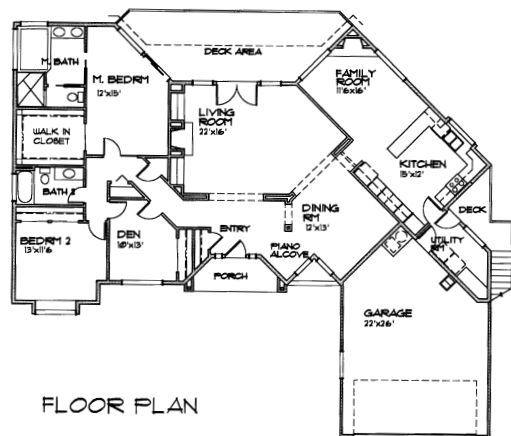


Custom HOME OF THE WEEK

Owners, Gail & Rudy Martin



- 2,153 sq. ft. home
- 2 bedrooms, 2 baths
- Den
- 2 car garage



Love of light drives design of home

When MC Construction Consultants Inc. designed the interior of the custom-built home of Rudy and Gail Martin, they provided a surprise to nearly every first-time visitor.

"The house is quite deceptive," Rudy explains. "From the outside it looks like a simple, straight forward little house, then you open the door and, wham, it hits you."

Although the house is only 2,153 square feet, it looks infinitely larger because of the unique design. As a visitor steps into the front door, he is quick to notice the height of the ceilings and the luminosity throughout the area.

"Except for the entry area, living room and dining room, the ceilings are all 9 feet high. That's a foot higher than standard and it gives a feeling of spaciousness."

The ceilings above the remaining living space, which Rudy refers to as the "pod," are vaulted to a 16-foot maximum height. That loftiness and the amount of light coming into the home results in the "wham" he makes reference to.

The somewhat unusual angles of the

home is for a purpose, Rudy explains.

"The essential reason was to have as much natural light as possible in every room. For 25 years we lived in a big old house, built in 1928, that had wonderful light. When we decided to build a house, we decided we had to have a lot of light, and we didn't want skylights. We wanted to capture the light with oversized windows."

Even the area within the "pod," which includes the living, dining and family rooms, has access to light pouring in from the banks of windows that line the back of the house. Light from the deck area flows through the living room and into the dining room through an open arch. There's a half wall dividing the living and family rooms, which visually continues the open concept.

The deck can be accessed through three doors: the French doors in the living room and the sliding doors in the master bedroom and family room. A smaller deck at the side of the home allows muddy shoes to be deposited in the utility room before entry into the

large and airy kitchen.

Rudy is especially proud of one feature in that kitchen.

"It's one thing that folks won't notice unless they're tall like we are. All the work surfaces in the kitchen and in the bathrooms are six inches higher than standard. That way we don't have to bend over so far to brush our teeth or chop an onion. It makes a world of difference."

The desire for features out of the ordinary is why the Martins chose to have a custom-designed home built. Their ideas, gleaned from their previous home and several homes they toured, plus the design talents of Mike Cohen, MC Construction Consultants Inc., were a winning combination.

"The design is sort of a mix of what we came up with and the things we saw in the houses Mike showed us."

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