

## Residents bring modern living to home on north side hill

By Jasmine Hall  
Enterprise Staff Writer

Finding a home with a prime location and a mountain view isn't always easy. Livingston residents Susan Regele and Ronn Bayly faced this exact problem when they purchased a north side hill home in 2012 — great location but blocked mountain views.

To solve their dilemma, the couple decided to build an addition that extended their home over and upward — allowing for view of Absaroka Mountains without sacrificing the buffer of privacy around their home. The addition, a great way to allow for views, also gave the couple a way to integrate a modern architectural form into their already existing structure.

"People would tease us that we had the best driveway views in Livingston," Regele joked, "because if you stood in the driveway you had all these gorgeous views but if you came in the house (it was lost)."

Construction began with removal of a small, two-car garage, and in its place, creating a dining room, mudroom, staircase, den and master bedroom that complemented the original house. The new modern features include numerous glass windows, wall cutouts and bamboo flooring; tigerwood railings, stairs and deck; and structural insulated panels.

"We liked the open floor plan and the general feeling of a modern house," Bayly said. "... That's just our style."

Bayly described modern

"It's nice to have clients who want a variety of things," he said. "This was something I hadn't had since coming to the Livingston area — was an opportunity to do something like this."

The new rooms in the addition flow into each other and seem as though they were originally built with the home — a characteristic Cox, Regele and Bayly aimed for.

"We could have done a Frank Gehry-style addition, where it had nothing to do with the outside," Cox said. "I'm not a fan of doing something that doesn't fit into the neighborhood or with the existing house."

"It kind of feels like one house," Bayly said. "That was important to us."

Entering into the dining room is an angular staircase that twists upward, with safety cable rail and tigerwood railings. Tigerwood comes from a tropical tree and is striped like a tiger with light and dark hues.

At the top of the staircase, the master bedroom is located on the left, a den is on the right and straight ahead is a doorway to a tigerwood deck overlooking the Absaroka Mountains.

"It just seemed if we were going to have really great views, it would be a good place to entertain from time to time," Bayly said of the upstairs addition.

The den and master bedrooms feature large windows — almost a glass wall made of three windows — that allow for the deck's view to be seen from inside. Regele said she wanted numerous large glass

windows because she enjoys the natural light and mountains.

"I think I was the one who went overboard on the glass," she joked. "But the views are just gorgeous in Livingston, and we just wanted to capture that."

The glass allows the couple to see the mountains from anywhere in the upstairs addition. Regele and Cox described the glass as a prevalent aspect in modern architecture.

"We wanted to bring the outside in," Cox said of its modern influence.

Small modern-style details were also included in the upstairs rooms. The master bathroom features bamboo cabinets and trim, a stand-in shower, light-green colored counter tops and of course, lots of light. The master bedroom includes a wall cut-out overlooking the staircase, as well as an additional cut-out for a mountain view in the walk-in closet.

"That's part of the modern thing," Regele said of the cut-outs, "having light flow through everywhere."

The bedroom's cut-out not only allows for more natural light but also gives visibility into the den and dining room below. The cut-out has a plastic sliding privacy screen with an organic center design — most likely created with a plant of some sort.

"There's probably a 100 different varieties of what could be in there," Cox said of the plant material. "It's open to conjecture."

"I think it looks sort of a like bee hive or something," Regele joked.



Enterprise photo by Hunter D'Antuono

Ronn Bayly, from left, Delmer Cox and Susan Regele are pictured on Bayly and Regele's north side hill home on Wednesday afternoon. Cox helped the couple design a new addition, including a dining room, staircase, master bedroom and deck that incorporated mountain views and modern architecture.



Photos by Rob Park Photography

ABOVE: The back of Bayly's and Regele's home is pictured with the Absaroka Mountain range in the background.

BELOW: Shown is the front of the home. On the left is the deck and den, and on the right is the master bedroom. Both rooms feature large windows to allow light, prevalent in modern architecture, and mountain views.

architecture traits as floor-to-ceiling windows, large floor plans, high ceilings and open staircases. The couple interviewed Architect Delmer Cox of Astelier Architecture whose forte is modern architecture.

"A lot of people, when they come to Montana, are very taken by the Montana traditional style," Cox said. "So a lot of people are looking for elk chandeliers — that type of thing."

Bayly and Regele, who both had careers in Chicago, had been exposed to modern architecture, and Cox was more than happy to explore the style's possibilities.

"It didn't seem like they wanted a rustic retreat in the mountains," Cox said.

Cox said he enjoyed working on a home that allowed him to utilize his creativity and "break a new mold."



"It looks like bark to me," Bayly quipped.

Another aspect of the modern living includes sustainability. Not only are tigerwood materials sustainable but so are the addition's wall structures. The walls were created using SIPs, or structural insulated panels, that utilize a foam core between two exterior boards — usually an oriented strand board similar to plywood. According to Bayly, the insulation holds in heat and is energy efficient.

"We wanted to be as responsible and efficient as possible," Bayly said.

"We wanted to make it energy efficient because we think that's important," Regele added.

The couple said that in the future they may venture into other sustainable alternatives, including exploring solar panels as an alternative energy source. But for now, they are very pleased with the new addition.

"We're really happy we did it," Bayly said. "We're going to be living here for the rest of our lives."

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