

Worth the wait

Story by Diane Schlindwein

Photos by Amy Denney

Tim Smith and Judy Bates are two people who believe that the best things in life are worth working for. That includes their dream home that they're building in Cantrall.

Smith, Bates and their children have been living in the house for well over a year now, but admit that their abode is a work in progress. President of Evan Lloyd Associates in Springfield, Smith is the designing architect of the home.

"We've been living here since December 2004 and still have quite a bit to do. We needed the space for our (large) family, so we moved in while we were still working on it," Smith says. "But is any house ever finished? I don't think any place really ever is. Besides, you have to keep some free time open for your family and of course, we have the businesses to run."

Even though the place is not completely finished, it still makes a phenomenal

impression. The home is in a subdivision, yet there is a rural feel to the setting and yard. It sits at the very back of Presidential Estates on a 1½ acre wooded lot. Standing

Above, Tim Smith stands in front of his home that he designed.

proudly on a small hill, it overlooks a pond and several acres of common area.

"I looked for this lot for quite a while. I wanted acreage that was around water and I wanted to be 10 minutes from Springfield," Smith says, pointing out four mature hickory trees that add interest to the landscape. "We have all that here. And I really love the way the view changes with nature, depending on the season and the trees."

"With the house, I wanted to embrace the warmth of a rural setting with a modernistic feel," he says. "I used materials

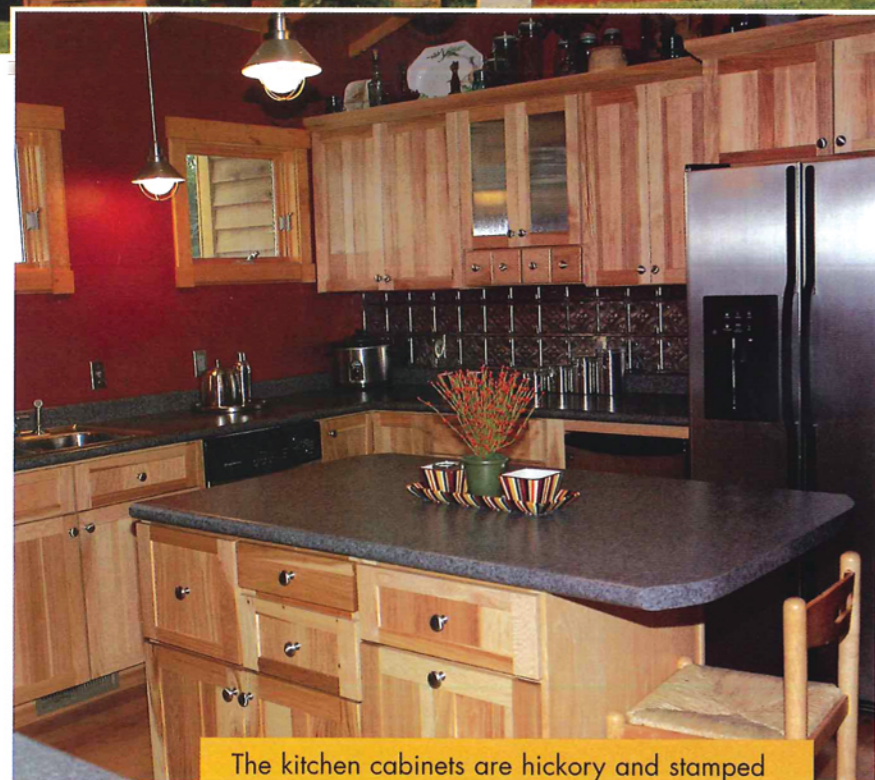
that were traditionally used in rural life."

That's why the exterior walls are clad with cedar siding with a corrugated metal accent area, he says.

A tall central section of the home has a series of steep pitched metal roofs with two sets of square cedar columns supporting an exposed cedar-clad truss. The lower south and north wings are a combination of gable, shed and hip roofs with asphalt shingles. Exposed rafter ends add to the unique look of the home. The steep roofs are repeated in the outsets in the two wings.

Because Smith doesn't care for the look of a garage showing from the road, the garage with its three carriage-style doors opens on the side of the house rather than in the front.

One step inside the foyer door and visitors already know the interior of the home is something special. A tall wall separates the dramatic foyer from the living room.



The kitchen cabinets are hickory and stamped metal accents are featured on the walls, painted a warm red. Inset at right, the dining room features a large painting by Taylorville artist Jane Frey. The dining room and living room are painted in a soft green.

Presently a large aquarium topped with an array of family photos and a few carefully placed antiques occupy the area. However, in the future the house will wow visitors with a double-sided water wall that will extend from floor to ceiling.

Smith says the foyer and living room of the home are probably his two favorite areas. The foyer and living room have 14-foot high walls with vaulted ceilings up to 24 feet. The trusses are exposed over the porch and through this section of the house. They are supported by exposed wood wall columns.

The chimney, which is 30 feet tall, is veneered with cultured ashlar stone inside and out. Smith admits he has spent many hours on scaffolding applying that stone. The living room features such an expansive window space that the great outdoors permeates the area.

"I love the fact that I can sit here on my couch and see the moon at night," Smith says. "And look at how great the daytime sky looks through here."

Because Smith was determined that light and space infuse every room of the home, the house has mostly vaulted ceilings and has "windows everywhere." Large glass wall systems flood the cen-



tral foyer and living room with natural light. The dining room has a high vaulted ceiling with a series of four clerestory windows – and the clerestory windows are repeated in the kitchen and laundry room walls.

Unique touches add interest and continuity to the interior of the home. The kitchen cabinets are hickory and stamped metal accents are featured on the walls. A set of wood pocket doors with ribbed glass screens the kitchen from the formal dining room. And a cable, wood and mesh railing keeps the family's children safe from tumbling down into the lower level. Finally, Smith used brushed aluminum hardware and lighting to complete the look of the home.

The bamboo floors throughout add to the clean look of the house. "Bamboo is a renewable resource," Smith says. "It

The main level features bamboo floors throughout, and a stone fireplace accents a wall of windows in the living room.

looks good, and it is more cost effective than some hardwoods.”

The house has four bedrooms on the main level, but two more are located in the

lower level of the home, which will someday house a finished recreation room area as well. Eventually, Smith will build a wood deck in the back yard which will cantilever over the retaining wall. A patio will be installed at the walk-out basement doors while a future elevated wood deck will provide a sitting area directly outside the master bedroom.

Smith not only designed the house, he’s done most of the labor himself, albeit with the help of some of his buddies. Bates did much of the painting, spraying the high vaulted ceilings herself. “You should have seen her up there – she was covered with paint,” Smith says. “But she did a great job.”

Because the house is unique, Smith has received quite a few comments on its appearance. “I had one guy tell me it looked like a farmhouse. I’ve had someone else tell me it looked like a church. Somebody else said it looked like a lodge in a resort area.”

To Smith and Bates, however, the house is a retreat and a home – a place to raise their family and enjoy their leisure time. That is, Smith laughs, when all the initial work is finally finished.

