

FAMILY



STYLE

An Eco-Friendly Home in Issaquah

BY CHRISTY PESSEMIER | PHOTOS BY DANE GREGORY MEYER



High on a hill overlooking the Issaquah Valley, tucked slightly off the road, sits the Foster home. Those passing by can feast their eyes on a natural, lodge-style home decked out in a wall of windows. Naturally sophisticated, yet open and inviting, the home looks like it belongs there, right in the middle of the forest. “This is how we wanted it to look,” Kim Foster said. “Like it was plopped in the woods.”

Before the construction process began, the Fosters met with Seattle-area architect Curtiss Gelotte of Gelotte Hommas and showed him clippings they had collected with ideas for their dream home. They wanted a lot of windows, a home with natural elements, as well as a focus on eco-friendly features.

After a year of planning, a year of

building followed and the four bedroom, 3.5- bath, 4760-square-foot home was complete in December 2007. The Fosters are delighted with the result and credit Gelotte as well as builder Owen Roberts with the success of the finished masterpiece. They were impressed that the building process went so smoothly.

“We had an A-team to thank for that,” Dan Foster said. “Our architect and builder worked together very well.”

Foster, owner and operator of Orion Commercial Partners LLC, a small real estate firm which sells leases and manages commercial building in the Seattle area, loves the natural light in the home.

“My favorite feature is the windows,” Foster said. “They give you a sliced view of the forest when you look out of them.”

Kim Foster agrees. “I love it when it

snows because whatever way I turn, I can see the snow coming through the different windows, and we get a lot of snow!”

Surrounded by native Northwest landscapes, the Fosters took advantage of the scenery and even brought some of it inside as a permanent part of the home. The Maple trees that were cleared to create room for the home were milled and used in the door trim, cabinets, kitchen island top and for the rustic bench between the kitchen and great room as well as the stone fireplace mantle.

Gelotte is proud of the finished product, and believes the Foster home is a great example of a new trend in “green” homes.

“The Foster home is a good green building. Local materials were used. Many items were recycled and used in the home, rather than thrown away.”



“Going green with homes has gotten into people’s consciousness,” Gelotte added. “It’s a good thing.”

The Ice Stone sink in the master bathroom is another eco-friendly feature, which is made from sections of recycled glass. The home also is equipped with geothermal heat and energy-efficient lighting.

Kim Foster enjoys the little extra touches that add to the unique feel of the home, like the window in the master bathroom shower that looks out into their secluded, 2-acre backyard. The bathroom off the bonus room is a reminder that the Fosters are avid scuba divers. Clown fish, starfish and a blue sea background decorate the backsplash of the sink. Visible from the great room, an enclosed tree house, custom built by Kim and her parents is another bonus feature. >>



“The kids are looking forward to some fun slumber parties out there,” mom said.

She loves that the home provides a close feel, yet is spacious at the same time.

“We put the bonus room on the main floor so we can hear where the kids are at, but they can have their space to themselves at the same time,” she said.

Nine-year-old daughter Mia is often

found sprawled out on the cushioned window seat, alongside the massive stone fireplace hearth in the great room.

“My favorite spot in the house is the window seat because I like to read there,” Mia said.

The Fosters’ 12-year-old son Sam enjoys the yard.

“It gives me lots of room to move around.”

Along with an expansive lawn

surrounded by ferns, fir and maple trees, the Fosters enjoy spending their time on the patio just outside the great room, watching the wildlife and enjoying the tranquility their private piece of property provides. In their minds, they couldn’t have picked a better spot to live.

“It’s hard to believe we’ve been here for 3½ years already,” Kim said. “I feel like we just moved here.” >>





This home is full of warm wood in and out of the house. The walls of windows bring the outdoors in year-round. 