

How We Live

BY FRAN HOWARD

{Easy-Flow Kitchen}

WHO LIVES HERE: The chairman of an international manufacturing company, his wife, and two West Highland Terriers. Their kids and grandkids visit every Sunday.

THE TEAM: Streeter & Associates of Wayzata was the project builder. Kurt Baum of Kurt Baum & Associates in Minneapolis was the head architect, Talla Skogmo of Engler Skogmo Interior Design in Edina handled the interior design, and Keenan & Sveiven did the landscaping. The homeowners began working with the design team two years before breaking ground. They even asked for input from their groundskeeper and housekeeper as to how they could make the home easy to maintain.

THE NUMBERS: This Eden Prairie home overlooks a lake and cost well over \$2 million to build; it sits on a lot worth more than \$500,000. Another \$100,000-plus went into landscaping. The 8,000-square-

foot kid-friendly home has three bedrooms, six baths, two offices, a wine cellar, movie theater, virtual golf simulator, putting green, butler's kitchen, three-car garage, workout room, and golf-cart garage. Hidden away in a stone turret is a staircase that leads to a castle-like kids playroom where fairy tales can spring to life.

WHAT THE OWNERS WANTED: Their previous home was great for entertaining large groups, but when they weren't hosting the owners felt lost in the large open spaces. This house needed to be better suited to how they live and it also had to wear well for guests, children, and dogs. The Venetian-waxed walls are impervious to hand and paw prints.

BEST PURCHASE: The hand-scraped walnut floors that are durable enough to withstand everyday use are favorites. But the easy-flow design of the kitchen, the homeowner

says, was his best decision. "I can be in the kitchen and still relate to my children and grandchildren in the living room or dining room."

WHY THIS ROOM WORKS: All routes lead to the Tuscan-style kitchen, making this soft yet solid room the soul of the home. The autumnal palette complements the sweeping views of the outdoors and an abundance of seating invites conversation. "The homeowners love to cook. They entertain while they slice, dice, and sauté," says designer Talla Skogmo. The appliances are foodie-friendly (Sub-Zero refrigerator and wine cooler, Wolf gas range, KitchenAid dishwasher) and the room is accessible for everyone, whether its from the striking spiral staircase or the custom doggie door. "A good kitchen is tight when you don't have to pivot more than one step here, one step there," Skogmo says.

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