Clean lines, an open floor plan, and natural, rustic touches meld design styles in a new-build home.

The homeowners chose a low-backed, sleek leather sectional and backless stools for along the kitchen island to keep sight lines open throughout the space, while still defining each living area.
The owners, a couple and their young child, of the Midland home originally put a purchase offer on another Prairie-style home in the area. It was designed by Red Warner, a local architect who followed in the footsteps of well-known Prairie School students Frank Lloyd Wright and Alden B. Dow. However, the homeowners realized that while they loved the timeless design of the home, it didn't quite meet their needs as a modern, growing family. So, they turned to Greystone Homes and owner/builder Kelly Wall.

BRIDGING THE PAST TO ACCOMMODATE THE FUTURE
Greystone Homes, based out of Midland, provides “full-package” home design to its customers, and builds homes that exude the character and consistency of style that can sometimes be lacking in new-build homes.

“In this home, we wanted to bring in the character that you would see in [an Alden B.] Dow home, but ensure that it [met] the needs of the modern family,” says Wall. One significant change is the ceiling heights. Classic Prairie homes often have 7-foot walls, which seem low to today’s buyers, so we raised everything up to give the space a spacious, airy feel.

And, of course, using modern finishes and materials provides a much higher level of energy efficiency than you would find in a mid-century build.”

A “LIVABLE” LIVING SPACE
The walls in the home are all at least 9 feet high. The living room walls vault up even higher to a lovely trayed ceiling that separates the room from the rest of the open-concept space. The ceilings give the home an expansive feel, while the soft gray paint colors, rich hardwood floors, and stacked stone fireplace warm up the contemporary design.

“We wanted to balance the clean lines of our home with some natural, rustic touches,” says the homeowner. “We love modern design, but wanted our house to feel lived-in, which is why we paired our sleek sectional sofa with a more rustic wood and iron coffee table.”

A mix of light and dark cabinetry gives personality to the kitchen, and the large quartz-topped island provides ample working space. A rustic stacked wood farm table is perfectly offset by a show-stopping crystal chandelier.
THE HEART OF THE HOME

The living area flows seamlessly into the home’s spacious kitchen, which features custom cabinetry in a mix of white and espresso-colored finishes. One of the homeowners’ main priorities was that the home be as low-maintenance as possible. They wanted to focus on enjoying the space, rather than on its upkeep. To achieve this, they went with quartz countertops, which can handle heat, scrubbing, and spills without getting scratched or stained, while still giving the look of natural stone. The surface of the huge island, which houses an induction cooktop, matches the Carrera marble of the tiled backsplash, while a deeper gray counter complements the full wall of white cabinets.

In the dining area, the homeowners chose a stacked rustic wood dining table and paired it with comfortable-yet-contemporary upholstered chairs and a show-stopping glass chandelier. The space is finished off with a sleek take on a sliding barn door, leading to a large pantry space.

“Barn doors bring [to home design] a unique, almost industrial feel, but they don’t provide much sound-proofing, so I don’t recommend them for private spaces,” says Wall. “But as an accent door, they can bring a lot of personality into a room.”

DROP ZONE

Connecting the garage to the rest of the home is a space that Wall refers to as a “drop zone.” It’s a modern spin on the mudroom, and gives the family an area to hang their coats, take off their shoes, and drop the mail without bringing any clutter into the main living space. The homeowners expanded their drop zone to include an office area and first floor laundry.

A PERSONAL RETREAT

All of the home’s bedrooms are set away from the main living space, providing separation and privacy in the otherwise open-concept home. The master suite has the most “traditional” design in the home. It features warm Berber carpeting, a high-backed upholstered headboard with tufting and nail-head accents, and curved mirrored dressers that serve as nightstands. A silk and glass chandelier brings a sense of romance to the bedroom retreat, as do the full-length drapes—the only traditional window coverings in the home.

The master bath balances the clean lines of the rest of the home with the relaxing feel of the master bedroom. Slate floors bring an organic sense to the space, while a floating vanity and sleek free-standing soaker tub honor the home’s modern aesthetic. The main feature of the bath is the over-sized walk-in shower, which features a sparkling mosaic floor, a rain showerhead, and body jets, allowing for a luxurious bath experience.

LET THE LIGHT IN

“One of our favorite aspects of this home is the amount of natural light that comes in,” says the homeowner. “Every room is just bathed in natural light, and we love that the windows frame the gorgeous natural views of our lot. We’re so happy with this house; it’s the perfect space for our family.”

Mirrored nightstands and a silk and glass chandelier add sparkle and romance to the master bedroom retreat.

A chestnut-stained floating double vanity is perfectly framed by a pair of transom windows.
Prairie-style design, which came of age around the turn of the 20th century, is one of the few architectural styles that didn’t originate in Europe. This uniquely American school of design originated in the Midwest and developed as an offshoot of the Arts and Crafts movement. It was brought to fame by its most renowned master: Frank Lloyd Wright. One of Wright’s students, Midland’s own Alden B. Dow, then brought Prairie-style design to the Great Lakes Bay Region, designing more than 70 residences and dozens of churches, schools, and commercial buildings from the 1930s through the 1960s.

Original Prairie-style homes, as the name suggests, were designed to blend in with the expansive plains of the Midwestern landscape. The typical Prairie-style house features strong, sweeping horizontal lines, earthy materials, and broad, open-concept floor plans. Massive masonry piers and chimneys, wide porches, and low-pitched, hipped roofs with overhanging eaves and ribbon-like transom windows are other common features of this school of design. The homes, which may be single or multiple stories, have the appearance of rising from the earth. On the interior, the open layouts and airy rooms give the homes a contemporary appeal, making them a popular choice for today’s buyers.

Greystone Homes set out to create a unique take on Prairie-style design for its clients, to best fit the family’s expansive meadow-like lot, which backs up to a woods. The single-story home features a low-slung hipped roof, stacked stone pillars, an outdoor fireplace, and transom windows. Its dark brown cement board siding provides the house with an extremely durable and low-maintenance exterior.

“Cement board siding can stand up to just about anything nature can dish out—heat, cold, wind, etc.,” says Greystone Homes owner Kelly Wall. “And unlike some other types of siding, cement board can be repainted if the homeowners want a change in the future.”

The home’s exterior features cement board siding, stacked stone pillars, and transom windows.