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# Building Savvy

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## UPTMORE CUSTOM HOMES

JACK AND JOSH CARRY ON THE  
LEGACY THAT BIG JIM STARTED

A Homebuilding Industry Publication



PHOTO BY JASON ROBERTS



# UPTMORE CUSTOM HOMES

## A SAN ANTONIO TREASURE, A RICH FAMILY LEGACY

**T** There are very few people who've been in the construction industry in San Antonio who **aren't** familiar with the name **Uptmore**, specifically Jim, Jack and now Josh. This construction family – over several decades and now over three generations – has made a significant contribution to the landscape of San Antonio, to the building community, and to the quality of life for many grateful families.

The oldest of six children, Jim was born on a farm in tiny Tours, Texas. After earning a degree in agricultural education from Texas A&M, he entered the Air Force and served two years. In 1956 Jim joined Zachry Properties and learned the real estate business from the ground up, becoming the president in eight short years. In 1974 he acquired the balance of stock in Zachry Properties and merged that with his own holdings and incorporated into J. H. Uptmore & Associates.

Over the years he's been a major builder and developer around San Antonio including the subdivisions of Churchill Forest, Churchill Estates, and Big Country and Harvest Hills; 18 buildings on Datapoint (including the old Turtle Creek Country Club); apartment complexes, warehouses and a myriad of other projects, both commercial and residential.

A lifelong Aggie, Jim has served as president of the local Aggie Club, received the Polly Krueger '12 Distinguished Service Award and has as chairman of the College Agricultural Development Council. Uptmore was also one of the original pioneers of GSABA and served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Home Builders; was President of GSABA (1966), and President of the Texas Builders Association (1971). Jim Uptmore was also named "Builder of the Year" in 1971.

"We're proud of ourselves and of our customers. We simply take care of our customers, and they in turn take care of us," says Uptmore.

Like his father Jim, Jack also received a college degree from A&M. While in college he attained a realtor's license, and during the summers drove a combine harvesting corn from sun-up to sundown. From 1982-1990 Jack worked for his dad learning residential and commercial contracting and property management.

"Jack earned his own way; he's his own man. He never got any special treatment from me or anybody else. And I'm very proud of him for what he's accomplished," added Jim.

**"We're proud of ourselves and of our customers. We simply take care of our customers, and they in turn take care of us," says Uptmore.**

Jack went out on his own in 1990, remodeling a three-story hospital building, with his wife, Susan, creating the

lead for him. Later that year, with the economy in full-blown recession, Jack was hired back to diversify the company and run Property Management and Construction Associates (PMCA), which required oversight of a multitude of office buildings and warehouses.

Shortly later Uptmore Custom Homes came into existence, and Jack got very involved with GSABA and participated in 15 of their annual Parade of Homes events, served two terms on the board of directors, and was president in 2011. Jack was also the GSABA Builder of the Year in 2012.

Very civic minded, like his dad, Jack built three homes for the "Homes for Our Troops" organization, was president of the San Antonio Aggie Club (1996) and is the current chair of the GSABA Housing Center. He is also Co-Chair of the Building-Related and Fire Code Appeals and Advisory Board for the City of San Antonio.

"I believe in giving back ... to the builders' association, to church, charities, to my partners and subcontractors ... to people in need. I was taught to always be learning, be slow to speak and quick to listen. I've always tried to remain humble, yet proud of my successes, and to overcome diversity and challenges with grace," says Jack. "And I know this about San Antonio... You don't burn bridges in this small-town big city. Being able to be trusted is huge."



Most of Uptmore's clients know of them through banks, realtors, suppliers and past clients. Their reputation in the community is very strong. They're serious about attention to detail and often employ independent inspectors to give them another set of eyes. Material upgrades Uptmore normally includes are tankless water heaters, sound insulation between floors, foam insulation, larger sliding glass doors, Wellborn cabinets and more. Through Centricity they provide a 10-year warranty and often many other services after the initial two-year warranty period.



Under Jack's direction, Uptmore Custom Homes has remodeled the Aggie Park building; built the Charter Oaks Townhouses; an 8,000-square-foot building at Boysville; and developed Harvest Hills, a dynamic master planned community with its own waste water treatment facility.



"I've been very honored to have worked with my dad, Jim Uptmore," adds Jack. "To have his guidance, work ethic, support and counsel – his example – over the last 38 years has been an incredible blessing to me. And now with my son, Josh (also an A&M graduate), coming onboard with us in 2017, it assures our clients, friends and business partners that the Uptmore family legacy of quality homes will continue. And that is very important to us. Josh in just a few years has been a quick study about this business. His understanding of the importance of mutual respect for everyone involved is a great asset to our company."

[www.uptmorehomes.com](http://www.uptmorehomes.com)  
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Uptmore obviously has some very loyal, hard-working and dependable partners. Here's what some of them had to say:

"We love working with the Uptmores... They are good people. They build a beautiful home and are very well-respected around the community." – **Tom Callahan, True Blue Granite**

"Jack has worked with our family for several years, starting with our mom, Linda. We feel more like family with them than we do with others. They are great." – **Liz Knight, Centricity**

"Jack's always been with us through thick and thin... especially during the lean years. They are a well-run, very organized enterprise, and deliver a great product ... several of them around Alamo Heights. They are exactly what a good banker looks for." – **Kirk McClelland, First Commercial Bank**

"They are very loyal to us and pay on a timely basis. We do a lot of their cantera work as well as specialty doors." – **Karla Soto, San Marcos Doors**

"Our industry desperately needs new blood... So it's kinda neat to see Josh come up the ranks like Jack did and learn the ropes. They're great to work with, and they built a great home." – **John Magninat, Classic Air**

"The Uptmores are very conscientious about their homeowners, and giving them the conveniences and comforts of the latest in technology." – **Jim Davis, Builder Security Group** ▼