

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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## Craftsmen and Their Homes

By Sophie Braccini



*Overhanging eaves feature prominently in Jon Eiler's Craftsman home.*

Jon Eiler's inspiration for his Lafayette home came from early twentieth-century houses designed by Charles and Henry Greene (Greene & Greene) of Pasadena. The Greenes' large homes, designed in the Craftsman style, are sometimes referred to as the 'Ultimate

Bungalows' and make extensive use of natural material, from the outside structure that is magnified, like an exoskeleton, to the many details of the interior fixtures, panels and furniture – the Craftsman style is said to be the first true American style.

Greene & Greene were early 20th

century architects who studied woodworking, metalworking, and toolmaking before joining the School of Architecture at M.I.T. Their style, which developed in Pasadena where they settled, was influenced by Japanese design in the creation of clear and simple lines, while their

craftsmanship and love for natural elements led them to use exotic hardwoods, outside and inside the homes they designed, as well as stones, metal, and stained glass.

When Lafayette carpenter Eiler bought a 2000-square-foot ranch home in Lafayette, he knew that this was the style that would inspire his remodeling. "The exterior of Jon's home is probably one of the closest to the Greene & Greene style I have seen in the area," comments- museum-curator turned real-estate-agent Tran Turner.

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*Red windows contrast beautifully with the dark green-grey outside walls on the Hathaway home*