

Custom HOME OF THE WEEK

Custom home has creative touches.

By Liz Bennett

Finding a home that fits your personality and lifestyle is important, but can be difficult. While one home may have the perfect kitchen, the layout is all wrong. Another may have the layout that makes entertaining a breeze, but the kitchen is too small.

A custom builder alleviates the hunt for the right house, because you have a hand in designing just the right kitchen, the layout and rooms that meet specific needs. A room that Charles McCann wanted was a dark room for processing the black and white photos he loved to take. MC Construction Consultants Inc. understood his requirement and built the room in the garage, making sure the room's temperature stays at a constant 68 degrees winter and summer.

Charles' wife, Barbara, wanted a room to enjoy painting and the builder designed a room that had plenty of space, ample light for painting and a private restroom. She says this room could be anything a person wanted it to be: playroom, media room or extra bedroom, which is what it has become.

MC Construction Consultants is known for listening and responding to the needs of customers. Clients have given owner Mike Cohen ideas that were sketched on a napkin, or cut from magazines and pasted into notebooks. The creative designer looks at the ideas, asks questions, takes notes and comes back with a plan that is often just what the client was dreaming about.

From that step, the talented staff at MC Construction moves forward as an organized team to provide the homeowners with the best experience possible.

"Mike is a really wonderful person to work with," Barbara says. "So many people who have built a home groan and say they wouldn't want to go through it again. With Mike, it went very smoothly and followed a schedule for everything."

Charles agrees, saying, "There was never a doubt of what would happen when and the cost involved. It was very well organized."

One space Barbara wanted was a comfortable dining room that had a view. The resulting dining room extends out from the living space and has three walls of windows that look out to the garden and patio areas. When asked if it was her favorite room, Barbara laughs and admits that it isn't.

"Believe it or not, I love my laundry room. I have cupboards and closets with sliding doors where we hang outer wear, and I have a sink. It's been a long time since I've had a sink in the laundry room - that's something everyone should have."

Charles' favorite rooms are the study, where he reads, and the living room, where he listens to music in front of the fireplace. Most of the time the gas fireplace is enjoyed for the ambiance it provides, but when it's chilly a fan moves the heat almost instantly throughout the living area.

To the left of the fireplace is an L-shaped window seat that provides extra seating for guests as well as ample storage. However, the four-legged member of the family finds the window seat in the study more to his liking, Charles says.

"The dog likes it the best - it's his favorite lookout spot."

The home also has a kitchen that most cooks would thoroughly enjoy.

"I love this kitchen," Barbara says.

"There's a big bar, a nice pantry and a lot of cupboards. I like that it has lighting under the upper cabinets. I also like the lazy Susan for storing most of my baking stuff."

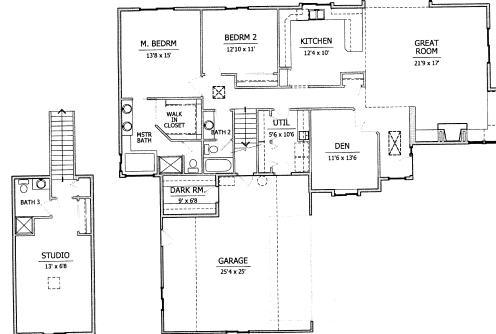
The route from the kitchen to the master bedroom is down a hallway that is lined with the couple's collection of paintings. They had the builder design it wider than most, so the paintings could be displayed and enjoyed. The paintings are by the couple's talented daughters and local artists, but Barbara admits to keeping hers out of the limelight and out of view in the closet.

The master bedroom is large enough for a queen-sized bed, two chairs, bookcase and a dresser, and still has plenty of room. A sliding door leads into the bathroom that has a Jacuzzi tub, separate shower, double sinks and roomy walk-in closet.

"This house just satisfies our every need," Barbara says. "It's been a very comfortable, homey place to be."



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