



entertaining Haven

Couple creates a refreshing space that encourages family gatherings

By Christina Kleiner | Photos by Ron Ruscio

there's nothing quite like a nice surprise.

And that is exactly what greets you when you see Sam and Carina Martin's refreshing home. The facade of the house, which is located in The Enclave, a subdivision in the Broadlands Golf Course community, is a beautiful traditional family home, but it's what is on the inside that makes this home truly unique.

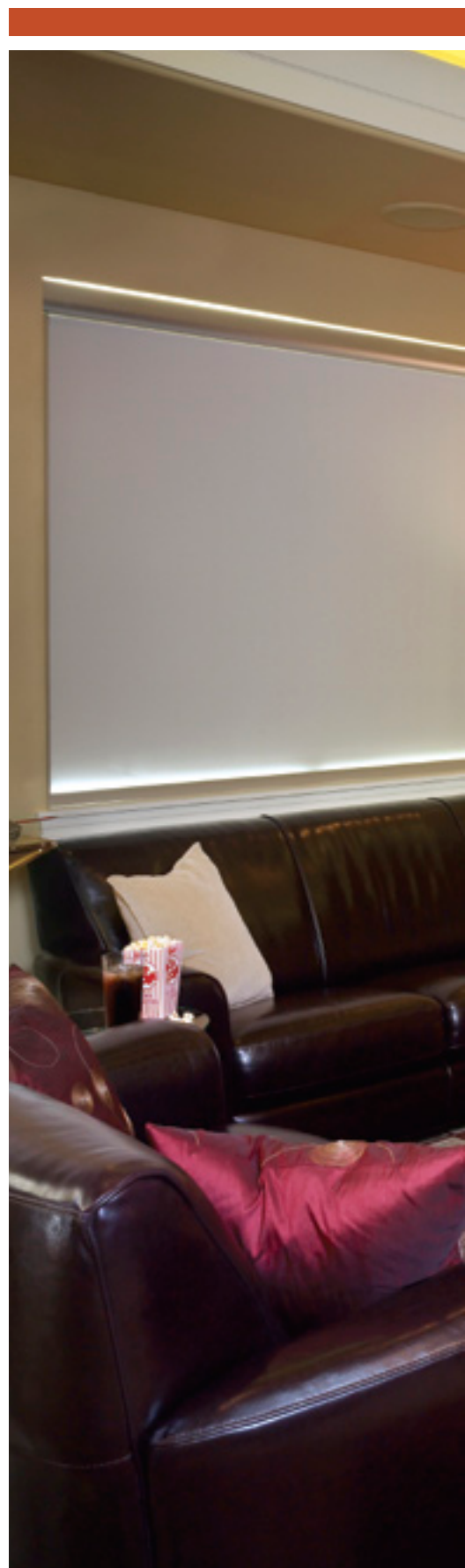
The Martins have moved many times over the years, but when Sam's job transferred the family back to Colorado, they were excited. "We've lived in many places, but we love Colorado the best," Carina says.

Creating a flow

The couple had a good idea of how they were going to decorate the main floor living spaces, but the basement was another story. With 1,600 square feet of unfinished, open space, they knew they had some decisions to make. "We wanted to turn it into a place we would definitely use, where the whole family, as well as friends, would feel welcome and happy," Carina says. "And because it is a basement I wanted something that was bright and fun, a space that didn't feel like a basement."

Sam and Carina hired Colorado Creations, a company that specializes in basement finishing and remodeling, to help them create their new entertaining space. Owner Scott Sepanske toured the house with Carina while it was under construction. "She wanted the rooms to have a contemporary design, with sleek materials and clean lines," Sepanske says. "Our first goal was to bring more natural light into the space so we added larger windows and replaced the single door with double French doors that open to the outdoor terrace and swimming pool."

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Carina didn't want to divide the basement into separate rooms but she did want designated spaces for a theater room and billiards area. The basement also includes an exercise room, a wine storage unit and bar area, and a full bathroom.

A detail-driven design

To separate the billiards room and theater, Sepanske added a wall with a cut-out counter topped with Black Beauty granite, which allows guests to sit at the bar and either take part in a pool tournament or watch a movie. The theater room features comfortable leather furniture and a massive 72-inch television. "This is probably one of our favorite rooms in the house," says Carina. "We're in the home theater watching television or a movie almost every night."

The centerpiece of the room is the television, which is surrounded by rich maple cabinetry featuring a high gloss finish. Glass shelves, which appear to float on the walls, continue the sleek look while creating space for Carina to display vases and other artistic pieces.

To further recreate the movie theater experience at home, Sepanske and his team constructed an eye-catching tray ceiling with custom crown molding and rope lighting. A popcorn stand, tucked into the corner, completes the overall look.

Most of the materials used in the theater room were carried over into the design of the billiards room. "We wanted to give the space continuity," Sepanske says. "We didn't want to break up the flow."

The carpeting is a dominating factor in the overall design of



the basement. Its distinct block pattern grabs your attention, but doesn't overpower the space. The beige and burgundy hues blend perfectly with the rich wood of the Brunswick pool table, as well as the maple floor and the high gloss panels used in the tray ceiling. "The ceiling over the pool table was almost an afterthought," recalls Sepanske. "We were almost finished with the basement and felt we could do just a little more with the area above the pool table. When we suggested adding the maple panels to the ceiling the Martins completely agreed."

Carina topped off the look by adding the large clear glass light above the pool table.

Extra elements add character

The custom-made wine storage unit is tucked behind glass doors

and is comprised of the same high gloss maple used throughout the basement. The floor is topped with Black Beauty granite in order to separate it from the rest of the room. "What is great about the wine storage unit is the private stock collection," says Sepanske. "The collection is accessible by pulling out the front shelves. When it's closed you have no idea there are hidden shelves."

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OVERLEAF: The 72-inch DLP HDTV is surrounded by maple veneer with a high gloss finish.

ABOVE LEFT: The custom wine storage unit includes hidden shelves for the homeowners' private stock collection.

ABOVE: The bar counter is topped with Black Beauty granite and is encased with the same sleek maple.



Even though it is just a bathroom, the attention to detail is astounding. “Sam and Carina wanted a large shower and plenty of room since they knew it would be the closest bathroom to the pool,” Sepanske explains. “They also wanted to incorporate a sauna they brought from the last house.”

To accommodate their needs, he designed the bathroom around the sauna and then worked in everything else. The vanity and sink, both from Kohler, resemble pieces of art. Water pours from the vanity mirror, which also doubles as a medicine cabinet.

A private sanctuary

Now that the family has had plenty of time to enjoy their new basement Carina says there’s a benefit to moving so many times. “Each time we moved into a new home we reinvented ourselves a little bit, allowing each house to divulge a little bit more of who

we are,” she explains. “That is what this house does-it speaks to who we are as a family and we love that.” 🍷

RESOURCES **Contractor:** Colorado Creations; **Accessories:** Ethan Allen; **Furniture:** Younkers; Brunswick; **Pool table:** Brunswick; **Pool table light:** www.lightingbygregory.com; **Pendant lights:** Inlighten Studios; **Televisions:** 72-inch Samsung DLP HDTV; 46-inch Samsung LCD; **Wine storage floor and bar countertop:** Black Beauty granite, Daltile; **Carpeting:** Retrospective by Nourison Carpets, Colorado Carpet & Rug; **Flower arrangements:** DeBritz Designs; **Bathroom floor:** Colorado Carpet & Rug; **Bathroom vanity, mirror and towel rack:** Kohler; **Sauna:** Healthmate; **Bathroom artwork:** Z Gallery

ABOVE: The basement bathroom was designed around a sauna that the owners brought from their previous home.