

Architect: Kurt Reinkens with Meghan Kelley of MWA, Inc.
Builder: Jim Morrison of Jim Morrison Construction
Interior: Staging by Catherine Macfee Interior Design and Rubicon Collection
Landscape: Lasting Landscapes
Year completed: 2009
Square feet: ±6,043



(above) A spacious gourmet kitchen, crowned by clerestory windows, serves as a hub for both cooking and entertaining. **(facing page)** Lift-and-slide glass doors extend the inside living spaces to the outdoors, here a covered deck facing Martis Camp Golf Course.



*A Grand Plan
Drawn in the Sand*

Story by Susan D. Rock | Photos by Ethan Rohloff

Gamble to build first house at Martis Camp pays off.



(above) A four-sided, 27-foot-high granite fireplace is the focal point of the great room. **(top right)** Viewed from the back, the 225-foot-long house, with its series of peaked roofs, snakes across the 1.6-acre lot. **(bottom right)** A sitting area, finished in custom distressed alder trim and hickory floors, provides a practical transition space between the master bedroom and the rest of the house's public spaces.



In 2006, when Truckee contractor Jim Morrison decided to put up—on speculation—the first house in Martis Camp, the 2,177-acre private community adjacent to Northstar-at-Tahoe, he did what anyone about to embark upon a dicey proposition might do: he and architect Kurt Reinkens broke out the beer.

“We laid out the home on a late summer day with a 12-pack of beer and miles of string and bundles of stakes,” says Reinkens, principal at MWA. As they walked the 1.6-acre lot, which backs up to the development’s golf course, the two, who have collaborated on several other projects, took into consideration everything from slope, views, sun and privacy to how rooms should scale and flow. “It had to feel intimate for a couple but expandable for extended family,” Reinkens says. “It had to flow in such a way that almost anyone could project their own lifestyle into it.”

In an on-the-ground, organic approach they ran through plan after plan, spending time in each “room,” until, by the end of the day, they felt they got it right. The surveyor located the stakes

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on a site map, and Reinkens enlisted eight of his staffers to draw up the plans in lightning speed. Morrison's crew then completed the house in 14 months.

The resulting 6,043 square foot home is a tribute to "the ultimate in resort living," says Reinkens. The grand, lodge-like layout separates private and public spaces, with bedrooms located at opposite ends of the 225-foot-long house. The central, main living area boasts a towering four-sided fireplace, open gourmet kitchen and sliding glass doors that extend the indoors outside. Carefully framed views complete the thought while clerestory windows scoop in southerly sun. "We wanted it to observe rather than dominate nature," says Reinkens.

This 6,043 square foot spec home was built as a tribute to "the ultimate in resort living."

Finishes including reclaimed lumber, local granite, fossil-rich limestone, hand-forged metalwork and walnut woodwork, give the place "a Tahoe look with something more modern," says Morrison.

San Francisco residents John and Venetta Rohal liked what they saw, enough to make the house their home this past summer. "We just loved the house," says John, who looks forward to sharing it with their three grown sons. "It has such a sense of warmth that flows throughout."

Twelve houses now stand in Martis Camp, with 30 under construction and another 32 under architectural design review; the entire development is zoned for a total of 653 homes. "This project took a crazy gamble in the peak of a down cycle and it managed to work," says Reinkens. It's a bet that's paid off handsomely. **TQ**