



*By Tim Callahan
Photos by Larry Kantor*

Moving away from child-raising years and moving toward life with a somewhat emptier nest, Steve and Janet Adams opted to build their “forever home,” on Prescott’s north side.

Just inside the gated community of American Ranch, the Adams are comfortable in their single level territorial/ranch style home.

“The needs in our home had changed,” Adams says of the home, which he designed in 2004. At the time, the couple was just getting ready to send their second of three daughters off to college.

Now, their youngest daughter, Jessica, will be graduating from Prescott High School this spring and likely moving on to the next part of her life.

For years, the family had lived in a two-story home closer to downtown Prescott, where the kids had some space and some privacy, including a downstairs game/movie room in the basement, and the parents had some space of their own, too.

It was the “high school” hangout, the couple said of their daughters and the many sports teams and wide network of

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friends that would frequent the home.

It served the Adams well for a long time, but they could see how their needs would be changing.

"Now when our daughters come home with their families we all want to be together and able to visit," Steve said. Their newer home (they moved in during the summer of 2006) has served that purpose, and more.

Steve Adams knows more than a little bit about designing homes. As a local architect, he has been involved with dozens of home designs in the area, and had some specific ideas about how he and Janer's new home would look and function.

The heart of the home is an open great room complete with a large stone fireplace that serves as "the ceremonial anchor of the home," Steve says. The fireplace has a recessed space where the family's flat screen TV sits discreetly while nestled around the mass of stone and hearth. A small walk-in closet near the front door houses all of the room's electronics including dvd and cd players and library. The result is an extremely clean space with no exposed wires or cds.

The great room has some unique touches from floor to ceiling. The high ceilings are decorative, yet rustic with tongue-and-groove wood, stained to match the home's alder doors and windows. Underfoot, the great room has acid-stained concrete floors which are not only durable and easy to clean, but they have a truly territorial flavor somewhere between rustic metal and contemporary color.

In order to achieve the home's style and function, the Adams enlisted the



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services of general contractor Robert Board and his wife Christie Board, the owners and operators of Board by Board Construction & Design. Over the years, Adams has worked with Board by Board many times on many projects and holds their work in high regard.

When it came time to build their own home, the Adams had no doubt they

could work well with the Boards. In fact, the Adams were excited to have Christie, a certified kitchen and bath designer, involved from the beginning to give the home a certain style and personal flair. Janet credits Christie's insight with her kitchen design and function.

Janet enjoys spending time in the



kitchen and enjoys her space, which was designed to maximize efficiency. A large, long island is the centerpiece to the kitchen, where Janet prefers a smaller and more manageable pantry versus an enormous space. In the kitchen, Janet runs a tight ship and this design allows her to work in just the right space where she can access what she needs and keep her work space nice and tidy.

But it's not just all about function. A hammered copper sink and matching fixtures and copper accents throughout the entire kitchen has a warm and rustic feel.

The home's kitchen has an extended nook adjacent with windows that look out over the backyard, and up across the northern flanks of Granite Mountain and its rolling lower foothills with the remarkable granite outcroppings.

With Janet in the kitchen, she wanted a space where people could visit. Instead of a seated dining space adjacent to their kitchen, the Adams have opted to

fill that space with soft furniture, and it has served them well. For years, Janet's mother would spend time relaxing and visiting with her in the kitchen. Her recent passing was difficult, but having so much of that time together made it a bit easier, Janet said.

"In most homes, the kitchen is the hub," said Christie. "I understand what makes a kitchen work, and working with

the Adams is always great."

For the Adams it was a matter of getting a great design with function, aesthetics and good values. In fact, working together, Janet and Christie were able to save money by adjusting designs and ideas as great sales prices became available on specific items, like that hammered sink.

Adjacent to the kitchen with a large



pass-through is the home's dining room space sandwiched between the great room's fireplace and the kitchen. Instead of a formal dining space set off to the front or back of the home, Steve wanted an interactive space where large groups could gather for eating, game playing, working or just visiting. "Everything flows around this space," Steve said of the dining room.

A short hallway off the kitchen leads to two efficient bedrooms, each with its own bath, bay windows and small walk-in closets, with a couple of "architectural tricks" Steve uses to maximize smaller spaces.

A broad hallway bends away from the kitchen and leads to the home's garage with ample seating for shoes and a place for keys, hats, scarves and such on the way into the home. In the garage, neatness is the order with two separate storage rooms adjacent to the cars. Instead of having shelving sharing space with the cars, the Adams prefer to create a separate space dedicated to storage out of sight until needed.

As the hallway bends it creates a large triangular space along the home's front edge. This space is one of the home's hidden gems: an expansive laundry and sewing room, complete with Janet's computer, a television, cabinetry, a hanging rod and more. "I don't like walking through a laundry room," Janet said of having a more private space off of the hallway. Janet uses the space as a staging area for larger kitchen projects, and even admits that younger family members have bunked in the room.

Across the home is the master wing with an in-home office where Steve has a wooden desk that only an architect could truly appreciate. Its dimensions were created with a formula that included enough room for two full-size blueprints spread across its surface. The office has a separate entrance from the front porch.

A short hallway connects the office area with the master bedroom. In that hallway is another deep walk-in closet dedicated to linens and pillows, yet large enough to accommodate folding chairs, family games and all the other odds and ends that homeowners have trouble storing.



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The master bedroom has a nice view to the west, through the deep back porch. A set of high square windows bring nice light to the modest space while providing full privacy. The high, square windows extend into the master bathroom where a walk-in shower and matching sinks have a similar style and theme to the rest of the home. Again, the Adams say that working with the Boards as builder and designer was a perfect situation as they are both aware of options and limitations both in design and the reality of construction.

Ample cabinetry in the master bathroom keeps the space clean and neat. A small vanity and a walk in closet that employs a curtain instead of a door helps the space flow, the Adams agree.

The home's deep porches have tongue and groove ceilings that blend with the great room and tie all of the home's wood together for a cohesive ranch style.

When the Adams opted to move from their downtown home, Janet was hesitant to move out as far as their current location. However, it didn't take too long to win her over. "I have always loved this area," Janet said of the Williamson Valley section of town.

For the past several years, Steve has been working on project after project in the area, and was becoming more and more familiar with it all the time.

The home is at the heart of the American Ranch community, and is adjacent to the neighborhood tennis courts, swimming pool and recreation facility. The views to the west provide a wide view of Granite Mountain and its adjacent foothills. From his back porch, Steve can also see many of the homes he has worked on and designed over the years.

