

OKLAHOMA AT 100: CELEBRATING OUR WESTERN HERITAGE

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Kirk Holt and Brian Freese enjoy a view from the back terrace.

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Constructed from primarily stucco, split-face rock, exposed steel and a galvanized standing seam metal roof, the nearly 4,000-square-foot home lies on 14 acres and was completed in March 2007.

Country redefined

The quintessential ranch home takes a modern turn.

BY KENDALL MARTIN

"CONTEMPORARY" AND "ELEGANT" are not words typically used to describe a ranch house, but in this case nothing could be more accurate. Designed to look like, and be firmly planted into, the natural landscape, the home of **Myra Sellers** and **Phil Haney** takes Mid-west modern to a new level.

When Sellers purchased the land, which lies just south of Tulsa, 10 years ago, she already had the specific spot for the house planned. Knowing she wanted a contemporary design, she called local architect **Brian Lloyd Freese**.

"Phil and I met with (Brian) and worked on the design for about a year until we came up with this one and went forward with it," she says.

Meanwhile, interior designer **Kirk Holt**, of Cisar-Holt Inc., says he kept hearing that Sellers and Haney were going to call on him for his services. But as construction continued, and no call came, he began to get anxious.

"I usually think it's better to get involved sooner," he says. "Seeing how the furniture is going to lay out and understanding how the client wants to live in the space can sometimes affect placement of windows and doors and allow for better traffic flow or affect where electrical outlets are placed and so on."

Fortunately, Holt got involved at a point where they could still make adjustments.

"Kirk Holt did a wonderful job of adding

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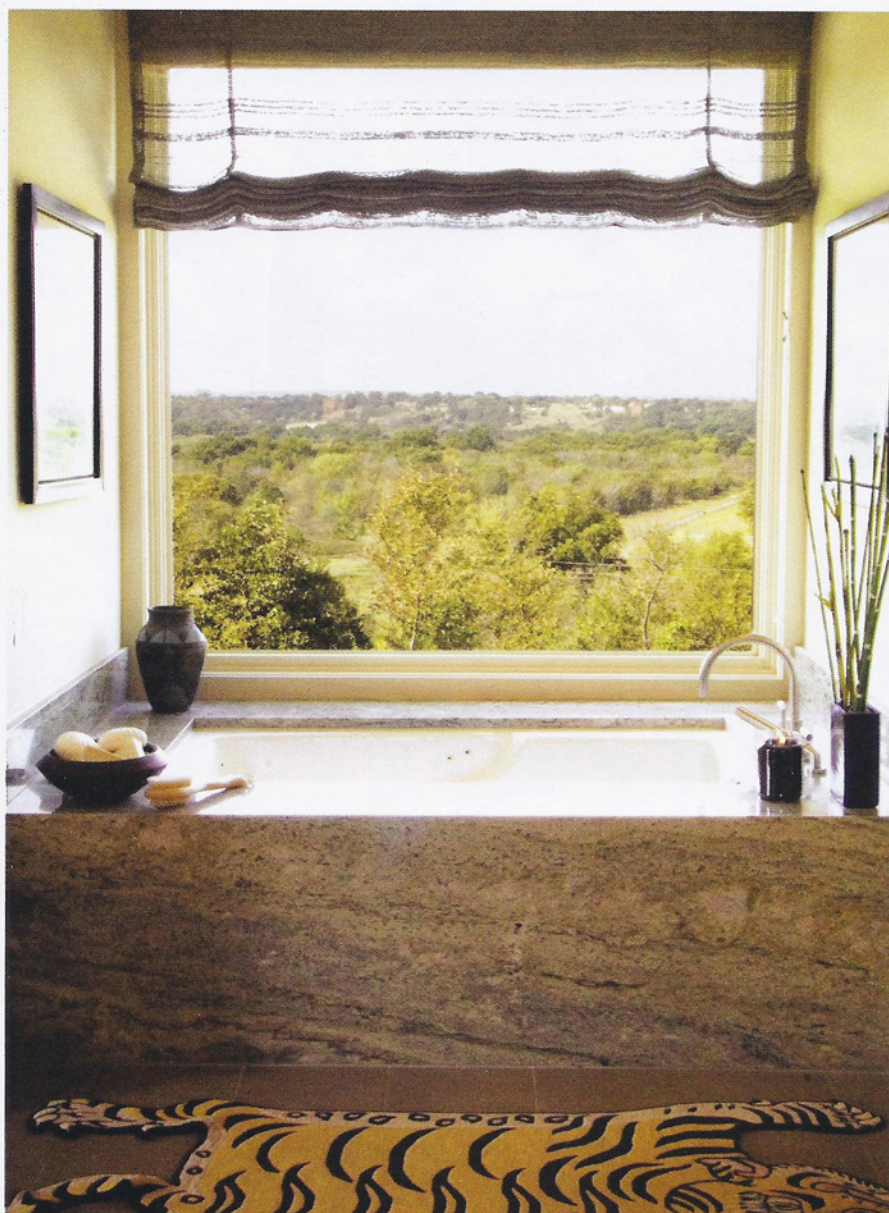
To accentuate the high ceilings, Holt designed a fully upholstered headboard in a contemporary box quilt that goes from the bed all the way up to the ceiling in the master bedroom. Faux wood panels on each side were added to give it more architectural detail.



The main room had to be constructed from exposed steel because of the height of the ceilings. The rest of the home is constructed from more conventional materials, such as wood frame. Freese says the detail is in the simplicity of the exposed steel and, in a sense, the lack of detail. "When you don't have crown molding and things like that, it really makes it so much more important that all the corners have to be really crisp, really clean," Freese says.



Holt says he and Sellers (pictured) chose simple, contemporary cabinetry in the kitchen to complement the architecture in the home. It was painted the same color as the walls so the Giallo Ornamental granite would be the standout feature of the kitchen.



The granite was wrapped from the top to the front of the tub area to keep the look sleek and to keep the focus on the outdoors. Holt designed a sheer casement Roman shade, but he also added a remote-controlled blackout shade to help block out the sun and heat.

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another layer and dimension to the interior of the house, and with Phil and Myra pretty much serving the role of contractor, it really was a team effort," Freese says.

Clearly, the collaboration paid off. So much so that Freese says he plans to enter the home in next year's American Institute of Architects (AIA) Design Excellence Awards competition.

Tops on Sellers' and Haney's wish list during construction was a single-level residence that had no stairs and high ceilings and in-

corporated plenty of panoramic views.

What developed quickly among the group was a concept of using traditional rural building forms and methods but cleaning them up and contemporizing them. The mission from the beginning, Freese says, was to have a modern ranch house.

"We spent a lot of time just walking around here and staking out in our minds the best locations that would take best advantage of the views and seeing how it would set in the landscape," he says.

An enclosed and somewhat intimate court-



Holt chose a soft, gray-green paint color, which he says reflects nature, for the walls throughout the home. Holt says the ceilings are actually a pale blue to reflect the sky.

yard provides the first impression of the home. Inside the main public room — a soaring, light-filled space — the equally soaring back porch is visible, which overlooks miles of rolling Oklahoma hills.

The back of the house faces west and allows the homeowners an almost panoramic view north to south of the western sunsets.

"It's very quiet and dark at night — you can see the stars," Sellers says. "I didn't put many lights around the outside of the house because I like to walk outside and see the stars at night."

While Freese says he did not intentionally draw from Frank Lloyd Wright when designing the home, he does think many of Wright's philosophies are appropriate for homes in the Midwest.

"I very strongly believe that wherever buildings are built in the world, they should belong to that place, whether it's in Europe or America or Asia," he says. "They should respond to the geography and the climate and the feel and the culture and so on. This is the kind of thing I think belongs in Oklahoma, in Midwest America."

Without a doubt, this home knows it belongs to the land. And the land it belongs to is grand. ■