

LITTLE CREEK EQUESTRIAN

TIFFANY FOSTER BUILDS HER DREAM

Location: Wellington, Florida

Builders: Ventura Construction

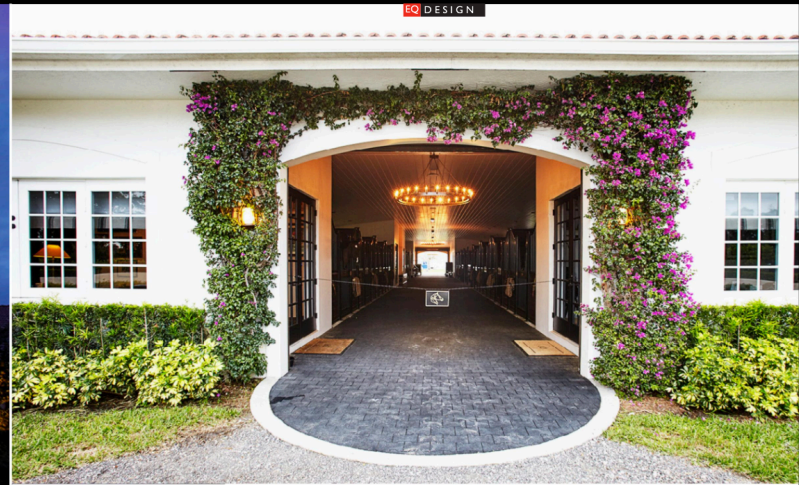
Arenas: Wordley Martin Equestrian Surfaces

BY JENNIFER WOOD/JUMP MEDIA

For most riders, the chance to design and build their dream farm is simply that, a dream. But for Canadian Olympic show-jumper Tiffany Foster, her hard work, creativity, and a team of experts helped her build an efficient, beautiful setting for her horses to call home. The 10-acre property in Wellington, Florida, has everything an equestrian athlete could want, including two riding arenas designed and built by Wordley Martin Equestrian Surfaces, eight paddocks, two barns with a total of 24 stalls, a walker, indoor wash racks, a vet and farrier station, and a saltwater spa for the horses. For the people, amenities include a lounge, staff lunchroom, tack

rooms, commercial laundry machines, staff apartments, and a five-bedroom house. When Foster had the opportunity to purchase and start the construction process in 2016, she found the right people to help from the beginning. She was ready to open her own business, Little Creek Equestrian. With Andy and Carlene Ziegler of Artisan Farms as her primary investors, Foster found a five-acre property with a 12-stall barn. By partnering with the Ziegler family, purchasing an adjacent five-acre lot, and tearing down the house, she was able to build the farm of her dreams. Foster's eye for design, which she uses in her design business, Rustique Interiors, ensured

CONTINUED ON PAGE 86





that no detail would be overlooked, and the facility would feature her signature style of a comfortable, modern-rustic European vibe with classic American luxury.

"I noticed that a lot of farms in Wellington are beautiful, but you can tell they were designed by someone that was not also a horse professional. My design knowledge, along with my equestrian background and experience in helping build others' farms in the past, really helped with my own project," recalled Foster. "Andy had a vision for me, and the Ziegler family has been incredibly supportive. They really wanted to set me up to continue competing at the top level even when they were no longer my main sponsors and supporters. We designed it to be a place where I could run my business rather than a private family facility."

Phase one of construction included finalizing the site plan and building the all-important riding arenas after the winter circuit finished. Foster turned to her friend and fellow Olympic show jumper, Sharn Wordley, and his business partner, Craig Martin, to build the arenas, as well as other site work that included building the roadways, creating a pond, and more.

Footing most important

"Footing is the most important thing for a farm because if you don't have good footing, you don't have sound horses, and if you don't have sound horses, you're not going to the show," she said. "I had a great experience working with Sharn and Craig. Whenever we need anything, we still call them, and they help us out. When it pours rain like we get in Wellington, 30 minutes later, our ring is good to go and ready to be used."

Boasting a giant 300- by 170-foot sand ring as well as an additional 200- by 150-foot sand ring and two jogging paths for vet inspections, Little Creek Equestrian has everything a rider could need to keep their horses happy and healthy. Foster moved into phase two of construction in 2017 and finished by the end of the year. Working with Wellington-based Ventura Construction, she built a new 12-stall barn with world-class amenities.

"I have done a ton of renovation projects and lots of new builds throughout my life, and this project was probably the least headache I've ever had," attested Foster. "Show jumping is a game of millimeters and nanoseconds, so anything you can do to make sure you are the best prepared to go to the ring and any little advantage you can find will go a long way. Having a facility with everything you need to get there actually counts a lot. If you have to compromise any of the training process or the horse's comfort, it's going to catch up to you at some point. Having this wonderful facility to work out of has been a huge bonus.

"The best vote of confidence is when everybody who works for me says, 'This ring is awesome! There's everything we need, not really anything missing!' Then you know you've done a good job," she affirmed. "Anybody that comes to my farm says it's an impressive place, it's functional, and it's pretty. I think it all adds up to being able to do the best job you can, and then you get the best horses, and you get the best customers. It's all sort of a domino effect. You attract the kind of people you want to attract when you put your best foot forward."