

A GUIDE TO THE BEST RESTAURANTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OKLAHOMA

JULY 2009

THE
BEST

+ LUXURY
HOMES

of the

BEST





Shaker-style cabinetry in the kitchen is juxtaposed with glass and stainless steel.

Architect Brian Freese designed the home to fit within the regional vernacular while expressing unexpected modern elements.



Midwest modern

Situated on Grand Lake, this home designed by Brian L. Freese, principal of Freese Architecture, not only features soaring architecture, but also provides a view.

Contributing to the view are large windows overlooking the lake. There is also a unique addition; a huge central spine – a type of long narrow skylight – cuts through the house to stunning effect. And with the spine strategically positioned over the central staircase, even the lower level can bask in the sun's rays.

"The whole house almost glows inside, there's so much natural light," Freese says.

At 4,500 square feet, this lake home features an emphasis on natural materials, including an oversized outdoor deck. Freese emphasizes the "house is about family and togetherness: being outdoors, breathing fresh air and being out in nature."

And while it's brand new – the owners moved into the home in May – the house imparts a timeless quality.

"It pulls elements from indigenous, rural structures you might have found



Exposed beams and a pine ceiling used in the home's common areas reinforce a connection to nature.



As seen in the master suite, the home has been decorated with a tropical motif that promotes a vacation state of mind.

in Oklahoma many, many decades ago, but updated and contemporized with a very clean feel," Freese explains.

So just as the exterior strives to harmonize with the landscape, so too does the interior space planning, helping the outside flow in, treating the interior as an extension of the outdoors. Vast expanses of windows, one of the main design features of the house, are often flanked by wood columns, providing a picture-frame view of a constantly changing scenery. Freese says the house has a strong indoor/outdoor connection.

Inside, colors have been kept



In this spacious Grand Lake home, nature is never far away, and the home makes great use of outdoor space.

neutral and natural, such as the light wheat paint color used throughout the home. In the living room, a huge stone fireplace, exposed white oak beams and a pine ceiling serve to underline the proximity of nature.

The result? A home far from the cold, hard surfaces usually attributed to the super-modern, which still manages to feature a clean, modernized appeal. And its ranch-style roots fit the region.

"It's a familiar style to Oklahoma," Freese notes, "but I would say contemporized and simplified."

In the end, both the home's style and the lifestyle it promotes fit the owners.

"I think a luxury home should be extremely comfortable to the homeowner," Freese relates. "Absolutely fitted to the way they live and thrive – it should be a built expression of their personality."



A walk-in shower is kept light and airy with marble tile and glass bricks.