

A Tour of LUXURY HOMES

By M. J. Van Deventer

We look at three vastly different residences that reflect the unique tastes of their designers.

Owning a luxury home is arguably the pinnacle of success for many Oklahomans. Impeccable design, high-quality decor, pristine landscaping and exquisite pools are just some of the reasons why these homes provoke awe. Everything is top-of-the-line – interiors, appliances, lighting, flooring, wall coverings and amenities – and skilled designers make these homes worthy of daydreams.



THE ENTRY OF THIS HOME BY FREESE ARCHITECTURE IS FRAMED BY LARGE STEEL PLANTERS AND TWIN "SPRITE" SCULPTURES DESIGNED BY FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT. PHOTO BY NATHAN HARMON



THREE LINKED PAVILIONS MIX ASIAN INFLUENCES WITH PRAIRIE STYLE.

The design challenge sounded daunting for Freese Architecture's principal, Brian L. Freese. His clients – an empty nester couple who love to entertain – asked him to blend Asian and prairie styles to create an impressive new home.

The contemporary home features low-pitched roofs – deep overhangs protecting the home from mercurial weather – and large openings of glass that bring nature's surrounding beauty inside.

The house is a series of three square pavilions with pyramid roofs and flat-roofed glass corridors linking them together. Glass at all northwest corners provides views toward a small forest on the 2 ½-acre property.

This striking home is set in a traditional upscale neighborhood on the fringe of a city with houses reflecting European architectural influences.

Freese says this unique project was perfectly suited to his talents. He decided at age 7 to be an architect. A trip with his parents to Mexico City when he was 10 exposed him to “an amazing Mexican interpretation of international-style architecture.” Memories of the palatial homes he saw on that trip influence his designs.

Graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in architecture, Freese has pushed the envelope of modern design, evident in this 7,800-square-foot home. A six-car garage with a wash bay enhances the husband's passion for automobiles and motorcycles.

“Correctly orienting the home on the steep slope of the land was one of the main considerations,” says Freese, adding that another challenge was to break down the oversized proportions of the home into smaller components while never forgetting the significant sloping terrain.



THE BAR ALSO PROVIDES ARCHITECTURAL CEILING INTEREST. CONTEMPORARY PENDANT LIGHTS HANG OVER THE LARGE CENTER ISLAND.

ARCHITECT BRIAN FREESE CAPTURED THE HOME'S NATURAL SETTINGS IN AS MANY ROOMS AS POSSIBLE FOR HIS ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, USING A SERIES OF OPEN, CORNER GLASS WINDOWS TO DIRECT VIEWS TO THE FORESTED AREAS BEYOND.



In the main pavilion, Freese designed an open floor plan featuring the kitchen, wet bar, and living, dining and entertaining areas; they flow comfortably into each other. The private spaces of the home are in adjacent pavilions, giving the illusion of multiple structures in one.

Exposed timber beams and columns with steel connections are fundamental parts of the interior structure and charm.

"They are both structural and an important design detail throughout the home, inside and out," Freese says.

Tulsa Susie Woody created the comfortable, casual interior design theme. Charlie Kuehn was the general contractor for this trend-setting project.

The interior palette, in construction and furnishing styles, is neutral. Hues of wood, metal and a stunning agate bar countertop in the center of the public space provide a pleasing pop of color and artistic design, enhanced by the family's art collection.

"There are many parts of the home I love, but one of my favorites is the monumental ceiling of the main pavilion with the skylight at the apex," Freese says. "It is there that guests can fully experience and appreciate the impact of the pyramid roofs."

Freese says he enjoyed working with Clare Ashby, a Tulsa landscape designer, on the exterior.

"What I love most about the home is the quality of the natural light that permeates the interiors," Freese says. "The deep overhangs eliminate direct sunlight from blazing into the house. There is a wonderful quality of filtered light that makes the interiors glow."

FREESE'S METICULOUS ATTENTION TO MAINTAINING THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN THEME THROUGHOUT THE HOME IS EVIDENT IN THE UNUSUAL EXTERIOR APPEAL.



THE SPACIOUS KITCHEN REVEALS THE OPEN FLOOR PLAN, WHICH INVITES EASY ENTERTAINING. LARGE STRUCTURAL TIMBER POSTS AND BEAMS WITH DETAILED STEEL CONNECTIONS DEFINE THE SPACES WITHOUT BEING INTRUSIVE.

LARGE TIMBER BEAMS HANG OVER THE DINING AREA WHILE THE WINDOWS ARE STRATEGICALLY PLACED TO OFFER A VIEW OF NATURE'S WORKS IN PROGRESS.





SUNLIGHT IS CONTROLLED WITH DEEP OVERHANGS AND TRELLISES THAT DEFINE THIS AREA OF OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING.



DECORATIVE RAILINGS FRAME THE CENTRAL REAR COURTYARD BETWEEN THE THREE PAVILIONS. THEY DEFINE THE BACK OF THE HOME AND LEAD TO THE OUTDOOR POOL AND ENTERTAINING AREA.



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