

Building His Own Dream Home

BY MICHELLE GLICKSMAN

Since all clients are unique, so are their homes. That's the theory behind DLB Custom Homes, Inc., a luxury design/build firm. It's a company where clients become friends; homes are designed and built to fit personalities; and exquisite attention is paid

takes on, building only three to five homes per division, per year, so that it can provide an extraordinary level of quality and personalized service. "We limit the number so that each and every person who decides to build with us gets the same service."



OWNERS: Dan and Terri Boylan

HOME BUILDER:
DLB Custom Homes, Inc.

ARCHITECTURE:
Adams Architecture and Planning

INTERIOR DESIGN: KA Designs

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS:
MLA and Associates

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Advanced Advertising Approaches

to detail and construction.

"I get up before sunrise everyday because I love what I do," says Dan Boylan, owner of DLB. In fact, he explains, he is living his dream. "I've wanted to do this since I was 15." Boylan graduated from ASU with a degree in Housing & Urban Development and, in 1998, opened DLB. In 2001, the company opened a Prescott division. The company limits the number of projects it

Judging from the fact that the business has been 90 percent referral-based, the clients are obviously more than happy. One couple became such good friends that they recently came to spend a weekend at the Boylan home.

One of DLB's latest projects was Boylan and his wife, Terri's, own home in Prescott.

The home is nestled into the wooded community of Talking Rock, a private, master-planned golf community.

“The architecture was derived from a ranch concept. The great room is the cornerstone, designed to take on the feel of the original homestead (roughly 1,000 square feet). Built out of stone, this element of the home acts as the anchor for the architecture, giving the impression that the rest of the home was added on through the years,” says Boylan. The exterior of the 3,700-square-foot ranch home blends into the natural landscape surrounding it, a welcoming natural retreat.

The outside is a study in sustainability and careful thought. All of the wood (both inside and out) is reclaimed material. The siding is reclaimed barn wood that comes

from four barns in Wisconsin and the stone was all quarried in nearby Mayer. The exterior posts and beams, along with the interior trusses, are trestle wood from a bridge in Salt Lake.

These reclaimed materials not only tell a story, but also make the home original and distinctive. It’s a concept that DLB believes in strongly. After absorbing the look and feel of the outside of the home, step inside and enter the Boylans’ world.

As he does with his customers, this home was designed to fit the homeowners’ lifestyle — which meant designing something that was also kid-friendly in order to accommodate the couple’s 10-month-old and 3-year-



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old sons. "I wanted something where we didn't have to worry about the floors or the cabinets getting dinged up," explains Terri.

Thus, the interior floors are stained, heated concrete and the Alder wood cabinets were created using a distressed look. The wooden floor of the great room was made using grainery oak wood reclaimed from a Canadian grainery.

The home's entrance opens into the great room, which is clearly the center of the home. In addition to the wooden floors, the rafters adorning the soaring ceiling are also made from reclaimed wood — this time from a sawmill in Wisconsin. These even have the original seat cuts in them. The ridge beam comes from a sawmill in Canada. "It gives a home a lot more character, I think," says Terri.

The great room fireplace, complete with a concrete hearth, that dominates one end of the room is made from rammed earth and features an antique bronze inset overhead.

But don't let the "old" wood or emphasis on sustainable green building fool you. This home definitely embraces the 21st-century and is complete with all the latest technology and luxuries.

The home is a "smart home," wired with technology that can control the temperature, lights, sound and more from a small interface hidden in the wall in the kitchen or a remote box which can be carried throughout the house. From the truss above the hearth a large screen drops down, covering the bronze decoration, and turning the room into a theater.

"We're not only building for today, but we're building for tomorrow," emphasizes Boylan. "So we think about what materials we use and we also put in the most modern technology."

In keeping with the look of the home, the kitchen features a hammered copper hood vent accented with antiqued bronze and a hammered copper farmhouse sink. It also has Wolf, Sub-Zero and Dacor appliances, a warming drawer in the island, soda drawers and a wine cabinet. The Boylan's love to entertain, so the kitchen is designed to accommodate that interest. So is the dining room, where a long wooden table resides under a custom wrought iron light fixture.

The rest of the home is just as well thought out. The interior design features



include faux painting throughout the house. A crackle finish complements the immense guest room, and faux denim decorates the wall of the baby's room. As for other constructed design features, the master bath, which sports a two-sided fireplace in the wall between the bedroom and over the tub,

guesswork out of it. Their responsiveness greatly reduced stress. Throughout construction, we were invited to offer feedback, which truly indicated to us that Dan is an individual who stands behind the professionalism of his staff and the quality workmanship of his subcontractors," say



includes two mosaic sinks, a full-steam shower and stained concrete countertops and tub deck.

It's this attention to detail that DLB's clients cherish. In fact, the attention to detail begins far before the tiny details are ever created — it starts from the moment DLB is engaged.

DLB believes in prebuild conferences, which help clearly define the new home. DLB walks the client through a process that allows for an accurate and timely bid and prevents the surprises and uncertainties common with building a new home. A team, which includes the homeowner, is created so that realistic expectations are set.

"DLB took our ideas, added to them and collaborated with us to produce a phenomenal home. Their planning process took the

clients Judy Brown and Cyd Manning.

Before adding a subcontractor to its team, DLB evaluates them on performance, price, workmanship, cleanliness, timeliness and customer service. References are checked, worksites are visited and the company performs a detailed background check.

Exacting attention is paid to every step and every person involved in the process.

"I have the luxury of loving what I do," says Boylan. "Being a part of something that someone is going to live in everyday is pretty remarkable. I want to make that process as smooth and fun as it can be."

For more information on DLB Custom Homes, Inc. call 1.888.862.6822 or visit www.dlbhomes.com.

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