

Mountain *Getaway*

Arizona home lures buyers
looking for nature's beauty

Many homes built to sell are constructed in a slap-dash frenzy. Not so with a custom home set on a beautiful site in Flagstaff, Arizona. There, the builder and designers paid attention to detail after detail.

After building homes in the southwest for many years, High Country Custom Homes began looking for new markets. When the company's owners, Jim and Sally Stults, and Chris and Jolene Vallejos, learned that the Estates at Pine Canyon in Flagstaff was opening for development, they knew the gated community would offer an opportunity to demonstrate their craftsmanship.

Wood Accents

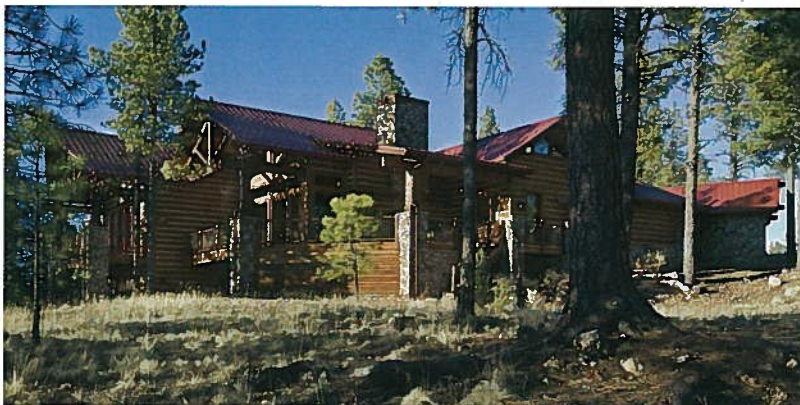
"Our plan was to create a home that showcased many of the different styles that we can offer our clients," Jim says. The home would show prospective buyers alternative timber frame designs, such as various ceiling and roof treatments, timber trusses and hand-hewn timber work, and how each could be incorporated into a custom home. "We also focused on using Northern white cedar wood on the exterior and interior of the home, sourced from Town & Country Cedar Homes of Petoskey, Michigan," Jim says.

High Country Custom Homes hired Lee Hutchison of Urban Design Associates Ltd. in Scottsdale to develop the floor plan and elevations for the home. Lee, who holds the distinction of Master of Southwest Architecture, was a logical choice, especially since he also had the necessary experience in developing high-end homes. "The product that High Country Custom Homes had to offer the client was added value to the style and feel of the home we designed," Lee says.

After Lee completed the plans, interior designer Bess Jones did a mock-up furniture layout to see if the room sizes and placement were conducive to the way a family would use the space. Could people maneuver around or would they constantly be running into the furniture? Would they be able to see the fireplace from a variety of angles in the room? Based upon her input,

RIGHT: King-post trusses of Douglas fir grab attention in the great room and on the back deck. Tongue-and-groove cedar ceilings and reclaimed oak floors contribute to the natural feel.

BELOW: Telluride stone covering the foundation blends with the natural vegetation surrounding the Flagstaff home. The standing seam metal roof offers protection against the potentially heavy snow loads common in this region.







ABOVE: A granite tile backsplash with copper dot accent tiles above the cooktop area is another Bess Jones design. The rim of the hood cover is trimmed in knotty alder to blend with the kitchen cabinets.

ABOVE RIGHT: Golden wall paint brings out the natural tones of the slate floor in the dining room. The homeowners opted for Roman shades, which offer complete privacy at night but are stored snugly during the day to optimize the view.

OPPOSITE: Timber accents add architectural interest to the vaulted kitchen ceiling. Knotty alder cabinets have raised panel doors and are topped with granite. Bess Jones designed and Artistic Creations by Nedra Foster faux-painted the range hood.



Lee tweaked the plans for the final design.

"Although we wanted the home to be high-end, we wanted to keep it a reasonable size that would be attractive to second-home buyers," Jim recalls. They asked Lee to keep the home's size under 4,000 square feet.

Luxurious Living

Lee's final design, at 3,913 square feet, uses two levels to conform to the lot. A covered entry porch is just steps away from the driveway of tumbled stone pavers, allowing guests to be sheltered from the inevitable precipitation found in this mountain community. In order to appeal to a mature prospective buyer, living spaces and the master bedroom are located on the main floor so the homeowners wouldn't have to negotiate stairs on a daily basis.

The foyer on the main floor leads into the great room with a wall of windows and a view across the deck to the surrounding forested area. To the left of the entry is the dining room and kitchen, which flows into the powder room, mudroom and utility room. A storage space connects the main level to the oversized garage. On the right side of the great room is a large master bedroom suite with a fireplace, spa tub, steam shower with rain head, and room-size walk-in closet.

"The great room was designed to capture the 'awe' factor the moment you enter the home," Jim says. Dramatic king-post trusses and tongue-and-groove ceilings draw the eye up. "The dining room and kitchen have just as dramatic vaulted ceilings," he says, "but with exposed timber rafters and drywall."

A staircase to the right of the foyer leads down to the lower level with a walk-out that takes full advantage

of the sloping lot. Here the homeowners' guests are afforded comfort and privacy. To the left of the landing is a large playroom, which could be outfitted for grandchildren or—since it is adjacent to the wine cellar—for "big kids" entertainment. The hallway to the right of the landing leads to a guest bedroom on one side and a full bath on the other. At the end of the hallway is a guest bedroom suite complete with its own private bath.

Special focus was placed on the decks and patio areas at the rear of the home to create outdoor living areas for enjoying both the Flagstaff weather and the views of the green belt and undeveloped Forest Service land. One of the three covered decks on the main level opens from either the great room or the kitchen, creating an easy flow between indoors and out. A third covered deck off the master bedroom is reserved for the homeowner's private use. On the lower level, each bedroom and the family room have doors opening to a patio.

Only Natural

"As we began to consider the colors and finishes in the home, we kept two primary elements in mind: They had to appeal to a great majority of the buyers in terms of quality and looks, and they had to fit as near to budget as possible," Sally says. They worked closely with Bess to create a home with a cohesive look.

"Our overall goal for the interior was to keep the finishes in the colors of nature that surround the home," Bess explains. Realizing that this would most likely be a second home, the team selected easy-to-care-for distressed alder cabinets in a medium light tone. For casual dining, they added an expansive island







complete with a seating area at one end.

Throughout the main living spaces, Bess selected a warm butterscotch-tone paint to blend with the Douglas fir timbers. She used a faux copper paint finish on the hood of the range and upstairs powder room. Bronze-finished Craftsman-style light fixtures were chosen because of their handmade angular feel, which Bess says mixes well with the timber frame.

"My favorite part of this home is the use of many different materials and warm colors," Bess says. "Whether it is the Douglas fir timbers or the slate floors, all of the materials in this home are natural."

In Demand

High Country Custom Homes completed the home in 2006, and within a few months, found a buyer for the property. The new homeowners already had a second home in Flagstaff, but were drawn to both the setting and the timber frame construction of this home.

"Besides the beauty and value, the homeowners' main comments were in praise of the quality of construction of the home," Jim says. With this project behind them, High Country Custom Homes recently merged with Hunter Custom Homes of Flagstaff, Arizona, to combine resources and continue their quest for building homes that showcase the quality and variety of timber frame construction.

ABOVE & LEFT: In the master bedroom, slate surrounds the gas-burning fireplace, which is topped with a hand-hewn mantel supplied by Town & Country Cedar Homes. Hand-hewn beams accent the ceiling. The patio doors open to a private covered deck.

BELOW LEFT: Diamond tile work accents the stone slab countertops, tub surround and shower walls. A pair of wood vanities adds elegance to the master bathroom.

OPPOSITE: Telluride stone forms the floor-to-ceiling fireplace, which can burn gas or wood. Built-in bookcases and cabinetry, and a television niche pre-wired for surround-sound add to the modern amenities.

RESOURCES

Artistic Creations by Nedra Foster Inc., (480) 451-9970

Bess Jones Interiors, (480) 443-8770,
www.bessjonesinteriors.com

High Country Custom Homes (Hunter Custom Homes), (928) 774-5300, www.huntercustomhome.com

Town & Country Cedar Homes, (800) 968-3178,
www.cedarhomes.com

Urban Design Associates, Ltd., (480) 905-1212,
www.udaltd.com

WEB EXTRA: See more including a floor plan at loghomesnetwork.com/tin