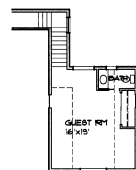
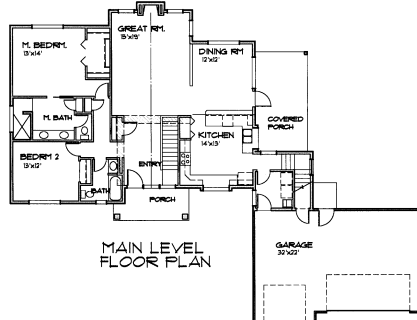


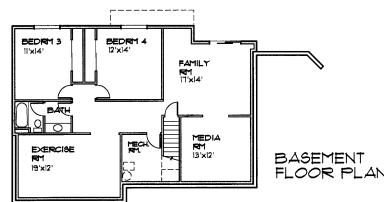
Custom HOME OF THE WEEK



UPPER FLOOR PLAN



MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

Owners, Russ & Kim Arakawa



- 3530 sq. ft. home
- 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths

- Exercise & media rooms
- 3 car garage

Large home has function, comfort

Russ and Kim Arakawa wanted a home that was functional and not just for show. So, when the couple talked design with Mike Cohen, of MC Construction Consultants, Inc., that was their main concern. The result was a three-level, 3,530-square-foot home that is roomy, comfortable and convenient for every member of the family. The couple personalized every room with their own style.

"Kim decorated the house single-handedly," Russ says proudly, to which Kim answers, "Yes, indeed. Decorating is my passion in life. I love it, and if I could do it for a living, I would."

The couple had the builder leave the lower level unfinished so it's still in the process of development. In addition to two bedrooms and a family room, Russ says there will be a media room for a large television with surround sound for maximum viewing enjoyment. Another room will hold a full range of exercise equipment — at least for now.

"When my friend and I were framing

up the basement, Kim came up with all kinds of great ideas. One was a closet in the exercise room, in case one of the boys wants to move down there when he gets older. Also, there's a little indented nook in the corner that will have a built-in desk in it for a computer. There will be a door on it that will close and make the space just disappear."

Another feature that was a must in Kim's mind was a manageable heating system. She had spent too much chilly time in the lower part of a house while upper floors were cozy with heat. The cure for that was a heat zone in the lower level that is separate from the rest of the home.

The couple's favorite space in the house is the main level and specifically the kitchen, where they both enjoy cooking.

"The kitchen is good-sized and is the focal point because that's where the guests usually are," says Russ, who claims to make a "really good steak." He also brags about his Italian wife's skills at

making memorable pasta dishes.

The great room, dining room and kitchen is an area that appears to flow together. The half wall that separates the dining and great rooms has an end column that accents Kim's artistic design features. She separated the great room into seating areas to maximize the comfort and highlight the view through the many windows that line the wall.

"There's one large window up high, above the fireplace, where you can just see the blue sky and the tips of the tall trees," says Kim. "It's one of my favorite architectural features that MC Construction designed."

The couple's sons, age 6 and 9, spend much of their time in the large room above the garage. They added a bathroom because the room was located so far from the main floor facility. The playroom will later be turned into a guest bedroom as the children grow and the home changes functions one more time.



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