



EARTHLY *Pleasures*

Natural selections make the rooms feel like part of the scenery

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP • PHOTOGRAPHER W. PATRICK CHAMBERS



David Munn, owner of David Munn Custom Builder LLC, with wife/business partner Rocky, built their Lake Templene home with their passions in mind. These include personal whims plus a high respect for the environment. “This home is all about us as opposed to designing for someone else. We incorporated materials reflecting our personal tastes/ textures instead of using predictable material selections you would expect to see,” explains David.

David and Rocky define the style of their home as “Hybrid Craftsman.” The exterior artfully combines low maintenance materials, such as metal, stone and vertical siding, and angled stone columns and flare bottom log detailing at the entry porch. The conglomeration of material, color and texture translates into “hybrid.”

Along with the exterior selections, numerous green components produce the uniqueness of this lakefront home. “Greenisms” is a term coined by David to encompass the many shades of green technology flooding today’s ecologically conscious market. In the Munn home, “greenisms” are products that produce a lower utility expense,

healthier indoor air quality and other selections that lower the carbon footprint on the earth’s environment. The home features a Control 4 automation system, installed by Neal Check of Sound Check, which embraces the home automation technology of today and years to come. The home is also a Certified Green Home with a HERS Rating of 45.

By combining warm, earthy hues and textures from nature—synonymous and harmonious with the earth, the Munns coupled their technologically advanced selections with aesthetic values. When friends and family come to visit, they are immediately taken by the ambiance created from the natural environment. Selections of knotty elder and oil-rubbed bronze finishes immediately set the tone. “When people come through the door they often comment on how much they love it here,” shared David.

Nestled in a hillside, their home appears to have grown out of the earth—complemented by large boulders, naturalized green areas, and a blend of earthy colors and varying roof elevations that tie it all together.

The home has a small footprint, combin-



ing fine amenities with a smart use of space. The Munn's were consciously mindful of return on investment for their own home – a factor that they make a priority for their clients as well. "In today's market it is a commonality to build McMansions with a redundancy of space, having multiple spaces for the same use," explains David.

Avoiding this, they designed their Templene home without segregation of space: master living on the main floor accommodates their status as empty nesters. The primary living space on the main floor includes a great room, kitchen, dining area, master bedroom and bath. Additional rooms, those over and above what is necessary, are in the lower level. This is where their passions found places. Rocky wanted a space of her own: a craft room was designed to her specifications and deemed her "chick cave." In it, she indulges her passion for pottery making, painting, and an array of other projects.

For David, the lower level offers office space to meet with prospective clients. It also houses a music studio contained in 12 inches of concrete surrounding the room and ceiling offering a place in which David can play and write music.

The Munn team has a history of building an array of finely tailored homes from traditional, contemporary and rustic along with log homes. Every home they build reflects their clients' personal tastes and needs, showcasing the same uniqueness and custom craftsmanship that they mastered in their own home. "We never take for granted our achievements. We continue to strive for perfection and imaginative designs that complement our clients' lifestyles and budgets," share David and Rocky. □



PREVIOUS PAGE:

TOP: A combination of textures and earthy elements create exceptional curb appeal.

INSET: The couple's "hybrid" ingenuity is shown in the intricate stone work coupled with siding and low-maintenance materials.

THIS PAGE:

TOP: Knotty elder paired with an oil rubbed bronze finish assists in creating a relaxing environment.

BOTTOM: The bar is ideal for TV watching, conversing and gatherings of all kinds.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

The two-tiered island provides the ideal spot for Rocky to prepare food while interacting with guests.



"This house is about us and a respect for the environment."



PREVIOUS PAGE:

The pine paneled ceiling, wood burning stove, and intricate stone and hearth work, combine to create an environment that blends with the outdoors.

THIS PAGE:

ABOVE: An artistically designed window provides both an outstanding view and much needed privacy for the master bath.

MIDDLE: The porch epitomizes "a room with a view."

BELOW: Nestled beneath the garage, David's music studio provides an excellent space to decompress and unwind.



ABOVE: A retaining wall serves the dual purpose of function and privacy.

MIDDLE: Integration of the earth and the house creates an extension of the environment complementing both.

BELOW: A stone hedge defines the outdoor living area.

David Munn Custom Builder LLC



PRINCIPAL OWNER (S):

David and Roxanne Munn

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

25

EDUCATION:

Western Michigan University: Music Performance major with emphasis upon business, human biology and philosophy.

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

1988

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

We begin with a clean slate and then design and build so that every space is a reflection of the goal and ready for how one lives. During this process, costs are directed and determined by the client, every move is documented, and every dollar is accounted for. We utilize the finest materials, engage the most capable trades, sweat the details, and, because of this, build only a few select homes annually.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART FROM OTHERS?

Our company has an identity for building uniqueness with an artistic flare. Building green and the many shades thereof, since 1988. We focus on clean, healthy and energy efficient homes.

HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, ETC. :

Spending time with my family, friends, making music, traveling this wonderful country and finding hidden jewels off the beaten path. Volunteerism includes: CTE advisory board, LTPOA board of directors, Elk trustee, local Veteran appreciation events.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER & WEB ADDRESS:

For additional information, call (269)467-8191; email dmunno7@comcast.net; or visit www.munndesignbuild.com.