

Uniquely Exceptional



A Mediterranean-Style Home Is Unique and Unusual for Michigan

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP • PHOTOGRAPHER STEVE SIMPKINS

darlene, an interior decorator, and Dave, a builder, were in need of an ongoing project to showcase their talents. When there was nothing more to recreate, remodel, expand or enhance in their existing home, building became the obvious option for this design/build team.

While touring a home in Florida, they discovered a perfect floor plan for their project. But, to implement this plan correctly, a perfect piece of property was required. It became Dave's mission to find this elusive location. He undertook taking daily excursions down side roads, through unknown areas and to new places of discovery. One day, on a property scouting trip, he found a 6-acre parcel on Bay Valley Golf Course that had just been put on the market. It was exactly what the couple was looking for and they purchased it the next day. The property offered accessibility, beauty and seclusion—the perfect building site for their unique home.

The combination of ideal floor plan and perfect setting gave way to an unparalleled opportunity of creativity. "We love the process of building, designing and finishing a home," shares Darlene.

The Mediterranean-style house, a glorious space enhanced with noteworthy detail and commitment to excellence, quickly depicted that expression. It enveloped an entourage of architectural allure from its palladium and transom windows to columns, niches and varying ceiling heights. "Almost all the walls have a feature," explains Darlene.

Red birch, walnut and mahogany were used for cabinetry and all is in its natural state, sealed only with a clear coat to protect its beauty, enhancing the color and grain. Trayed, coffered and barreled ceilings abound. The 8-foot tall interior doors, along with multiple arches, contribute to style and spaciousness.

This team artfully combined distinction of style with fresh ideas, the casual and the elegant. For example, the kitchen is complete with a warming drawer in the island, spice racks, double ovens, a lighted wood canopy over the bar area, and a display area over the cabinets. The master bath is accented with a Terrazzo marbled island with air bubble tub and walk-through shower. The master suite is ideal with its own laundry area and shoe closet.

The use of color, from subtle to impactful, was selected to lower



ceilings, emphasize moldings and enhance style. The art of lighting is depicted in niches, under cabinetry, bath and kitchen toe-kicks and cove molding.

The exterior of the home also features carefully constructed and designed details. The stucco finish, stone walls and circle drive, are all to exact specifications. To take advantage of the perfect parcel, a large porch and outdoor living area are perfectly outfitted.

Visiting this uniquely styled home in Michigan is to experience a shared effort and exceptional standard of creativity. □

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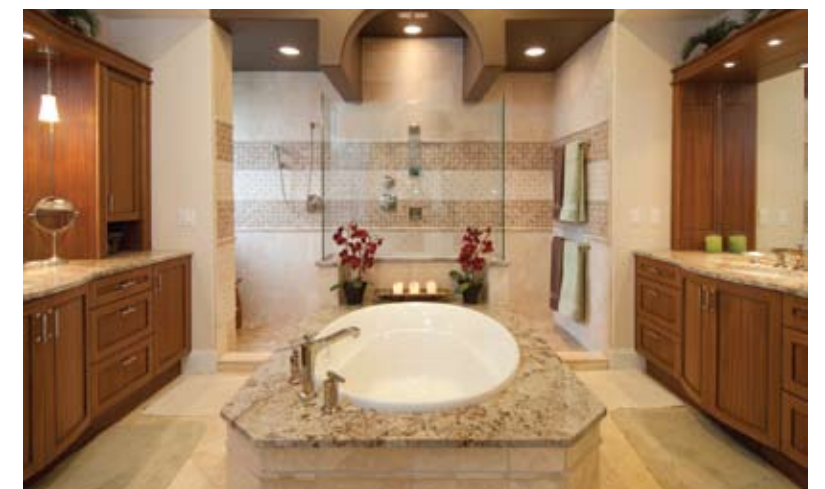
An eye-catching combination of warmly hued stucco, column and arches vie for attention.

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ABOVE: Niches with artful lighting add interest and character to multiple spaces throughout the home.

BELOW LEFT: The dramatic architectural detail in the home is shown in the array of ceiling designs.

BELOW RIGHT: Stunning architecture seamlessly combines convenience and elegance.



The master suite couldn't be more luxurious or more custom.

ABOVE: The large room features an abundance of space and a comfortable sitting area.

BOTTOM LEFT: The home is a graceful combination of warm tones and dramatic detail.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The design team showcased their creativity when designing this island with bubble tub.



ABOVE: An outdoor living space offers a place to enjoy natural splendor.

BELOW: The selections of materials for the fireplace and enclosure wall are the perfect complement to the Mediterranean style.

Cabinets: **DESIGNTech CUSTOM INTERIORS INC.**
 Doors: **LAWRENCE SMITH WINDOW & DOOR**
 Furnace: **THUMB COOLING & HEATING**
 Granite, Tile: **CAPITAL GRANITE**
 Gutters: **M&M SEAMLESS GUTTERS**
 Landscaping: **LEPPEK LANDSCAPES**
 Lighting: **WHOLESALE ELECTRIC**



Dave Skrocki Contracting & Darlene Skrocki Interiors

PRINCIPAL OWNER (S):

Dave & Darlene Skrocki

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

Dave has been in business for 42 years; Darlene has been in the business for 35 years.

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

Dave started building houses in 1994. Darlene joined as project manager/interior designer in 2002.

EDUCATION:

Dave is a graduate of St James Catholic High School in Bay City. He has many years of on-the-job training and experience. Darlene has a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design from Eastern Michigan University; she has worked for several design firms and furniture stores. Darlene started own consulting firm in 2001.

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Give every project, regardless of size, our best effort. We want to exceed our customers' expectations.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART FROM OTHERS?

We work as a team to provide our clients a unique service. Dave is the general contractor and Darlene is the project manager, offering interior design assistance when needed. We find out what is on the clients' wish list and try to incorporate unique features that make their project special. We want our clients to love their home when we are done! We have been using many of the same subcontractors since we started building and remodeling homes. We believe these subcontractors are the best at what they do, and the quality of their workmanship contributes greatly to the success of our company.

HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, ETC. :

We love to do home improvement projects and we enjoy golf, gardening, cooking, and friends and family—especially our 12 grandchildren. We have developed many lasting friendships as a result of projects that we have completed.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

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