

WESTERN DESIGN—*Kay Bjork*

BUILDING HOMES BUILDING DREAMS



There's a reason that Jim Zarling has been Great Falls Builder of the Year for the past two years and American Dream Builders have won numerous other prestigious awards. Well actually there are a lot of reasons.



Partners Jim Zarling and Scot Davis and the American Dream Builders crew have 80 years combined experience and are committed to only the highest quality materials and craftsmanship in the custom homes they build with a staff of journeyman carpenters.

They are in step with all the new technology and products but have not lost their personal touch or hands-on approach. Jim says, "We are old school." An old-fashioned approach to customer service, honesty, and pride of ownership has propelled them to the top of their field and created a line of happy customers.

Unlike many contractors, Zarling and Davis work along side their carpenters. Their presence helps control quality and fosters a sense of teamwork. They have a good relationship with their crew, who respect the fact that, "We double-check work and ask to redo if necessary. We are perfectionists and we don't skimp or cut corners," Jim explains.

This standard of "only the best" covers both workmanship and materials used for the custom homes.

Their name American Dream Builders acknowledges the importance of a new home in the lives of their clients - they are helping clients realize their dreams and are excited to be a part of that dream. This is further demonstrated in the fact that they work on one custom home at a time so that their clients are exclusive during the building process.



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"The culmination of an American Dream project results in all of the small details flowing into the finished masterpiece."

—Scot Davis



They work with their clients so that every detail contributes to the uniqueness of the home. Jim said that the product palette has expanded in recent years with access through Internet and the burgeoning of technology available for the home. Materials and products come from coast to coast and beyond. A recent project has a fireplace from Maine, a front door from California and cast glass from Portland. Custom homes include a wide variety of features including wine grottos, elaborate kitchens, electric fence in floors to control pets, infra-red cameras, and sound systems wired throughout the home.

Zarling and Davis are like the overachievers in their class, serving as board members on the Home Builders Association where Zarling was state and alternate national delegate, served as vice president and will be president next year. They also keep track of legislation that affects building codes and standards and stay current with all the latest products and technology key to custom homes. Their many awards read like a straight 'A' report card when they participate in the Parade of Homes where they have consistently taken top awards since they started participating in the September event. They have won the People's Choice award three times and Jim's own home swept the awards in 2005 for its unique layout, big island, function, and Victorian styling. This year's Parade of Home entry is a Great Falls timber-framed home with hand-hewn log siding, tons of rock work, a massive fireplace, copper gutters, an outdoor covered barbecue area, master bedroom with a deck and hot tub, walk in shower, jetted tub, and mother in-law suite.

Others in the building trades are also quick to offer accolades to American Dream Builders. Brian Lindgren of Anderson Glass says, "Their specialty is your overall satisfaction, because they go the extra steps needed to insure that what you wanted is what you receive." Business banker Erin Townsend says, "For those of you that have seen the work of American Dream Builders one words comes to mind—stunning!" Jody Bastas of Pierce Flooring says, "They are one of the most honest and reliable builders I know."

American Dream Builders emphasizes creativity when constructing homes and works closely with the client to blend their expertise with the client's ideas for their dream home. Home styling is also diverse from Victorian, to contemporary, to authentic woodsy.

Zarling says, "I am a strict paper guy with everything in writing so you know what you are getting." This is another way to ensure customer satisfaction and build trust. Zarling loves and takes pride in the building trade and not only wants to elevate the ethics and standards of his own company but the entire industry. He says, "Our goal is to build safe, affordable homes and promote a professional, positive image of the industry."

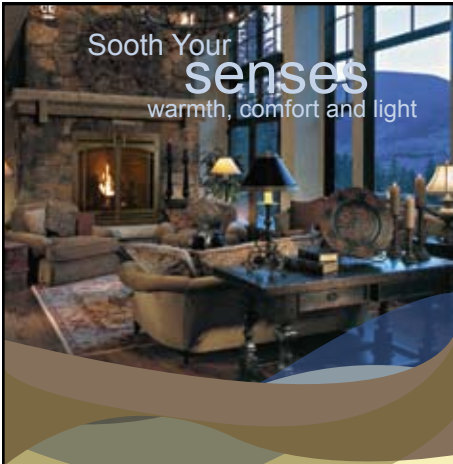
Zarling says he loves to build and he loves the people contact—and the smiles when they see their dream home evolving. "It is a gratifying thing."

The team gets a lot of work from referrals and repeats because, if you build it – and build the best—they will come. **SM**

For more information call 799-0543.



~A love for words and pictures led Kay Bjork to a career as a feature writer and photographer for numerous newspapers and magazines. Her home and family on Swan Lake have been the subject of many of her stories and photographs about their outdoor adventures including skating, skiing and hiking.



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