



DESIGN ACHIEVEMENT:

Perfect Process

BY DORESA BANNING + PHOTOS BY VANCE FOX

ARCHITECT: KURT REINKENS, MWA, INC.
BUILDER: BRENT FERRERA, BC BUILDERS
INTERIOR DESIGN: TERRY OWENS HURT
LANDSCAPE DESIGN: SARAH TREBILCOCK, VILLAGER NURSERY;
SCOTT CROSS, STREAMSCAPES WATER & ROCK GARDENS
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 5,000+/-
YEAR COMPLETED: 2005





The upstairs master suite (facing page) sits above a covered outdoor kitchen and overlooks a koi pond (this page).



While the home's palette grew out of the neutral-colored flooring, rusty red accents add bursts of color in the kitchen, Western-themed bedroom (below) and living room (facing page).



Gary Convis never imagined that he'd find his future retirement home — before it was even built — while out golfing in Lahontan. But that's how it happened. He passed the lot next to the seventh green, which contained only a concrete slab, and immediately appreciated how its location captured the awesome views. He pulled out his cell phone and called his wife, Debbie, who drove out, looked at it and loved it, too.

"When we stood out on the slab of the house, we knew it was just right for us," Debbie says. "Everything fell into place. My lucky number is seven. I was born on the seventh, and the house is on the seventh green. It was meant to be."

After meeting the property's owner-contractor and negotiating its purchase, the couple became actively involved in the building and design process.

"Because we caught it at that point in time, we could really make our own personal improvements and touches," Gary says. "It worked out beautifully for us." And so it seems fitting to the couple that this project was chosen as the Design Achievement winner of this year's TQ Mountain Home Awards.

“The home is incredibly cohesive and well thought out,” said one of the judges, expressing the thoughts of the entire panel. Although this is a 5,000 square foot home, the architecture and interior design make it feel intimate and comfortable.

“There is a casual comfort that goes with the home,” says Kurt Reinkens, the architect. “That, to me, is Old Tahoe. You can be in that house with your feet up on the furniture in your Levis, and you’re not worried about a condensation ring from your pilsner glass on the table.”

The house sits on a half-acre, parallelogram-shaped lot on the Lahontan golf course amidst an alpine forest. “Because of the way the house is situated on the property, it enjoys panoramic views from almost every part of the house of the golf course and the mountains behind,” says Gary. “So you get nature in every corner of this house. That I really love.”

The home’s exterior showcases “almost a Hansel and Gretel appearance,” Reinkens says, with its oversized timbers, stone, wood and combination of steep and low roof pitches. Reinkens, a principal architect with MWA, says he chose for the home a cluster or village design rather than a one-building design.

“The house is really a cluster of two or three boxes, depending where you view it from,” he says. “Instead of seeing one façade, you’re seeing at least two sides of two boxes at any given time.”

The home is divided into two main sections. One side contains the main house, which includes the living room, dining room, kitchen, office and upstairs master bedroom.

The other side encompasses a second, guest master bedroom along with two guest bedrooms, a guest lounge and the garage.

“We can be on one side of the house only, if we want to, and can close off the other side,” Debbie says. Between the home’s two sections is a glass-walled, up-lit bridge connector that traverses over a water feature that flows from the front of the house to the outdoor kitchen.

“Walking across the breezeway that connects the two homes, you really get a unique flavor of Tahoe,” says Gary. “We brought the stream into it, and the fish. It just adds a special touch.”

Inside, the home boasts sizable rooms that have been transformed into intimate living spaces. “Part of the home’s design included the creation of different living areas that became very cozy and comfortable, not like in a huge house,” says Terry Owens Hurt, the interior designer. “You end up with great, small conversation groups.”

For example, in the living room, Hurt



THE HOME BOASTS SIZABLE ROOMS THAT HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO INTIMATE LIVING SPACES.



chose to use four large, hand-crafted chairs with huge fuzzy cushions instead of several couches. An ottoman five feet in diameter with a water-resistant top doubles as a coffee table. This conversation cluster is set before the Rumford fireplace.

"It's like a little sanctuary," Gary says. "Even if you're working, the outdoors is coming in through the windows."

The rich and colorful materials used throughout the home help soften the environment. The cabinetry throughout is distressed-character alder, with hardwood flooring in the living room, bridge, office and upstairs master bedroom. The wooden ceiling in several rooms is sugar pine that's stained to match the walnut flooring.

The interior colors grew out of the tan and light-mocha travertine flooring that also is found throughout the house. They are primarily earth tones and, for accents, rusty red, as found in the red lampshade in the living room, the chair cushions in the breakfast bar, the ceramic vase in the guest master and elsewhere.

"The colors became very natural but rich," Hurt says.

Various wrought-iron chandeliers, custom made in Germany, embellish several rooms.

The guest suite is detached from the main house with a bridge connector (this image). The same granite from the interior fireplaces can be found outside in the garden walls (above), the stonework by Leif Johansen Masonry.



Hanging in large, open spaces, they make the room feel less vast.

Beefy, wooden ceiling beams and weathered granite stone used in the fireplace and in the powder room wall give the home a solid character. "You'll feel comfortable in the home when there's eight or ten feet of snow on the roof," says Reinkens.

The home's décor also contains some fun, whimsical elements. The guest master bedroom features a bird theme. Each post of the hand-carved bed frame is topped with a bird, and a birdhouse sits on top of the television armoire. The pole of the adjacent standing lamp is a tree trunk with branches.

"It's so subtle that most people don't get it, but it's there," Hurt says. "It was one of the fun things about this project."

The Convises' son's room features a Western theme, with a lasso hanging on a bed made out of antique barn wood, ultra-suede curtains on a custom curtain rod with arrow finials, red leather pillow shams, cowboy hats and a "Giddyup" sign hanging over the bed.

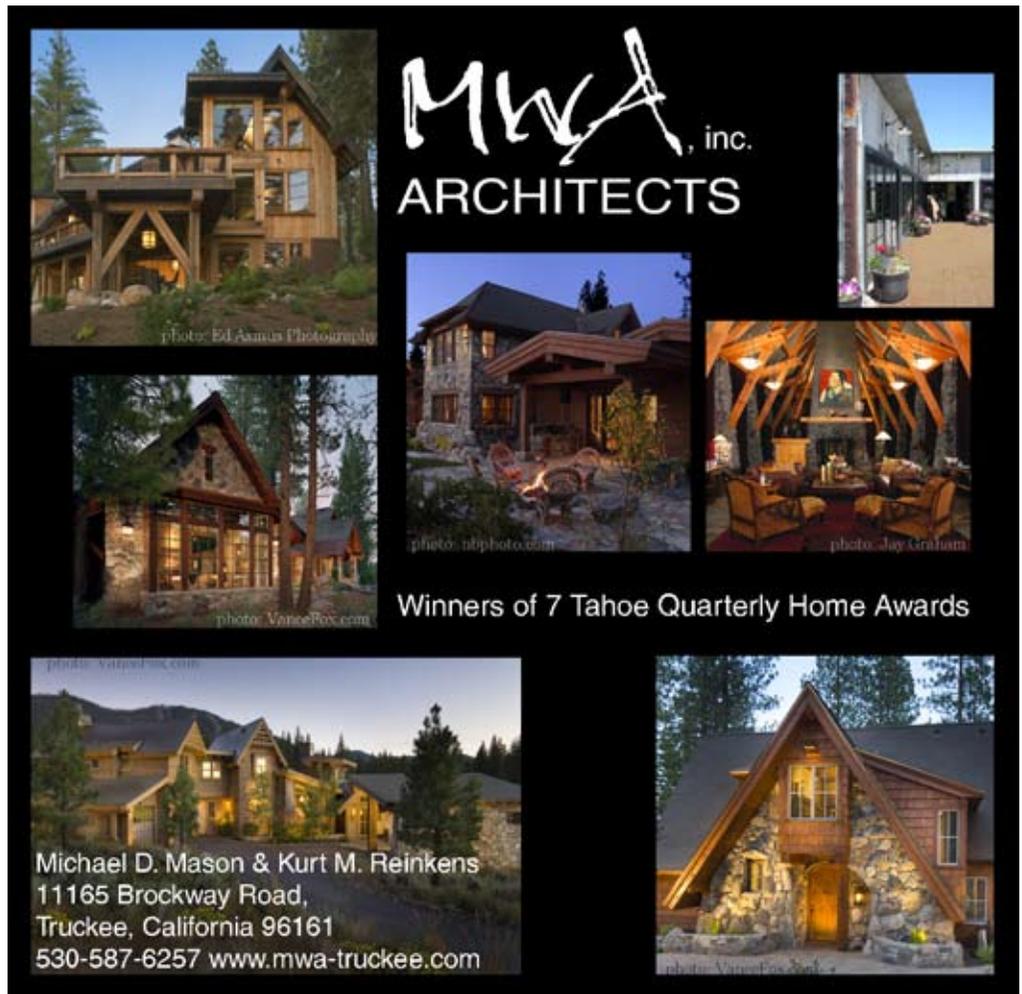
Although the home sits right off the golf course, it has a surprisingly private outdoor space: a secluded fireplace porch area with a hot tub. There's also a more public lower terrace facing the green, an outdoor kitchen

A VARIETY OF STRUCTURES INTERCONNECT INTO THE COMPLETED HOME, CLUSTERED IN A CREATIVE, EYE-PLEASING PLAN.

and an enclosed dog run. Granite garden walls enclose all of these spaces. An intimate path meanders from the public patio off the great room to the barbecue deck and then over to the private terrace or patio off the guest master.

"I think the house was a win for everybody," Reinkens says. The Convises, who wanted their home to be elegant yet have the relaxed feel of a lodge, are delighted with the outcome.

"It's been a great experience for us," Debbie says. "We always feel like the house wraps itself around us." 



MWA, inc.
ARCHITECTS

Winners of 7 Tahoe Quarterly Home Awards

Michael D. Mason & Kurt M. Reinkens
11165 Brockway Road,
Truckee, California 96161
530-587-6257 www.mwa-truckee.com

CHASE

INTERNATIONAL.COM

Tahoe City

The Leader in Luxury Real Estate



NORTH SHORE LAKE FRONT

Go ice skating on the pond or stargaze in the hot tub at this gorgeous lake front home. Invite everyone to enjoy the phenomenal views. 4 en-suite bedrooms, powder room, den and guest suite with family room. The floor plan affords plenty of open space suitable for a corporate or family retreat. Ample parking available. Buoy, shared pier and sandy beach. Ideally located near recreation, dining and shopping.

Offered at \$4,200,000



Trinkie Watson 800 783 0722 530 582 0722

Zephyr Cove Glenbrook Incline Village Reno Tahoe City Truckee

