It Has Beauty, Brains and Brawn

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Feb. 18 — Like a partner in life, most people want a home that is beautiful on the inside as well as the outside. They want the complete package, including beauty, brains and brawn. Homeowners want a home with beautiful lines, personality, a “heart” that is warm and welcoming, smart for energy savings and security, and strength through good times and bad. And of course low-maintenance is a plus.

“This Royal Palm 7,200-square foot custom home remodel is love at first sight and delivers the look of luxury and comfort of home,” says Craig Danto, chief executive officer of Danto Builders and Orange Sun Building and Development in Fort Lauderdale. A fourth-generation builder with 30 years of experience in South Florida, he strives to design and build homes that meet each client’s needs. Homeowners, Lynne and Alan Levy, were determined to create a livable home where they are comfortable dressing up or down for any occasion. Levy’s are the founders of Levy Realty Advisors, a top-rated commercial property management company in Florida, so it was important for them to personally and professionally build their dream home to share with their close friends, family and business associates.

It Has Beauty.

As you drive down Silver Palm Lane, this home is illuminated by its exterior lighting at night which magnifies the unique roof lines, balconies and chimneys. The all-natural coral-stone moldings and balcony balusters, mosaic tiles, wrought-iron railings and the Pecky Cypress soffit outlookers dress it up perfectly as a natural, warm beauty. And the Pecky Cypress tongue-and-groove entryway ceilings to the custom 10-foot solid-core, Brazilian Mahogany impact door with wrought-iron inserts gives the perfect finish to the exterior.

From ceiling to floor, this home is inviting from the first step you take inside. The entry way draws you in with its series of arches, Brazilian Lyptus millwork, and marble and Brazilian Cherry floors. The entry way opens up into a grand entertainment area, including a living room, dining room and open kitchen.

These areas have such a perfect balance of natural stone and wood, giving a strong but warm feel. It boosts a $500,000 custom Brazilian Lyptus millwork package that dramatically dresses up this home. Highlights of the millwork include impressive eight-foot, eight-panel doors, three-piece crown moldings, radius arch moldings and eight-piece coffered ceilings. Even more impressive are the trees for this wood, which are chopped down at their ripe age of eight years. This wood is of the highest quality with respect to its strength and beauty; it has no knots.
Brazilian Cherry wood floors lead you into the kitchen and outdoor areas where there is more use of wood and real coral stone. The custom kitchen cabinets are also made of Brazilian Lyptus and have insert panels with raised moldings. The kitchen displays a coral stone hood and decorative surround, which is artwork in itself. The granite kitchen counters show off beautiful, flowing colors which along with the tumbled marble back splashes and iron inserts tie all the other uses of material together.

The living room flows seamlessly into the outside living space where there is a Summer kitchen, patio area, pool and putting green. Coral stone is predominantly used for flooring here because of its natural beauty and coolness to the feet during the hot, sunny days in Florida. Coral hood and surrounds, mosaic and Pecky Cypress also showcases the Summer kitchen. Here too, Pecky Cypress tongue and groove are used for the ceilings.

All the bathrooms in the Levy house are special using various natural materials, such as river rock, mosaic tiles, granite, marble and slate.

Bedrooms are classic and comfortable. One special bedroom for the grandchildren features a themed construction room and has a “dump-truck” bunk bed completed with custom tool-chest storage for clothes.

*It Has Brains.*

From the outside in, this house was built with brains. “We always try to maximize the use of the land in order to obtain the highest value for the property,” said Danto. “This is being smart with your home/investment whether you plan to sell or not.” Ninety-five percent of Levy’s original one-story, 3,900-square-foot home was demolished except for three walls. It was remodeled into a two-story, 7,200-square-foot home. This allowed the Levy’s to maximize the density of their property through maintaining the current setbacks which would not be allowed with new construction. This process also saved on tax increases.

Levy’s home remodel had well thought-out, detailed plans from the design and construction to the “brains” inside. This home is a “Smart” home, which includes touch pads that control air conditioning, interior lighting, remote control blinds, audio, video, security, sprinklers, pool equipment, landscape lighting and remote-computer networking. Zones are automatically programmed for the amount of lighting where and when needed according to the time of day and daylight savings. Remote access is also available.

“I can’t imagine not having a smart system in my home,” says Levy. “We are grateful we planned for this system from the start,” says Levy, “It makes our lives so much easier, safer and energy efficient.”

This home is also smart in the respect that it was built with energy-saving and low-maintenance features. Superior insulation between walls and under the roofing, windows, air conditioning and duct material is used to achieve the highest efficiency. Tankless water heaters, solar panels and gas appliance also were installed to save energy. And the
beautiful hard-surface tile, marble and wood throughout this home are low-maintenance because they are easy to clean and not susceptible to mold.

Moving outside, energy-savings solutions used are solar-powered lighting in some areas where brighter lights are not needed. Low voltage for other areas are used, which will save on electricity. Artificial turf surrounds the home and looks real. It does not need watering along with zero-scape (mulch, stone and growing plants) so there is water conservation. These items should be used where possible. The driveway is installed with pavers versus black tops so it is a natural material and environmentally friendly. Pavers allow water to drain into the ground, which keeps the environment clean.

Brawn

This home exceeds building code and is prepared to stand up to the harshest weather conditions in south Florida. All exterior walls are solid-poured concrete into CBS block, and every 8 feet solid poured columns. Hip roofs were designed and constructed on this house, since they hold up to high winds much better. Impact windows were installed for convenient and aesthetically pleasing storm protection. And if any storm should shut down the electricity in the area, Levys have a generator that will automatically turn on and keep the home running without any inconveniences. This home will stand strong through good times and bad weather.

“There is a lot more to building a home these days,” added Danto, who has built this home with beauty, brains and braun. “Homeowners want a complete package – beauty, comfort, convenience, technology, and safety just to name a few.”

For more information, contact Danto Builders at (954) 229-2006.