

An Invitation To DREAM

When you close your eyes and visualize the perfect house in which to entertain your family and friends, what do you see? Look no further. You are cordially invited to this 5,800-square-foot dream home in suburban Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. It's beautiful and functional, and it leaves nothing to be desired. Every room in the home is perfect for entertaining, from the gourmet kitchen, to the family room, the home theater and spa, and when the day is done, a master bedroom fit for a king and queen. But beware: there's so much beauty and comfort, that your guests will never want to leave.

"Everything about this house has to do with entertaining," says home builder Tom Budzynski of TJB Homes in Blaine, MN. "It's the type of home where anyone can have fun because all of the amenities are there. This house has a good feel to it, it's warm and comfortable, and that's what we wanted when we designed and built it."

The four-bedroom spec home in Blaine was designed and built by Mr. Budzynski and his team, which includes interior designer Becky Watson, and it was a special showcase during last fall's Midwest Home & Garden 2005 Luxury Home Tour. It is currently waiting for a family to call it home.

The eventual owners (and their guests) will surely enjoy all that the home has to offer, including four bedrooms, a gourmet kitchen, a two-story great room, 12 built-in TVs, a home theater, an indoor spa, a wet bar, and a custom garage. They will also appreciate the view and use of the Southwest Lake, which is just one of the lakes in The Lakes Development, the new community in which the home is located.

The home has five fireplaces, all from manufacturer Heat-n-Glo, and they are strategically placed in the great room, office,

The kitchen of this French cottage-style dream home in Blaine, MN is outfitted for a gourmet cook, thanks to a Viking range, dishwasher, refrigerator/freezer, built-in microwave, and single wall oven.

The key to a warm home is a hearth, and this dream home has it, with a hearth area in the kitchen, along with four other fireplaces on three different levels. "The style of this kitchen, with a fireplace and sitting area, is increasingly common to the homes that we build, because people have been asking for ornate kitchen designs with a hearth area...it's been a big hit, especially with heating costs going up," says Mr. Budzynski. Not only can you relax in front of the warmth from the Heat-n-Glo fireplace, but you can also watch the morning news with the Sony Wega 33-inch TV that's built into the fireplace.



kitchen, master bedroom, and lower level family room. And if you don't want to sit by the fire indoors, you can head outside to the outdoor pool area, with a firepit on the dock overlooking the lake.

Beautiful Choices

Because party guests always hang out in the kitchen, this one is built to keep them comfortable while encouraging them to help out. The spacious gourmet kitchen has many unique features, but it is also functional. Each part of it works together to make everyday cooking and special weekend entertaining uncomplicated, which often is not a simple task.

It's safe to say that beautiful design choices were made when planning the details of the kitchen, such as the farm-styled, open-faced ceramic sink, granite countertops, cherry cabinetry, and a cherry center island with a wood top and a vegetable sink. "French Country is what Tom gave this kitchen as a name," says Ms. Watson of TJB Homes, the home's interior designer. "It turned out to have a lot of Mediterranean flair in it as well. While we may have not planned to incorporate both styles, I think it turned out beautifully."

The center island is large enough to prepare the most gourmet of meals and sit 3 people, while an eat-in area and fireplace nook add more options to the 16 x 13 space. "I wanted to design a really big island in the kitchen," says Ms. Watson, "something that was large enough to roll out pies and cookie dough for a big family. I know that in most kitchens there's not a lot of counter space, and I wanted to make sure that this kitchen had plenty of it."

Whether it's a casual get-together with friends, a birthday party, or a Sunday afternoon football game, entertaining can be hectic. With all of the kitchen appliances from Viking Range, you'll have the perfect cooking environment.

The appliances are placed next to each other, and "wrap around" one side of the center island, creating a coherent cooking, cleanup, and refrigeration zone.

A built-in dishwasher with full wood overlay panel, model DFUD042, is to the left of the range, near the sink. The



The Heat-n-Glo fireplace with a stone surround is the centerpiece of the home's great room, which also has a Sony 42-inch TV and large bay windows that let in natural light from the lake. The chandelier, from Crystorama Lights of Distinction, is accented in 24% lead crystal. "I wanted to incorporate a lot of crystal in the chandelier because crystal is definitely coming back into style," says Ms. Watson.



Because it connects to nearly all the rooms on the lower level—the wet bar, home theater, spa, and outdoor patio area—the family room is an entertaining hub. With a Sony Wega 60-inch built-in television and Heat-n-Glo fireplace, this Dream home is built for entertaining.

The 6 x 8 foot wine cellar is a special treat, with a bronze door with metal wall wine holders and a ceramic floor. A hand-painted mural—a wine country scene—is an unexpected touch. The cellar holds more than 150 bottles and is temperature controlled to help maintain wine freshness.

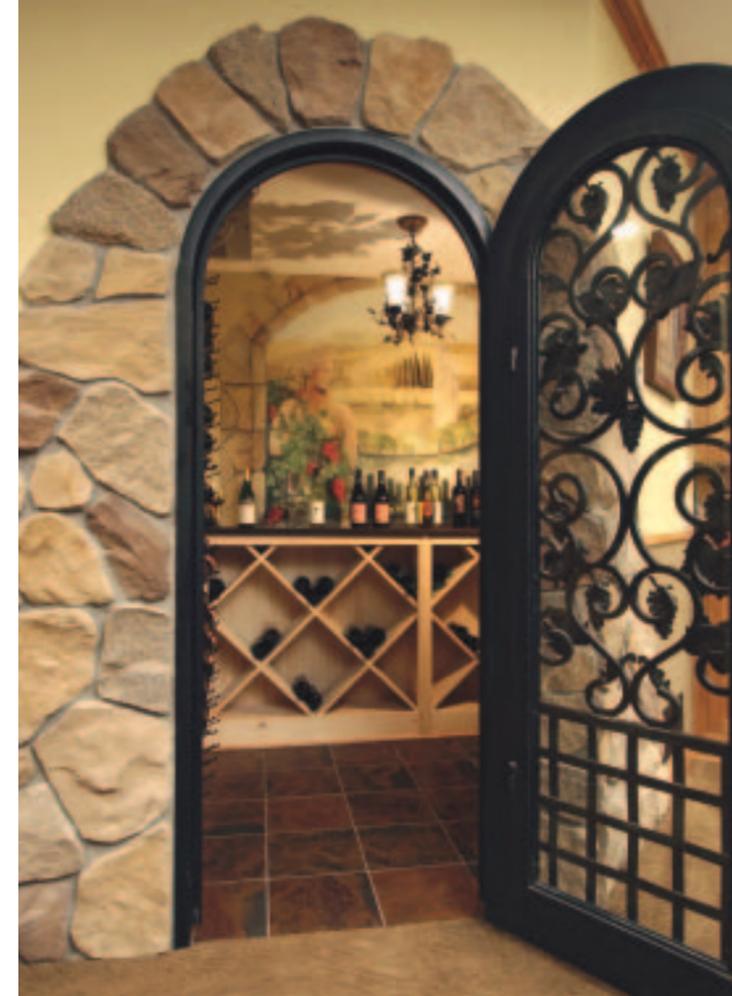
Le Theatre de Deluxe

The lower level is an entertaining dream. With a wet bar, home theater, work out room, hot tub, spa, wine cellar, and several large built-in TVs, anyone could feel comfortable. The feel of the space is different from the rest of the home. Whereas the main and upper levels have lighter tans and greens and wood flooring, the lower level has darker colors with wood blinds and carpeting.

“That lower level is really a place where anyone can relax, whether it’s at the bar, in the theater, or in the spa,” says Mr. Budzynski.

The wet bar, while it’s placed at one end of the family room, still catches your eye when you walk downstairs. It’s not overbearing, and it is beautiful. It’s a place to get comfortable, with full bar cabinets with four built-in Sony TVs. Imagine being able to appease all of your guests with four televisions from which they can watch their four favorite sports teams, instead of one.

In preparation for the big games, you can store beverages in the undercounter refrigerator, and during halftime, quickly wash up barware and dishes with the Fisher & Paykel DishDrawer, before the second halves of the games (and the party) begin.



dishwasher has an extra tall tank that allows you to put taller dishes on the upper rack, such as 9-inch wide plates. It can hold 16 place settings, and the overlay panel means it can mesh seamlessly with surrounding cabinetry, only knowing that it’s a dishwasher after you open the door.

The other appliance in the kitchen that is not seen or heard is the refrigerator, because like the dishwasher, it’s hidden by overlay panels. The side-by-side model PFSB423D has electronic controls that help you manage the temperature...no more guessing if the refrigerator is cold enough. There’s also a meat/produce drawer with a separate temperature control. And the through-the-door dispenser gives cubed ice, crushed ice, and chilled water. In the freezer, a special defrost feature controls the timing of defrost periods and adjusts it based on how you use the freezer.

As is typical in most high-end kitchens, the range and the hood are the focal point because they not only have such a large presence, but their performance helps any novice home chef cook like a professional. Your guests will marvel at how the range gives you the freedom to create meals with ease.

The four-burner gas cooktop and gas oven (model VDSC 3674QSS) in stainless-steel is 36-inches and dual-fuel, and it accommodates those who enjoy the high-performance of a gas cooktop with a self-cleaning electric oven below. Separating the four burners on the cooktop is a griddle. The cooktop has a special setting on each burner that gives even heat, even at extra-low heat levels. And the electric oven has multi-

ple cooking options: cooking using convection only, convection dehydrating with low heat, convection defrosting, conventional two-element baking, and conventional broiling.

The ventilation is Viking’s wall custom ventilator system (model DBCV3682) that was installed into a custom wall hood. To add an additional dramatic detail, the back splash is ceramic tile with a painted mural. The hood range hood was designed by Ms. Watson and custom-made by the cabinet maker. The outside of the hood features a wrought iron floral piece. “I wanted something unique for the outside of the range hood,” Ms. Watson says. “I ordered the piece from a magazine, but it only came in gold, so I spray-painted it black to give it the wrought iron look.”

When you’re entertaining and you need as second oven, the electric, 30-inch single wall oven (model DES0101SS) is a great appliance to have, because it can cook a variety of foods, from broiling thick cuts of meat to cooking soufflés using convection cooking. It’s also self-cleaning.

After dinner, when you need to make some popcorn quickly for movie time in the home theater, the built-in stainless steel microwave model DMOS200SS, will do the job nicely. The microwave has 2 cubic feet of space, 13 sensor settings that adjust cooking times and power levels for foods and snacks like popcorn, a breakfast and lunch feature for cooking and reheating popular foods, and a warm feature, in case some of your guests arrive late.



It’s the perfect home theater for watching movies, with the Sony Grand Wega 90-inch TV screen, ViewSonic N2750W projector, Sony CD/DVD player, Boston high-performance compact speakers and subwoofers, and Denon AV surround receiver (model AVR-1705/685). Double doors at the room’s entrance keep light out and four comfy theater chairs keep guests riveted in their seats.



The home's lower level also has a wet bar that's ideal for appetizers and beverages before dinner. Some of the perfect details include ceramic tile on the bar top, full bar cabinets with four built-in Sony TVs, a Fisher & Paykel DishDrawer, and a Scotsman undercounter refrigerator.

Feeling more like a day spa than a house, the home has a SpaMate hot tub surrounded by Italian Vallelunga tile, in Shabui and Bano colors.



With the DishDrawer, you can wash just about any type of appetizer and main course dish and bar glass in it without bending over. With special wash motors in the DishDrawer, your preparation pots can be washed on a heavy cycle, then your dinner dishes on a delicate cycle. The heavy cycle will "power" wash the pots, while in delicate cycle the slower motor will deliver a slower water pressure to more gently wash the dinner plates and glasses. There's also fan dry for delicate barware.

And for your guests who want to get a little more comfortable, there's a cozy spot them in front of the 60-inch Sony built-in TV and the gas fireplace, which is designed with a raised hearth and stone face.

And for the night's main event: watching the latest release on DVD in the 11 x 18 home theater on the 90-inch screen TV. The room is warm in cherry trim and wainscoting, and inviting, with four theater-style chairs. Floor to ceiling double doors elegantly close the room off to noise from the family room.

On the other side of the lower level is the spa and workout room, which is an added bonus...you and your guests can end the evening with a relaxing dip in the hot tub and calming moments in the sauna.

A Private Retreat

Long after your guests have left, the master bedroom becomes a cozy place to get away. With its many luxurious details, it gives new meaning to the term "private retreat."

When asked from a design perspective to describe the master bedroom, Ms. Watson says, "I don't think that I'd put a theme or period or style to it. I would say it's more traditional upscale. Our ideas just came together and worked. I didn't have any fixed style in mind beforehand, just to make it a retreat."

Helping create that theme is a three-sided top venting gas fireplace from Heat-n-Glo that is tucked in a corner of the bedroom with a clear view of the lake below, along with a Magnavox 32-inch TV that is suspended from the ceiling.

The fireplace not only generates warmth in the bedroom from all three sides, but it comes with campfire logs, so it looks real, without all of the fuss of a wood burning fireplace. It's perfect in this situation, but it could also be used as a room divider or a centerpiece.

When morning asserts itself, coffee is not far away...just a few feet from the main area of the bedroom into the large

walk-in closet. There's a Brew Express 12-cup coffee maker built-into the linen cabinet.

And if you're not a coffee drinker, then you can easily open the two U-Line refrigerator/freezer drawers that are built into cabinet for a cold bottle of water or some fresh fruit.

The U-Line CO2075DWR Combo Drawer combines refrigerator, freezer, and ice making capabilities. The top drawer is for refrigeration only, with organizational bins. You can also adjust the drawer's temperature based on what you have in it. The ice making and freezer section are in the lower drawer, giving you 6 pounds of ice daily and a large space to store things like that leftover dessert from your dinner party that you didn't get a chance to taste.

And for the ultimate in convenience, there is an Asko washer and dryer (models W6021 for the washer and T771 for the dryer) in the walk-in closet. The washer and dryer can be stacked, which is a space saver. The dryer doesn't require venting, so placing them on an upper level of a home is not an issue. Vibration from the appliances is not a factor either, because the washer has Quattro



The outdoor patio area is set up not just for long-lasting views of the lake, but for cooking and hanging out as well, with a Viking outdoor gas grill (model VGBQ T) and two side burners (model VGSB-T). “The outdoor grill does the same thing as a [comparable] freestanding grill, but it looks a lot nicer and it creates a little more appeal,” says Mr. Budzynski.

The Day After

With all of the wonderful amenities in this home to entertain, who has time to do laundry? This home’s laundry room, though, can make the job easier, with a high-end Kenmore HE4t front-loading washer and dryer that anyone would love to have.

Front-load washers are the latest rage in laundry appliances, and with good reason. They operate without an agitator, require less water, hold larger loads, save energy in reduced water heating (because there’s fewer laundry loads to do), and can keep your clothes looking better longer. Paired with a similar energy efficient dryer, and you’re not only making laundry day go quicker, you’re saving money on energy costs as well.

Stand-out features of the washer include: special technology that showers your laundry with the detergent to get every part of your clothing clean, a built-in heater, and a special Kids Wear Cycle to remove typical children’s stains. Plus, the washer typically uses about 64% less energy and 69% less water than comparable front-load washers. The dryer not only has a large capacity (7 cubic feet), but 9 dry cycles and special technology that controls the heat and reduces drying times.

They can be a smart investment for years of efficient laundry days, which is one of the reasons that the appliances were selected for this home.

“We use front-loading washers and dryers in about 90% of the homes we build,” says Ms. Watson, “because they are so energy efficient and they wash and dry clothes well. Another reason I like the front-loaders is that we can place a tile countertop on top of the appliances for sorting and folding laundry.”

Such Fine Ambiance

The welcome atmosphere of this dream home begins at the columned front porch, but never really ends. With three levels and many areas in which to entertain your friends and family, it’s perfectly put together.

“Everything about that home was fun to design,” says Mr. Budzynski. “It’s anyone’s dream home.” ^

suspension—or four sets of shocks that eliminate vibration and keep the machine in balance.

They’re a time saver as well. With the main laundry room on the main level of the home, having a washer and dryer in the master bedroom is efficient for doing a quick load of towels, for example, without running up and down stairs.

“The master bedroom is very elegant,” Mr. Budzynski says. “But that was not what people say when they walk through the home. The biggest hit is the appliances: the refrigerator drawers, the coffee maker, and the washer and dryer... just a few little important that help make life very comfortable.”

Home Resources:

Appliances: Guyer’s Builders Express, 763/210-0250, www.guyers.com

Builder: TJB Homes, 763/780-2944, www.tjbhomes.com

Countertops and Flooring: Village Floor & Wall, Inc., 763/210-3000, www.designbiz.com/net1/CompanyWelcome.asp?CompanyID=80127

Lighting Fixtures: Southern Lights, Inc., 800/903-0960, www.southernlightsonline.com

Plumbing Fixtures: Pipeline Supply, 763/784-4478, www.pipeline-supply.com

Wine Cellar design: Von Wald Designs, 763/232-9969