



A Deeper Look Within

Lodge-contemporary Black Butte home proves that looks can be deceiving.

Photos by Paula Watts Photography, courtesy of Kirsti Wolfe Designs

by Susan Thomas Springer / for The Bulletin Special Projects

Imagine a classic Black Butte Ranch home, and visions of warm woods, lodge styling and cozy fireplaces may come to mind.

That would be only partly correct for a new home at the Ranch which fits the development's rules on the outside but is decidedly more contemporary on the inside.

The design for this house has earned several national design awards. The mix of "mountain contemporary" styling was achieved thanks to adventurous homeowners, a forward-thinking designer, a knowledgeable builder and a team of local artisans. From standout features such as waterfalls to the custom woodwork, the home fits the forested property yet clearly belongs in this decade.

"I don't think you can even tell when you drive by how contemporary the home is inside, and I like that. It fits in the setting," said Kirsti Wolfe owner of Kirsti Wolfe Designs based in Bend.

"We wanted to still make it unique on the

outside and also comply with the CC&Rs," said Wolfe, referring to the covenants, conditions and restrictions which govern a neighborhood's architectural style.

"I think we pushed the envelope a little bit," said Paul Miller of Paul Miller Design and Construction.

Miller has worked on numerous homes at the Ranch since he built his parents' house after college in 1978. His knowledge of the architectural requirements to keep a natural, less manicured look on the exterior helped blend the home with its surroundings.

Homeowners Len and Karen Atkins bought a cabin on two and a half acres 10 years ago. As time went on, they realized their dream of more space for friends and family and the contemporary style they wanted wasn't possible in the existing house. So they gave all usable materials to Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, demolished the rest and started from the ground up to build the new three-story, 6,500-square-foot home.

Last year, the publication, *Kitchen Trends*, awarded Kirsti Wolfe Designs the "People's Choice Awards - Everyone Loves a Winner" for the Atkins kitchen design. In addition, her bath design was recognized in National Kitchen & Bath Association's Top 10 Kitchen and Bath Trends for 2010.

"The contemporary style of our home has its origins in our taste for contemporary art, including blown glass in the style of Chihuly," said Len Atkins.

Wolfe adds that the house is like "an art walk in itself."

The homeowners enjoy the peaceful sound of water. There are water features outside in addition to two interior waterfalls — one of which flows down two stories. Wolfe played on the water theme with waterfall faucets, pebble-style flooring, soothing blue/green colors and a fridge door covered with a sculptural wooden waterfall.

Also, she used reflective glass in an unexpected place — the stair risers. The tempered spandrel



"I don't think you can even tell when you drive by how contemporary the home is inside, and I like that. It fits in the setting."

glass reflects one of the waterfalls. "I wanted to keep that cascading feeling going throughout the house," added Wolfe.

Wolfe appreciates that the home reveals itself by layers and encourages people to turn the corner and see what's next.

"There's an element of surprise," said Wolfe. "I like it to be an experience as you walk through a home."

"We wanted to take advantage of the spectacular views of the Three Sisters mountains and the Ponderosa forest that surrounds us. The house cried out for lots of openness and big windows to bring the outside in," said Karen Atkins.

Wolfe echoed the views seen outside the large windows by mixing the textures of materials,

such as the smooth granite with a pattern reminiscent of tree branches. The mountain contemporary style also comes through in woodwork such as the specially designed wine wall spanning the dining room and the custom furniture.

"They just loved the use of color and material and wanted to play with it," said Wolfe of her clients.

"Kirsti's ability to envision the marriage of wood, glass, tile and marble and to partner with Sisters cabinet maker Ben Ehrenstrom gave us extraordinary cabinetry in the kitchen, master bedroom and bath, and third-floor study," said Karen Atkins.

Whether the owners are enjoying quiet time in the office or sitting area, or entertaining family and friends on the east-facing deck in the summer months, they remain delighted with the quality of the craftsmanship and the team who made the house their unique home.

Wolfe and Miller are proud that the team created a home that fits its neighborhood while reflecting their clients' personality.

"It's the overall feel that, to me, is most impressive," said Miller. "It's unusual in this area, and that makes it a stand out."



Mortgage Lending

from your local community bank.

At High Desert Bank, knowledge and service make the difference!

We have many financing programs available for you.

- New home purchase
- Construction Loans
- Refinance
- High Desert Bank is an approved FHA Lender

Call Donna Eytchison today.
541.848.4691

You will experience personalized service and loan counseling. We'll get you in the right loan, the first time.



HIGH DESERT BANK
541.848.4444

1000 SW Disk Dr. | Bend, OR 97702 | www.highdesertbank.com
Loans subject to credit approval.

