

Custom HOME OF THE WEEK

Dream home filled with unique features

By Liz Bennett

Bob and Song Birck's four-bedroom home has everything they want: plenty of breathing space, well-lighted rooms and understated panache.

The home, which was conceptually designed by Song, was built by MC Construction Consultants Inc. Mike Cohen, owner of the company, used the couple's ideas to design and build a home with unique features that only a custom builder could provide a homeowner with vision.

Those features include a double-sided fireplace situated 27 inches off the floor in the master bedroom. The other side of the elevated fireplace sends a warm, flickering glow into the master bathroom. Whether lying in bed or lounging in the bathtub, a person has an eye-level view of the crackling fire. The flames also accentuate the gold trim and smoky black tile around the tub and fireplace.

A similar fireplace is located in the wall that separates the great room and dining area, where the fire's glow creates an ambiance during dinner to which candles can't compare.

The free-standing island adds an additional creative punch to the kitchen. The large counter space is 35 inches wide on the ends and nearly 60 inches along each side. Something else Song wanted in their home is the 55-inch window that joins the great room with the kitchen. The feature not only allows natural light to flow from room to room, but also presents a clear view of the front door from the kitchen. A definite plus when there's an active 4-year-old in the house.

A few steps from the kitchen is a spacious pantry that is adjacent to the oversized utility room. It gives the

couple plenty of space for storing extra provisions and cooking equipment.

A 16-foot vaulted ceiling adds to the spacious feel of the home, plus creates additional architectural interest.

looked for from the start, but weren't sure they'd get. They had looked at homes for over a year before they decided to take the plunge into custom building.

"We decided that there wouldn't be



The vaulted ceiling continues into the master bedroom and bath. This part of the house, which includes a bedroom that measures more than 300 square feet, makes up nearly a third of the entire home. Added to the regular bedroom furniture are two overstuffed recliners, along with a television and sound system. The roomy walk-in closet, which compares in size to the smallest bedroom, allows an early riser to get dressed without disturbing the one still sleeping.

Uniqueness doesn't stop in the interior of the 2,228-square-foot home. Since the couple enjoy having guests to their frequent cookouts, they made sure their visitors had ready access to a phone and restroom.

"The garage has a half-bath and phone," Bob Birck says. "When we have deck parties, people can make calls without having to go into the house. It also keeps them from taking off their shoes and putting them on every time they need to go into the house. We don't wear street shoes inside our home. My wife is Korean, so it's a cultural thing, but it also keeps down the wear and tear of the carpet."

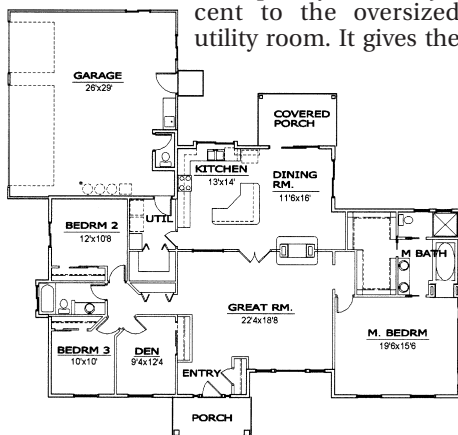
The entire concept is what the couple

much difference cost-wise to have a home built," Birck says. "This is the first home we've had built, so it was kind of an anxious endeavor for us to take."

However, their apprehension was soon put to rest.

"During the process, Mike Cohen and his staff were nothing but a class act. They were really very knowledgeable and professional, which made it a pleasurable experience for us to go through."

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