

The one promise I made to myself as my home was under construction was that I would always maintain it and update it for MY enjoyment, rather than wait until it was time to market it to a new family. And I have kept that promise! That is one of the major reasons I love spending time at home.

I find this home to be both a comfort and an inspiration.

Mornings and evenings are my favorites in this home due to the beautiful way the light changes. The morning light on the back side of the house makes the backyard such a lovely place to spend time putting in the planting beds, or just sitting with a cup of coffee. During warm months, butterflies and Cardinals abound! There is even the occasional hummingbird. It's a peaceful way to begin the day. Even just the view of the beautiful backyard from indoors is just so satisfying and lends a sense of "all's right with the world". And on chilly evenings, the copper, natural gas fed fire pit makes for a cozy ambience (and S'mores!)

There are so many things that set this house apart from others, in addition to simply the beautiful colors and design. So much attention to detail means that there are plenty of electrical outlets just where we all need them, including INSIDE some of the cabinetry. And the electrical outlets and USB ports just under the kitchen and bar cabinets mean that EVERYONE has a place to recharge those ever-present devices we all seem to be tethered to!!

My family and guests love that their every need has been thought through, including the coffee bar and beverage fridge that is on the second floor. My goal was to make the second floor a place where family and guests could relax in their own space...much like a luxury hotel suite. Everyone has a TV in their private space, as well as their own bathroom and closet space. (I think maybe it is almost TOO inviting sometimes! J)

But I think the two favorite aspects of this home for me and for EVERYONE are the kitchen/family room and the POOL. Again, I tried to think of everything as the pool

area was in the design phase. There are electrical outlets on 3 sides of the pool; two hose bibs; in-ground umbrella holders; a strong WIFI signal that extends even beyond the pool; moonlights in the trees; lighted steps to the raised decking; path lights; beautiful landscaping that is low-maintenance. It's just a perfect place to spend time with friends and family, night or day. (I must confess that I do truly enjoy my time alone in and beside the pool. It's so peaceful and relaxing. And the landscape provides plenty of privacy.) The pool is shaded by trees in the morning and again in late afternoon, so it's perfect for both sun-worshippers and those who avoid the sun (like I do). That morning shade makes it a great place for that cup of coffee. And I often sit beside the pool with music streaming from a portable Sonos speaker as I enjoy my dinner there, followed by paddling around in the pool with a flute of Prosecco. (sigh...)

I'll share a secret with you: There is a small tile on the raised deck area that covers the natural gas connection for a fire pit! When I had a fire pit there, it got a LOT of use! (Just be sure to turn the handle that is on the back side of the stucco wall to "on" or "off", in addition to the handle at the connection below that small tile cover. The two controls were a safety measure to prevent my grandchildren from "accidentally" turning on the natural gas. Haha!)

This home was MADE for entertaining! With all of the "wall washer" art lighting, and with every light on a dimmer switch, the house comes ALIVE at night!!! Whether I want it lit up like a castle, or more "mood" lighting, or something in between, it just works. I LOVE this house at night!! It can feel like a warm, cozy cocoon, just by adjusting the lighting. And with the façade lighting on the front of the house, in addition to the carriage lamps, security lighting, and landscape lighting everywhere, it makes my home easy for guests to find and to navigate their way to any part of the property for a gathering that ALWAYS includes "adult beverages". My home seems to always end up being the favorite destination for friends, which has been my intent from the beginning.

And lastly, but certainly not least, I have great neighbors.

So many times we overlook the importance of having good people next door, across the street, and down the way. We look after each other. We care about one another. It is a

gift no one can buy for me, so I know I am blessed.