

Set for All Seasons

This country home in Elkins is great for summer living. But the peaceful location and expertly designed details bring relaxation and fun 365 days of the year.



When looking at property to build a home on, it can be challenging to see the potential in an overgrown, wooded plot of land. It's often the simple elements of nature that grab a visitor's attention. "The first time we drove out here, it was so overgrown that we couldn't see the ponds, rolling hills or any of that. What we did see was the view. We heard the birds and nature instead of cars and trucks – and it felt so peaceful. I knew right away that this was it," says the owner of the now manicured and maintained property.

After almost six years of searching for the perfect place to build a home, finding the 100-acre plot in Elkins was a refreshing discovery. "My daughter especially always wanted to live out on a larger piece of land. Searching for a great spot was kind of a fun pastime for us. But as the kids were getting closer and closer to college age, I was hoping that we would find something sooner than later so they could enjoy life in the new home – and, thankfully, we finally found this amazing piece of paradise," the owner says.

With the property located not far off the main road in Elkins, she adds, "The location sealed the deal. I love feeling like we're way out, but with the basics — like a grocery store, gas station and Sonic — right down the road, living out here is not inconvenient at all!"

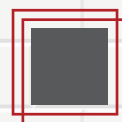
Once the purchase of the property was secure, the owner enlisted the help of childhood friend and architect Scott Sallis of Dalrymple Sallis Architecture in Florida. "I wanted a simple layout with just the essential spaces," the owner says. "I wanted one level and, most of all, I wanted to be able to connect to the outside spaces, regardless of where in the house I was standing. Once Scott flew out and visited the property, he had the vision right then."

With the home's design direction in progress, the owner also brought in local interior designer Chris Goddard of Goddard Design Group. Having worked with Goddard on previous projects, the owner knew she could wholeheartedly trust him with her dream home. "I know what my style is, but I don't know exactly how to go about getting it.



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Bear Rock



Chris really gets my style, so I knew he could make it happen,” she says. A brief meeting in Goddard’s office to review a style board is all it took for the owner to say, “Awesome, I love it. Let me know when it’s finished.” She laughs and says, “I didn’t know what the wallpaper looked like, I didn’t know what the drapes or carpet looked like – none of it! It was a fun and exciting reveal. When the home was complete, I walked in and said, ‘This is it! It’s perfect – better than I could have ever imagined!’”

Today the home beautifully reflects the family’s lifestyle and personality – which includes entertaining friends, lounging with family and playing with their two “country” dogs. “The dogs can be perfectly lazy and will just roam around the property. Occasionally one of them will go for a swim in the pond close to the house – so, between the dogs tracking in dirt and grass and my teenage son and his friends coming in and out, I appreciate the home’s simplistic layout. Mentally, I have a handle on it and it’s pretty easy to keep picked up and clean,” the homeowner says. “This house is great any day of the year, but it really comes alive in the spring and summer!”



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BEAR ROCK:

The home's unofficial mascot, simply referred to as Bear Rock, sits in a featured spot in the center of the circle drive. The rock was originally unearthed by one of the men working to tame the property's landscape as they began building, and it was placed in what would become the home's backyard. "He said that he set it up for the kids because it looked so much like a bear. And, it's funny, because the rock stayed there for two years – the entire time we were building. When it came time to move it, I wanted it to have a good spot. The kids remembered coming out and the rock being a constant. It's a fun memory of the early discovery of this property," the homeowner says. Knowing the significance of Bear Rock and wanting to reflect the home's exterior in the interior spaces, Goddard had the door handle on the front door cut as a silhouette of the rock's shape. The homeowner says, "It's those little details that make it feel special here."

DESIGNER DETAILS FROM CHRIS GODDARD:

What were the goals for the home's style and design? For this project, I wanted to create a style that blended with the setting, so I came up with the term "Ozark Boho Chic." I wanted to bring the outside inside in a casual, yet elegant and timeless way.

What elements were key to ensuring the inside of the home would be as peaceful as the surrounding property? I was heavily inspired by nature for this project. I selected native stone for the floors, fossil stone slabs for counters, used heavy textured grass cloth for the walls and tons of details – all that represented different aspects of the beautiful setting. In addition, a neutral color palette, a departure from the colorful projects we had done for this homeowner in the past, add to the sense of calm and tranquility throughout the spaces.



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Son's Room



Daughter's Room



Master Bedroom



Master Bath

What are some of the special features of the home's design and décor? One of my favorite details is in the powder bath, where we created a sink cast of bronze to resemble a ginkgo leaf. We also repeated the leaf theme in the upper cabinets in the kitchen with pressed skeleton leaves in the panels. The kitchen counters are another favorite – they were the first material selected for the project and are cut from petrified logs; this adds a great sense of history and interest to the space.

The exterior wood used on the home is unique. Can you explain what it is? The exterior of the house is done in an ancient Japanese technique of Shou Sugi Ban, a technique of heavily charring the outside of the wood to make it weather- and pest-resistant, as well as increase the longevity of the cedar. ■



HOME PROS USED

Architect: Scott Sallis / Dalrymple Sallis Architecture, Pensacola, Florida

Builder: GB Group Construction, Springdale

Interior Design and Furnishing: Chris Goddard / Goddard Design Group, Fayetteville

Tile: Townzen Tile, Springdale



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