

# Local Contractors Build Their Own *Perfect Home*

By Hilary Dartt • Photos by Kevin Glover

## Building Homes, Building Adventures



For Prescott contractors Christie and Robert Board, every new project is a new adventure. So when the duo, founders of Board by Board Builder, designed their own home in The Boulders in 2001, they were in for their greatest adventure yet.

Nestled into west Prescott's rich landscape of granite boulders and shrub oak, the 3,200-square-foot home provides unrivaled views of nature – and the perfect amount of privacy.

Christie, an award-winning, nationally-certified kitchen and bathroom designer, explained that she and Robert moved to Prescott from the Oregon coast. They loved the Arizona weather, the community, and the family they

had here. So when it came time to build their house, they were excited to use southwestern architecture with a Spanish flair.

Just as importantly, she said, "We've always enjoyed having people over. We love kids. We wanted a place where people felt welcome ... a comfortable home where people could just be here."

To that end, they began working together to create the perfect home – for them.

The entry of the 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom Spanish Colonial home opens into a spacious living room with a coffered ceiling featuring alder wood. Solar tubes on either side let in the sunlight. Just beyond that, the dining room opens to the patio. A staircase to the left of the dining room leads to the home

office. To the right of the dining room, the kitchen flows into the family room. Just down the hall are Christie's craft room and the master bedroom. To the left, a short hallway leads to a full guest bathroom, a guest bedroom, and the laundry room.

The entire ground level features radiant heating under stained concrete flooring – which is cut into 36-inch squares. In the kitchen, maple cabinets with a coffee glaze hide space-maximizing storage solutions (like roll-outs and extra shelving). Light granite countertops complement the cabinets, and a backsplash made of monochromatic porcelain subway tiles ties it all together.

"I think every kitchen should have glass-front cabinets to display fun things," Christie said. "And it doesn't have to look perfect."

Her glass-front cabinets are home to brightly-colored Fiesta ware, and she says just about everyone has something they can put on display.

"People say that one of the most stressful things a couple can do is build a house together," Christie said. "But we work well together. We share a lot of the same likes and dislikes, and we love the creative process."

That creative process comes into play in different ways, from incorporating aesthetic details like arched doorways and turned-wood handrail pickets from the Ukraine to adding practical touches like maximized counter space in a laundry room and roll-outs in kitchen cabinets.

The home's lot is rectangular, and the Boards needed to put in a hallway along the front of the house, between the entry and the living quarters.

"There are all these beautiful boulders in front of the house, and we didn't want to waste this space," Christie said. "So we built this long hallway with lots of windows, to create a gallery effect."

Because the Boards enjoy entertaining, they found different ways to bring the indoor and outdoor living spaces together.

In the dining room, a sliding door opens onto the patio, which features myriad potted plants, fountains, and another expansive dining table.



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In the master bedroom, the bed's headboard backs up to a generous window overlooking the back patio and natural landscape. On the other side of the bed, a glass door leads onto a separate patio with a hot tub. A walk-in shower and jetted garden tub – surrounded by windows – make the master bath a retreat.

It's all about bringing a vision to fruition, Christie explained – and both she and Robert are good at visualizing how something will turn out.

"We make a great team," she said.



"I have an idea or a vision, and Robert collaborates with me to make it happen. He has a great eye – he can really imagine himself in a space."

Therefore, she explained, "We're able to get excited about something long before other people do, because we can visualize how it's going to look when it's finished."

In 2005, the Boards decided to create a home office, and designed an upstairs addition. They had to cut into the existing garage to create a staircase – with hand-painted Mexican tiles and distressed maple treads – leading up from the dining room, and built a suite upstairs. Although it's currently set up as an office, future homeowners can use it as a mother-in-law suite or an apartment – it includes a living area, a kitchenette, a full bathroom, and a bedroom.

More than 10 years later – the longest period of time they've ever lived continuously in one place – the Boards are preparing to sell the house. That process has been bittersweet. They were thrilled to receive four offers shortly after putting it on the market, but Christie said, "I'm really attached to this house, and to the neighbors. I'm sad to leave."

"We've had so much fun here, and made so many memories."

On the other hand, she added, "We're project people, for sure."

Their next home, project and adventure is a home off Willow Creek Road that they're remodeling extensively... so extensively that they haven't shown it to many people, just yet.

*Robert Board, a licensed contractor, has worked in the industry for more than 35 years. He started as an apprentice to talented builders, and launched Board by Board 27 years ago. Christie has won several awards for her kitchen and bath designs – most recently the Outstanding Kitchen Design in a Sub-Zero/Wolf competition.*

*For more information about Board by Board Builder, visit: <http://www.boardbyboard.com/>*



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