert on the flow of the house, unique design elements, and beautiful finishes.” He stated that he has been very fortunate to work with Linda Ewing of Double L Designs on several projects. “Linda is a consummate professional and is outstanding to work with. She is detail-oriented, trustworthy, and a true extension of my team”.

Savannah Grace is focused on the future and on “building safe, durable, and healthy homes through trusting and

honest relationships with each client.” With current projects all over town, including River Oaks, Memorial, West University, and the Heights, to custom ranches and beach homes in Brenham, Weimar, Hockley, Refugio, and Rockport, Cullen feels very blessed and humbled. This business is based on relationships, and I am grateful for every customer, sub-contractor, and vendor that has invested in me and helped me build my business”.

An aside observation of Cullen Franz by this writer and designer: In my three decades of experience in design and renovation, I have never met a young man of faith that cares so deeply about his work and the families that benefit from that hard work and dedication. The building industry could use many more men and women like Cullen Franz. Like my daddy used to tell me, “you did good, kid,” and Cullen, you have.



The Franz Family

*For more information about  
Savannah-Grace Homes*

*Call: 713-364-3474*

*Email: [info@savannahgracehomes.com](mailto:info@savannahgracehomes.com)*

*[www.savannahgracehomes.com](http://www.savannahgracehomes.com)*

# When your name is on the line look to the most recommended custom flooring company in Houston



**We are a one stop shop, offering you a wide selection in High Quality flooring from extremely high-end to nicely affordable and cater to all styles & all budgets.**



- Wood flooring • Carpet
- Vinyl flooring • Gym flooring
- Tile • Countertops
- Cabinets

713-895-7562 Office • richard@ifhouston.com • www.ifhouston.com