

Sullivan, Henry, Oggero & Associates, Inc. Design Firm Brings Mark of Distinction to New Custom Homes

The design firm, Sullivan, Henry, Oggero & Associates, Inc. has built a sterling reputation with a 50 year track record of designing custom homes in the Greater Houston area and elsewhere in the U.S.

Starting out as a two-man operation in 1960, the firm has grown to a staff of over twenty-five experienced professionals, each bringing a unique element of expertise to the company. In its early days, the design firm recognized the need for quality residential architecture that would give each custom home a mark of distinction for the homeowner.

The collaboration of John Sullivan, Robert Henry, Bat Oggero, Trey Sullivan, and their talented staff has created an environment of true teamwork in which every team member supports and aids the others in achieving excellence in every design project.

This teamwork has allowed the company to achieve excellence during cyclical building markets and home-building trends.

"Our firm has endured for five decades – not by being satisfied with what we did yesterday but by knowing we can do better today and tomorrow," said John Sullivan, company President.

PHOTO BY ROB MUIR

"We strive every day to try just a little harder and push a little further to make our homes just a bit different than the one we just completed. We have built our business upon the bedrock of experience, talent, reputation, creativity, and longevity," he said.

The firm has designed homes for professional athletes, local and national political figures, well-known entertainers, and business leaders in Fortune 500 companies. Their work comes almost exclusively through referrals. In many cases, they have designed as many as four homes for the same family.

Their homes range in price from \$350,000 to \$20 million and they design approximately 200 custom homes per year.

We have built our business upon the bedrock of experience, talent, reputation, creativity, and longevity.

~ John Sullivan, Chairman

DESIGNING HOMES THROUGHOUT HOUSTON AND THE U.S.

Currently, the firm is involved with the Carlton Woods & East-shore development in The Woodlands, the renewal of Houston's inner-city, and bayfront and beachfront properties. Other projects are found in some of Houston's most renowned areas such as River Oaks, Tanglewood, the Memorial Villages, and Spring Valley. The firm has also designed properties in Houston, Conroe, Austin, and Dallas, and other Communities.

The firm's projects include production homes, builder custom homes, and individual custom homes. Though mostly working in Houston, the firm has completed projects throughout the U.S.

"We are not limited to a particular style of residential architecture," John said. "Our attention is to detail and accuracy, and our commitment to constant improvement is our trademark.

"With the experience of the partners and our exceptional staff, we are capable of designing any style of architecture, from Contemporary, to Transitional, to Old World Classic architecture. The firm employs the open-flow concept of casual elegance to create timeless architecture," he said.

Their most challenging projects today are the inner-city town-homes and patio homes.

"Houston's inner-city is not just brick boxes anymore. It now has more architectural character: Contemporary, Transition-



al, Modern Farmhouse, Spanish Colonial, Italianate, Mediterranean, County French, and Chateau," John said.

The firm enthusiastically welcomes the challenges of building in Houston's inner-city where designers and builders face bayous, ravines, tight building enve-

PHOTO BY STEFAN YARISH

lopes, height restrictions, and the cost of land to density.

COLLABORATING WITH CLIENT FAMILIES

The success of Sullivan, Henry, Oggero & Associates is not just the story of a group of professionals capitalizing on their technical expertise. This firm understands the human element of home design which involves collaborating with client families to achieve the ultimate American Dream.

"The American Dream is building a new home. Designing and building a home from concept can be one of the most exciting challenges the client will ever have. The day they move in provides a thrill that lasts a lifetime. We spend the extra time, energy, and money it takes to do the job with excellence and translate the requirements of our clients into a timeless, personal rendering of their dreams," John said.

"As master interpreters, we are dedicated to designing a home that meets expectations from the client's perspective. The key to reaching the absolute best design for each client is to listen. It's not our job to tell the clients what they need; it is our job to design a home that fulfills their

needs," Robert Henry said.

Bat Oggero explains, "It's about satisfying the client. It's about taking their ideas and making them a reality in ways that they never imagined possible. When we get that call or note from a client expressing their appreciation, telling how much they love their new home or how many compliments they are receiving – that's the most gratifying part of this business for me."

John advises clients to scrutinize the firm they contract to design their home. "In designing and building a large custom home, the firm the client retains should have a top support team. When working with our firm, there is a collaborative effort by the entire staff, from concept to finished construction documents," he said.

"Each principal works one-on-one with the client. Then, the staff meets and we use each other as a sounding board. We exercise the advantage of viewing our projects from many perspectives which eliminates 'tunnel-vision.' As the saying goes, 'Two heads are better than one.' This type of collaborative team effort during a project enables the company to meet deadlines, avoid permit problems,



and stay current with building code changes, and expedite construction drawings smoothly," John said.

SUPPORT STAFF PLAYS KEY ROLE

The firm's superb support staff plays a key role throughout the process. "Our talented staff of designers, CAD operators, draftspersons, and plan review team enables us to maintain the highest level of professionalism and the accuracy we insist on," Robert said.

"Our top-notch support staff makes it possible for us to do excellent work for the client. We use the most current computer-aided design tools available, such as AutoCAD and Revit, highly customized for design, production, 3-D modeling, and printing. Our computers and software are replaced or upgraded on a very rigid,

routine schedule," Robert said.

The firm keeps up with the latest technology which changes quite frequently. In recent years, computer 3-D modeling and virtual home tours have helped put client dreams in front of them before the home is built.

COMPANY PRINCIPALS OFFER VARIETY OF TALENTS

The partnership among company principals is distinct.

John is the "Big-Picture Man" – the inspirational goal setter, mentor, and magician. He is a lifelong Houston resident and graduate of the University of Houston. He and his wife, Margaret, have two daughters and a son.

We are dedicated to designing a home that meets the desire and expectations of our client and will not sacrifice accuracy in trying to achieve that goal. The key to reaching the best design solution for our client is to LISTEN. It's not our job to tell our clients what they need; it's our job to design a home that fulfills their needs.

~ Robert L. Henry, Chief Operations Officer





"From the time I was in grade school, I always loved to draw. I found myself sketching buildings, large boats, and houses. When I was 18, I designed my parents' 1,200 square foot house on Canyon Lake. This was the first house that was built from one of my designs. I was hooked," said John.

John enjoys golf, boating, traveling, and spending time with his family, particularly his grandsons.

John first worked as a draftsman for Harold Clothier and then eventually became his partner until Mr. Clothier's untimely death.

In 1997, after seventeen years as an associate, Robert Henry became a partner. He is the practical partner, taking charge of the daily operations of scheduling, production, and administration.

It's about satisfying the customer. It's about taking their ideas and making them a reality in ways they never dreamed possible. ~ Bat Oggero, President

Now serving as Senior Vice-President/Operations, Robert moved to Friendswood in the early 1960s from North Texas. He was an



PHOTO BY PRUDENCE ALLWEIN

eyewitness to Houston's first big construction boom. "I saw Clear Lake City spring up from the oil fields and pasture lands," he said.

Robert was introduced to architecture while taking a high school drafting class. He worked for a designer while still in high school, then left to explore the construction side of the business, while in college.

He became a member of TIBD in 1976 and a Certified Building Designer in 1991. Other associations include AIBD and NCBDC.

"Design is my passion," Robert said. "I am one of the fortunate few who get to go to a job they truly love."

Robert and his wife, Paula, have three children. He enjoys travel, snow skiing, motorcycles, and playing golf. He and his family are active members of Friendswood Community Church.

Bat Oggero, joined the firm in 1991 and became a partner in 2004. Bat's gift is his unique ability to connect instantly with a client on a personal level. He is able to turn a potentially stressful experience into a comfortable, joy-filled one.

Bat was raised and attended school in Pearland. His father was a home builder in the 1970s and a client of the firm.

"I guess you could say I was born into the business. I started drawing as soon as I could hold a pencil," he said.

Bat graduated from Texas A&M College of Architecture in 1991 as a member of the Architectural Honor Society.

Bat and his wife, Dawn, were married in 1992 and have two children. Their family lives in Pearland. Bat enjoys golf and is an avid outdoors-man.

For the youngest partner, Trey Sullivan, it all began on his first frame walk with his father, John. This walk led to numerous summer breaks in the office and print room, starting in 1994 at the age of 14. Trey started full time with the firm in 2002 and became a partner in 2013.

Trey's main specialty is all aspects of land planning and managing multi-urban and city projects from concept to permit completion. He also has built numerous homes in the heights from 2003-2010.

The advantage of our land planning is we design concepts simultaneously to make sure a good design can fit on our lot size and density. ~ Trey Sullivan, VP Operations

Trey enjoys golf, live music, boating, and other numerous outdoor activities.

Sullivan, Henry, Oggero & Associates, Inc. has participated in five Street of Dreams, numerous Parade of Homes, and two ASID Home Shows. They have won several PRISM Awards, Texas Star Awards, National American Living Awards, and professional design awards.

The firm was recognized by the Greater Houston Builders Association as "Houston's Best Custom Home Design (800K-1.2 Million)".



