

# House is built for comfort and kids

by Harry Williamson

Nancy and Rick had both learned to ski in Winter Park, and when the time came to find a second home they had little doubt it would be somewhere in Grand County.

The problem came, however, when they tried to decide what type of residence to purchase.

Rick defined the two options as "plug and play" or "legacy."

By his definitions, the former was where you screwed the pictures to the wall and let someone else do the work. Typical of "plug and play" is an Iron Horse condo or, at a higher cost, the Zephyr Mountain Lodge, units that you might sell after a few years.

Legacy, on the other hand, is going to be around for a while.

"You put a lot of effort and time into a legacy home, and intend for it to be in the family for a long time. It's where you create memories," he said.

Their new home, not far off the 4 Bar 4 Road near Fraser, is definitely a legacy and very much family. Built by general contractor John Berendes of Icebox Builders, Inc., it incorporates the very best of materials blended into a very comfortable and warm environment. High-end it is. Ritzy it is not.

"We've been to Aspen and Vail and that was not what we were after," Rick said.

"We especially wanted the home to be comfortable and kid friendly," Nancy added. The couple has three boys; Ryan, 14, Trevor, 9 and Dylan, 6.

Nancy talked about how building decisions were made so the result would be low maintenance. The walls, for example, have a faux paint finish, done by a second color being wiped on, resulting in a mottled, rustic look, not given to showing marks. The kitchen



## Kid comfort

Dylan enjoys a snack at the dining table in the house which features the extensive use of wood, stone and other low maintenance, comfortable features.

cabinets are also painted in two colors, a red underneath a darker green, also designed to age in a more natural appearing fashion. Other cabinets and room doors throughout the house have a more "stressed" look, better able to naturally take the dings and bangs of daily life, especially a life with a bunch of kids around.

"We are active in youth groups, and the downstairs is kid territory," Nancy said. Located downstairs is all of the audio and video equipment in a family room and, along with two bedrooms,

each containing three sets of bunk beds. The downstairs also includes a "hidden door," which leads to a special kid room.

Nancy said the entire home was built to allow "distressing in progress," or "generational distressing."

Hickory was chosen for the interior floors because it is harder and better withstands wear than does pine flooring, which was the couple's original choice. Berendes said the flooring on

the two outside decks is a plastic and wood composite, also very low maintenance.

Berendes said this is the type of house where "no corners were cut," where the owners and the contractor worked closely together to get the exact desired end result. Money wasn't wasted by any means, but if it was needed it was spent.

"You've always had people who

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# Custom building calls for everyone on the same page

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wanted top notch quality, but they weren't able to pay for it. Now you have buyers who know exactly what they want, and first they want it to be nice," he said.

These are the houses which contain the very best of materials, and the highest attention to detail.

The couple said they chose Berendes as the contractor, at least in part, because of his excitement for the project.

"John was excited about the house and he was able to pass this passion on to everyone who worked on it. We knew it would be done right or John would tear it out and do it again," Rick said.

Rick Demarest and his crew did the stonework in the home, both on the outside and the inside. A massive stone chimney serves two fireplaces — a Rumford style wood burner on the main floor, and a gas fireplace in the basement. Demarest estimates that approximately 15 tons of stone and concrete was used in the fireplace construction.

The house features a wide range of woods, ranging from the large Douglas fir logs used in the full scribed, post and beam type of construction, to walnut, pine and the hickory used in the floors and some of the ceilings. Lodgepole pine,

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Craftsman Paul Stark did several wood carvings, such as the one shown above on the first floor stairway.



GRAND ENTRY — A specially made antler light fixture is only one of numerous features visible as guests enter the home from the front entryway



KID TERRITORY — The downstairs include "bunkrooms," such as shown above, along with a secret door into a hidden room.



# A home is legacy, not "plug & play"

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taken from the standing dead on the property was used for all of the railings and banisters.

Keith Bergen, one of Berendes' six employees on the job, fashioned much of this work with a draw knife, carefully leaving knots and other "imperfections" in the wood. There are numerous animal carvings, especially on stairway banisters, done by local craftsman Paul Stark.

Stark and Berendes also combined to create a special holder on one of the decks for a Colorado University buffalo dinner bell. Stark carved a bird, then placed on a knurled branch Berendes found on the property.

"We have to have a dinner bell," Nancy said, commenting on the large surrounding acreage where their kids and their friends can play.

Special cabinet construction, done by Grand Woodworks in Tabernash, abounds.

The house has two master bedroom layouts — one for guests — with the bed-

room upstairs including a steam shower, complete with five separate water heads. A small bathroom off the great room features a gorgeous hand-fashioned cooper sink.

The home is what is what is referred to as a "smart house," wired with a huge amount of controls which allows it, in effect, to be operated from the couple's "first" home in Lewisville.

Lights and appliances can be turned on and off, doors locked and unlocked, and the temperature set. The system also has a video capability, so pictures can be sent.

Rick and Nancy said the family will visit the home probably a couple of times a month, but that it will be well used.

"It was built to be used, to be shared with other people. 'We already had a lot of relatives come up, along with people we know who just need a break. And there are groups we're involved with who will use it,'" Rick said.

"It's just a great place for a family to be," he added.



**BIG, BLACK BUILDER DOGS OF THE WEEK** — "If you're going to build it, build it right, or we'll bark," is the apparent message of Gretel and Brody, whose boss, John Berendes, is the owner of Icebox Builders, Inc.