

# Custom HOME OF THE WEEK



**MC** MC CONSTRUCTION  
CONSULTANTS, INC.

## Custom homes reflects the dreams

Mike Cohen, owner of MC Construction Consultants Inc., is part artist, part mind reader and full-time designer/ builder of custom homes that are anything but ordinary. Instead, they are dramatic and breath-taking homes that truly reflect the ideas and dreams of their occupants.

The creating process sometimes starts with a stack of plans, a few sketches and a wish list from customers.

"We always look for starting points — something to point to," Cohen explains. "We could have a number of plans laid out in front of us and the customer points to one kitchen, then sees a living room in another plan. We take a modular approach; as we get basic questions answered, we begin putting the spaces together to form a unique plan."

However, that plan isn't cast in stone. "We might start out going in one direction, then switch gears and add or modify an element," Cohen says. "That's one of the things that sets us apart — we stay flexible during the whole process. We like to take advantage of opportunities as they arise, such as realizing there's a better view off in this direction, so we move the windows to take advantage of it."

Being able to make changes mid-course is just one nice thing about a cus-

tom home. There are three reasons that Cohen gives for considering a custom design/built home.

"Usually the first motivation is that you can pick your site — the location and the kind of property. The second reason is you get a floor plan that's perfect for your lifestyle, and the third is you get to put your budget into features that you pick rather than the features that happen to be there."

Cohen does build homes from pre-designed home plans.

"When a customer brings in a design, we'll gladly give them a bid and build the home. But we like doing design/build because it helps us work with the customer to maximize their budget with features in the space they'd like to have. The budget is the priority each step of the way, but it's much easier to design on the smaller side and expand than to start with a plan and try to shrink it."

MC Construction Consultants stresses the importance of open communication during the entire process. Cohen says that while some plans may come together in a week, he has spent as much as a year working with a customer to design the perfect home. Our system is based on an enjoyable and stress-free experience.

"The design phase gives us the oppor-

tunity to produce high-quality and timely work with the plan and budget, and it gives our customers confidence in us," Cohen says. "It all comes down to developing a good working relationship and trusting relationship. They count on us to produce and do what we say we're going to do."

Some of that work is a challenge. For example, one customer wanted a New Mexico-style home, both inside and out. The resulting design included hand-hewn round logs for all the ceiling rafters and hand-split round poles as sheathing between the rafters. While the building process was challenging, the drama it provided was worth the effort.

His artistic touch has earned Cohen applause from customers, but it's the relationship with his customers that he's especially proud of.

"We maintain contact with our customers indefinitely. We return all phone calls — that's our number one golden rule," Cohen says emphatically. "We feel territorial about our customers, so when the slightest thing comes up, we want to be the ones to handle it. We would do anything for our customers, no matter how big or small."

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