

APRIL / MAY 2011

BOWLING GREEN

Home Lifestyle

All the
Right Angles

IN BOWLING GREEN

FOSTERING
HOPE
FOR KIDS' SAKE

CHOOSING AN
ASSISTED LIVING
FACILITY

THESE BOWLING GREEN CITIZENS
WON'T LEAVE HOME
WITHOUT THEM

LOCAL
Wineries
REVEALED



APRIL/MAY 2011

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LIVING
IN

Parallel bands in jeweled tones intersect the oversized tile that defines the fireplace. This combination of rectangular shapes against a square palette adds architectural interest.

☛ *Thanks to this wall of sunlight, the home benefits from passive solar heat as well as dramatic views of the city below. Builder Kelly Arnold of Gemini Homes utilized "the best windows money can buy."*

BOWLING GREEN / KY

A Home With all the Right Angles

WRITTEN BY **MARY NESTOR**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JOE IMEL**

LAYOUT BY **S. E. WALKER**



ANYBODY who ever survived a high school geometry class understands that proofs require theorems. And in this contemporary masterpiece owners Rick and Barbara Ball, calculated every line of the equation. In the end, however, they seem to have determined that in their dream home, the circle would not be round.

Working hand in hand with builder Kelly Arnold as he interpreted architect Neal Downing's blueprint, geometric precision was allied not with symmetry and predictable outcomes, but instead the house showcases a creative license where an imaginative voice leaps from a very deliberate platform. It is as if they took it right to the edge, and slammed on the breaks for a breathtaking calm.

Look no further than the back wall of the great room.

Except, there is no wall.

Instead of a wall, there is a series of windows in thick tempered glass that stair step from floor to ceiling creating an apex met at its peak by the interior line of an enormous chimney which features such precise craftsmanship that it resembles a seamless black onyx panel. The scale of these combined forces is so massive that Arnold had to reinforce the steel frames, which support the two-story home and then sink them into 4,500 yards of fill dirt. Beyond the wall that isn't a wall, the entire city of Bowling Green, from Hospital Hill to Pearce Ford Tower, and five miles out Cemetery Road, creates a quiet symphony of shadow and light that is never the same thing twice.

Rick and Barbara met years ago when they were living in



➤ A collection of art by an area craftsman is displayed on wall-mounted shelves. The custom cabinets are also designed to "float" creating clean, contemporary lines.



Southern California. Rick laughs when he remembers his days driving a delivery truck. He says his route often allowed him to catch a bird's eye view of a lovely lady whose legs he came to admire. By the time he was actually introduced to Barbara, he was already smitten. The two have been together ever since and a shared passion for motorsports eventually led them to Beech Bend Raceway. Rick founded his company RC Components, which manufactures custom forged motorcycle wheels, and chrome exhausts. His designs are staples of the hit series *Orange County Choppers*.

They're also integral to the elements of his new home. The staircase, for example, existed in his head before it ever went on paper. Each piece of the stainless steel railing as well as the iron risers was manufactured in house. Rick says initially he envisioned steps cantilevered from the supporting wall, but on the advice of his builder, scrapped that idea for one just slightly more feasible. The result is a staircase that provides a smooth transition from the main-level living spaces to the downstairs gaming area and does double duty as a work of modern art.

Arnold credits Designer Vickey Grimsley with upping the ante. He explains that Rick and Barbara had the vision, but Grimsley definitely helped deliver the goods. Nothing is left to chance and there is not an ordinary detail anywhere. Even the powder bath features motion lights, wall-mounted cabinetry that seems to float above the over-sized chocolate tiles in a matte finish, and a Kohler® Purist "hat box" toilet because Rick's preference, an "egg-shaped" toilet, kept missing that slow boat from China.

☞ Durable Brazilian tigerwood will age to a burnt orange in bright sunlight. The multiple tiers of the pedestal dining table were cut from giant cardboard templates and sized to fit the space.

☞ This asymmetrical niche is lighted from above to create a glow, perfect for showcasing decorative glass and signature pieces of art.

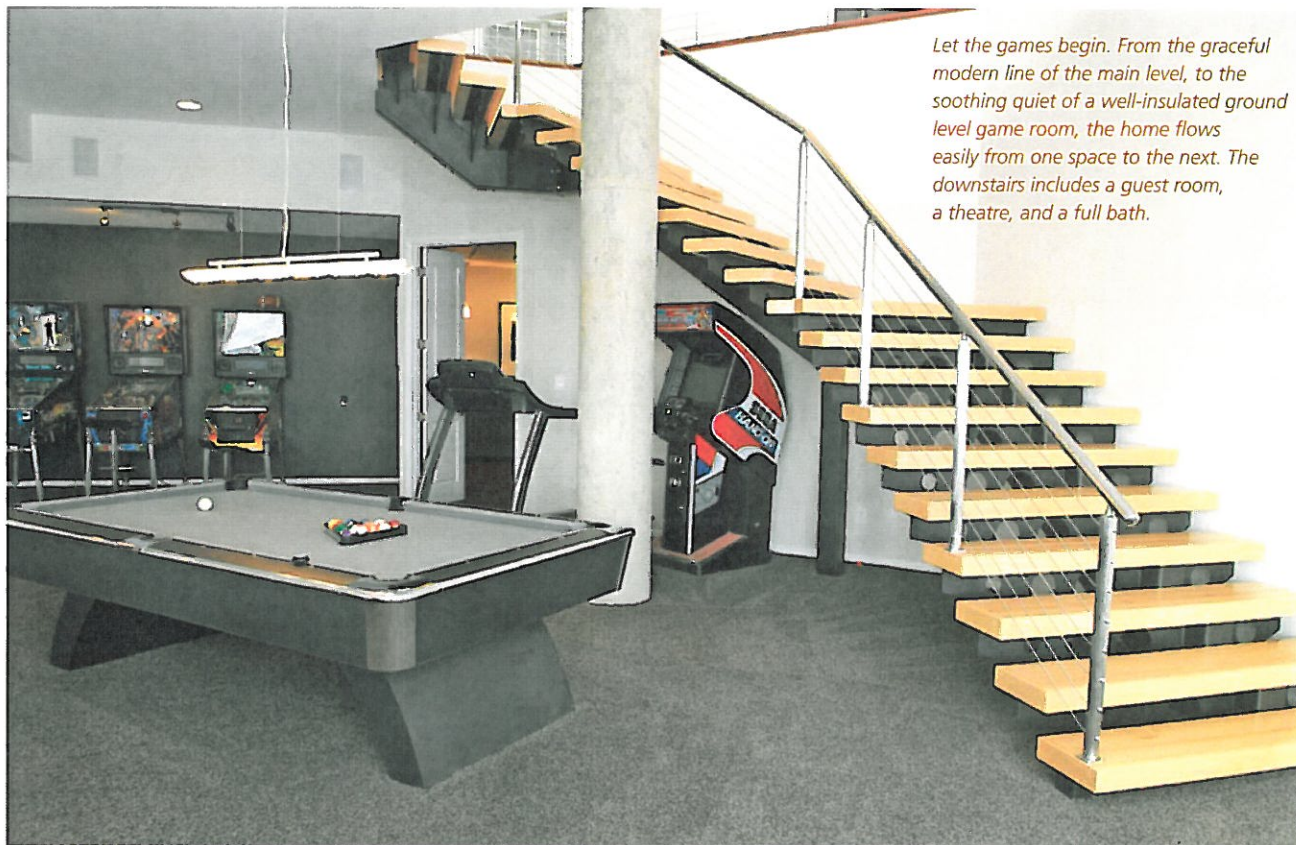
☞☞ Maple used on these oversized steps and landings contrasts nicely with the charcoal carpet that keeps the downstairs game room cozy.



It is as if they took it right to the edge, and slammed on the breaks for a breathtaking calm.



In the kitchen, bamboo cabinets, granite countertops, foil backed glass on the tile backsplash, and plenty of natural light makes the space a natural extension of the entire main level.



Let the games begin. From the graceful modern line of the main level, to the soothing quiet of a well-insulated ground level game room, the home flows easily from one space to the next. The downstairs includes a guest room, a theatre, and a full bath.



Despite its modern elegance and purity of form, Arnold points out that the house has brains and not just beauty. That “hat box” toilet design, for example, uses an electrical flush and half the water of a traditional model. But that is just the proverbial drop in the bucket of environmental considerations and in fact, the home comes within a hair’s breadth of being LEED certified. “I am all about the science of home building,” says Arnold who always looked for the opportunity to go green. He utilized geothermal heating and cooling systems, engineered framing and wood beams, green cement in the massive support, energy efficient windows, Energy Star[®] appliances including a fireplace with an 80,000 BTU rating and a south eastern exposure that captures passive solar heat so well that they added nifty push-button high-tech shades for hot summer days.

A salt-water aquarium creates a colorful wall of fluid motion and helps define the footprint that divides the kitchen from the formal dining area. Tucked behind in a room the size of a large pantry, Arnold added an auxiliary water system that utilizes reverse osmosis and makes cleaning the fish tank as easy as running a dishwasher.

In the kitchen, bamboo cabinets, stainless steel appliances, and granite countertops in a charcoal matte finish are strategically traced with glass tile flecked in shades of green, and gold. A center island features

⚙️ *These Harley bar stools are an obvious reference to the homeowners’ passion for two-wheeled adventure*



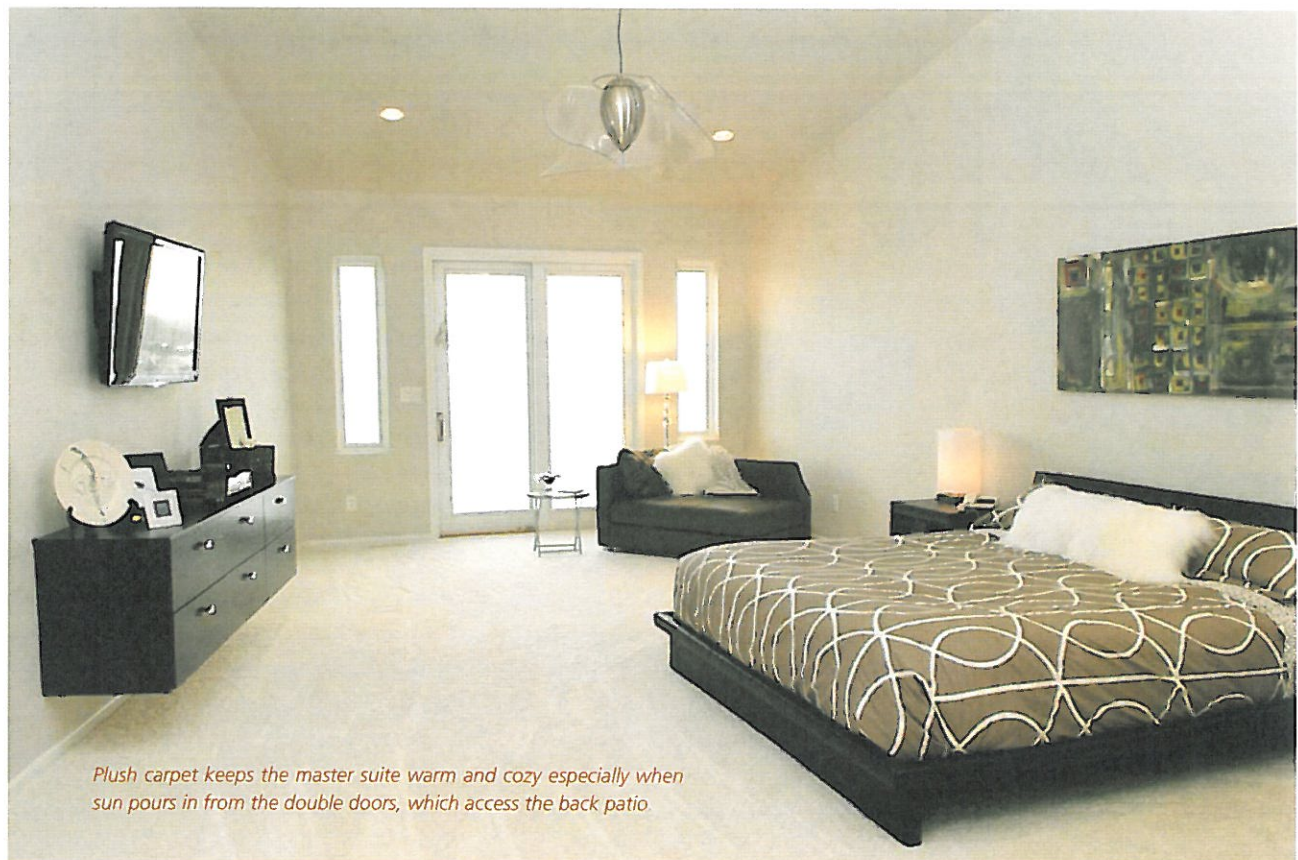
☞ In the powder bath, the fluted porcelain sink nesting in a wave cut from a single sheet of tempered glass blends the lines of form and function.

a six-burner stove, which completes the work triangle in the kitchen and on the backside, another granite countertop provides additional seating and is supported by squared steel columns framed slightly askew to give the whole scene an asymmetrical edge.

This unbalanced balance comes into play time and time again. In fact, even the angles of the walls are off by 10 degrees to keep them from being perfectly square. In many cases, the windows aren't square and often not even rectangular. Instead, look for parallelograms as windows, niches, supports and pedestals. Ceiling fans and dramatic lighting offer whimsical architectural features throughout. From the bubbled glass sheets of the chandelier in the foyer to the double-jointed wing span of the blades on the ceiling fan in master suite to a trio of laminated wood circle lanterns mounted above the giant dining room table, each of them holds their own in the overall design.

Clearly, the builder and the homeowners developed the kind of working relationship that allows the creative spirit to flourish.

But for the mathematicians who need round circles, and square pegs, how about this: This home is about integrating the unexpected until it seems that this one-of-a-kind masterpiece was the only possible answer. ☐



Plush carpet keeps the master suite warm and cozy especially when sun pours in from the double doors, which access the back patio.