



AN INSIDE LOOK AT AN ARCHITECTURAL GEM BY J. EVERETT SCHRAM

Maison Coulee Mine, a private residence designed by architect J. Everett Schram, is a delight to behold. “The intent of this house was for it to feel as if it had evolved over time...as if it had been added onto or cobbled together as “the family” may have grown in wealth,” explained Everett.

Read on to learn more about the organic growth of this design, and enjoy a photo tour of this timeless masterpiece.

THE SCOUT GUIDE (TSG): What was the design directive you and your client hoped to achieve with Maison Coulee Mine?

J.E. SCHRAM: The client wanted something that felt timeless; as if it had always been there; derived from old, regional farm houses and that would be a place for generations of their families to make memories. We developed the house as an Acadian cottage that became a larger, plantation-like home “over time”.

TSG: What are some custom features in this home that stand out to you?

J.E. SCHRAM: All of the doors, transoms and millwork were custom made. The mantels and everything are one of a kind! We also use a lot of reclaimed materials, such as wood flooring, beams and brick.

TSG: We know that designing homes with a “sense of place” is very important to you. How did you accomplish that with the design of Maison Coulee Mine?

J.E. SCHRAM: Sense of place is all about being sensitive to the traditions of a given region’s vernacular language. The client wanted their own version of the “modern farmhouse”, which we did in a South Louisiana sort-of-way. We used elements of the Acadian and Creole building tradition



ABOVE: Owner's cottage; LOWER: Kitchen



to anchor it to its place: steep roofs, deep overhangs, raised on piers, large porches, cross ventilation, minimal interior hallways, windows-to-the-floor and lots of French doors to the porches, etc, etc, etc

TSG: What does Maison Coulee Mine mean, and where did it come from?

J.E. SCHRAM: The Acadian tradition is to name a house after its family name, Maison Thibodeaux for example. This family did not have a French name...and also for privacy purposes...didn't want the house to be named for them. So, it sits on a coulee (small flowing body of water) named Coulee Mine. Hence the name of the house...for its place.

TSG: Tell us more about the inspiration behind the design for this home, as if it had grown organically over time.

J.E. SCHRAM: It would've started with the building we call the "Owner's Cottage", which is a simple Acadian structure; later the owners would have added the carriage house as a sort of barn structure; still later, the larger Creole manse, which would've had its own series of adaptations...like in-filling part of the porch with the keeping room, which is off of the kitchen. There were a couple of other outbuildings designed, but not built, that also lend to this narrative as well.

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TOP: Keeping room off the kitchen; ABOVE: Open kitchen to dining area; LOWER: The scullery



TOP: Living room; LEFT: Master suite; RIGHT: Master bath