

1

Welcome to COTTAGE IN THE TREES

PRICETAG: UNDISCLOSED (SOLD) **SQUARE FEET:** 4,300

BEDROOMS: 4 **BATHROOMS:** 4

*Text by Randy Nickelsen • Detail Photos by Fabienne Photography and Design
Rendering by Sandy Johnson*

From the exterior the Cottage in the Trees has the appeal of a French country manor, but the delicate arched dormers on the front pinpoint the architecture to the province of Normandy. Certainly it's a hybrid of European influence, according to the builder; the fountain-graced courtyard at the entry, originally designed to keep out a farmer's cattle, is sure to keep the Northwest deer out of the owner's rose garden. From the stucco exterior to the stone foundation to the wide country shutters, this manor home is designed for the empty nest and filled with entertainment possibilities.

A compact porch and entry foyer is the introduction to a dramatic great room and country kitchen; both spaces face walls of French doors opening to a spectacular view of Mt. Hood framed by the trunks of mature fir trees. Competing with the view as centerpiece of the

great room is a massive stone fireplace flanked by built-in entertainment centers and crowned by a ceiling of elegant timbered box beams of dark faux wood.

Opposite the great room is a French country kitchen with period hood vent cabinetry over an angled gourmet stove. Elegant European cabinets antiqued in an oatmeal glaze offset the dark wood cabinetry in the dining area and family room. Guests can advise the cook from the wide central island or assist in prep or cleanup at one of two sinks and two dishwashers. The large eating area in the kitchen takes the place of a traditional dining room. A wall of French doors here folds back completely to

Continued on page 82



Continued from page 80

COTTAGE IN THE TREES

BY BLAZER DEVELOPMENT

bring the inside out to an expansive outdoor living area complete with grill center, refrigerator, sink and stone fireplace strategically situated on a completely covered all-weather deck. Connected to the deck is a sun-soaked stamped concrete patio, which is accessed from the double French doors of the great room. All overlook an all-weather turf putting green complete with tee box, sand trap and flat stones for observers relaxing to the sound of a tumbling water feature.

In one wing of the house, a cozy study off the great room displays a gas fireplace with flat screen entertainment over the mantel and French doors opening to the entry courtyard. The same wing houses the much-sought-after master suite on the main floor with charming gas fireplace at the foot of the bed, magnificent mountain views and ac-



cess to the sun deck near the sitting area. Natural warm brown travertine accents the master bath with free-standing view tub and walk-in shower. The double-sink vanity is the entrance to his-and-her walk-in closets.

In the opposite wing, two view-oriented guest rooms share a jack-and-jill bath. Upstairs is a home theatre room and artist's studio. Between the kitchen and garage is perhaps the most unique and appealing room. Termed the "life management room" by the builder, it boasts a laundry nook, sewing and computer center, large three-sided

island for hobbies and crafts and a separate entrance for the family dog leading in from the dog run.

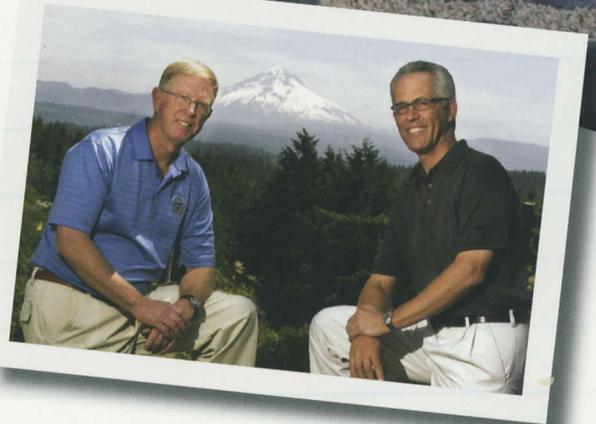
Meet THE BUILDERS

BUILDER BIO and Q & A'S

Ray Derby and Rick Lesniak brought their considerable skills and building industry experience together in 1999 to form Blazer Development – an intimate home-building company with an intense desire to make the building experience enjoyable for the homeowner.

With over 30 years experience building beautiful homes, Ray Derby has also “given back” to his trade through local and national leadership roles in the residential construction industry – including a stint on the National Homebuilders Association Board of Directors. He has been named the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland’s “Builder of the Year”, and is participating in his fifteenth Street of Dreams.

Together in Blazer Development, Derby and Lesniak have won a variety of awards, including the 2003 HBA



Earth Advantage Builder Award, and many Street of Dreams awards.

“The key to Blazer’s success is the genuine love and passion both of us have for our professions,” says Derby. “We love working with our clients.” Over 90 percent of their clients are confident referrals from architects, people in the building trade, or prior patrons pleased with their building experiences.

Derby sums it up succinctly: “For Blazer, constructing beautiful luxury homes is more than a vocation – it is an avocation.”

What’s your favorite room of this dream home?

The country kitchen, which opens with folding doors to include outdoor living area. [It’s] very versatile and fun for entertaining.

What was the biggest challenge you faced with this dream home?

Coordinating trades, interior designers, architects and crafts-people to achieve a common goal within a tight time frame. There are so many cooks in the kitchen!

What’s your favorite appliance or high tech gadget of this dream home?

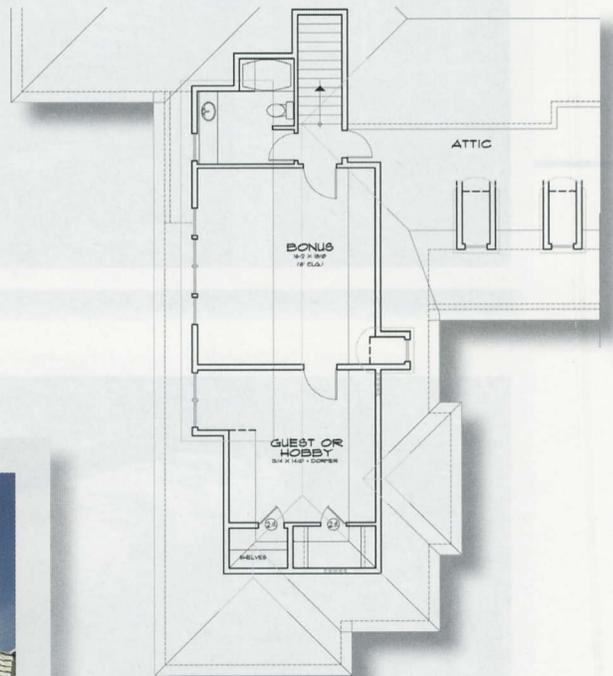
The Kohler Custom Showering experience in the master bath allows for a spa-like environment with electronic touch controls. With body sprays, rainwater heads and preset control buttons for each user, the shower is transformed into a luxurious retreat.

Name a mentor, favorite architect, or artist and how that person has influenced your work.

A builder I trained under years ago taught me to enjoy the creative aspects of home building. It was a tough school but I learned that building homes can be both vocation and avocation. I thank Hank Klein for being that teacher.



MAIN FLOOR



UPPER FLOOR

