

A Perfect Match



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On the Illinois "side of the pond" near Coal Valley, is a spread of land that features one of the most beautiful "traditionals" built in the Quad-Cities' area. The house shares a tract of land that includes a small lake, a grove of trees, and privacy—Kim and Kathy Tack have, in many respects, matched the perfect house to the perfect acreage.

In order to help them build their house, the Tacks enlisted the services of Mark McManus. "Mark is one of a handful of Quad-City builders who work at this level of quality," Kim says. "He was able to take our ideas and turn them into reality."

The traditional story and a half, features a stylized brick facade, a large porch, dormers, and three-car garage. In addition, the Tacks are able to enjoy backyard scenery from a large deck that also faces the pond. "We wanted an unobstructed view of the land and pond," says Kathy.

The lengthy walkway leading up to the porch is reminiscent of large ranch houses built earlier in the century, when families would gather on the front porch to welcome guests.

Quality Throughout

As you enter the three-bedroom house you notice right away the quality that went into its construction and detailing. Heating and air vents are custom-made of matching wood and blend effortlessly into the hardwood floors. All of the home's molding and trim work was custom milled on site.

According to Kathy, much of the home's interior design was based on photos she and Kim found in various home magazines. "Mark was wonderful to work with," she says. "We went through a lot of magazines and showed Mark pictures of what we wanted...he was able to design and build it for us from those pictures. He was very good about being able to put together all the pieces and make them work."

A floor plan designed for living

The Tacks worked closely with McManus to design a floor plan that was accessible, inviting and according to Kathy, "flowed with the way we lived."

"Kathy took the existing plan and designed a floor plan that suited their needs. All the corners of the hallway were 'flattened' creating a less formal appearance, and in turn helped to create larger hallways," McManus explains.

"Line of sight was very important to us, and we moved many of the doorways from their original locations. We also used a lot of pocket doors because they cut down on the wasted space that traditional doors create," Kathy says.

The dining room, located off the foyer, exemplifies the Tacks' direction of traditional-styling mixed with today's modern amenities.

"We wanted a fireplace built in the dining room. It creates a nice warm ambiance during the holidays and when we have guests," says Kathy. As a matter of fact, the Tacks have a total of four fireplaces in their





home. In addition, the dining room features painted moldings, raised panels, and traditional themes.

"I really like lamp light so we had wall sconces added throughout the house," explains Kathy.

Opposite the dining room is the home office. It is here that Kim runs his financial advising business and clients are invited into this classic, turn-of-the-century parlor. "The office was built with 8-foot French pocket doors and has solid wood raised panels. And this room, as well as the entire house, is wired for computer networking," Mark adds.

"The grills on the windows in the sunroom are custom made and are larger and thicker than what is normally found on windows today," —Kathy Tack

Another feature that adds to the overall effect of the home is the use of varying ceiling heights. The foyer boasts 19-foot ceilings that create a nice "open" feeling, while the living room makes use of a 12-foot-high, beamed ceiling that adds to the home's "traditional" look and feel.

"The ceiling has 8- x 12-inch beams that help keep the living room feeling 'cozy,'" says Kathy. "Actually, we brought the ceiling down from 18 feet to make it seem less cavernous," says Mark.

Separating the foyer from the living room is a custom-built staircase that leads to an upper-level bedroom and catwalk. "We used single railings with three balusters per tread," says Mark. "These just looked right."

The Master Bedroom

The master bedroom, like the rest of the house, is stylistically superb—high ceilings mixed with splendid moldings create a warm and inviting room. It also features triple-paneled French doors that lead to the patio. Again, the use of pocket doors is evident as you enter the master bath.

"We don't have a Jacuzzi—we'd never use it. We had Mark install a soaking tub," says Kathy. In addition, the large master bath also features an extraordinary heavy, all-glass shower.

The kitchen

The kitchen is the hub of the Tack house. All of the woodwork was custom milled by Pinnacle Mill Works. The countertops are made from granite and the flooring uses tile that offers a weathered stone or marble look. "We used 'Colonial Dream' style of granite," says Kathy.

The kitchen also features a beautiful custom built island. "We wanted the island to match, architecturally, the rest of the house—you can see the matching corbels," explains Kathy. The color scheme of the kitchen is complete with a nice combination of white paint mixed with wood.

Not too far from the kitchen is the sunroom and dinette. "The grills on the windows in the sunroom are custom made and are larger and thicker than what is normally found on windows today," explains Kathy. "We wanted the look of older, traditional-style windows."

In conclusion

The Tacks' home is a masterful combination of classic styling mixed with modern amenities. It is an energy-efficient home, thanks to geothermal heating and cooling technology—but more importantly the Tacks' home serves as a solid reminder that when everything comes together...it comes together in a big way. |



Geothermal: Using the Earth's Natural Heat

The Tacks' large, traditional story and half, features an energy-efficient geothermal heating and cooling system. According to Mark McManus, who built the Tacks' house, he installed a system of wells to bring water to the house that is used to heat and cool the property.

"We contracted Bruce Soukup Heating and Air Conditioning to do the Tacks' house. There are ten, 150-foot vertical wells that bring water to two units in the house," explains Mark. "There is a 6-ton unit in the basement and a 3-ton unit on the first floor."

According to Mark, as energy prices increase, the geothermal units will become more prevalent in new homes. However, one caveat to geothermal heating and cooling is that each well requires a 10' x 10' area.

"We do quite a few of these installations on houses in town and in rural areas. The amount of wells drilled depends on the demands of the house and its corresponding size," Mark explains. "We normally put the wells along the edge of property line in the back yard. This frees up the rest of the lawn for things like an in-ground pool."

How does geothermal work?

Geothermal heating and cooling is based on "vapor compression." It is a principle of refrigeration that has been in practical use since the mid-19th century. Heat pumps are refrigeration devices running backward. They do not generate heat like a conventional furnace or boiler—they move heat from one place to another.

Using the earth's natural heat—a ground source heat pump relies on vapor compression to extract heat from a closed, underground loop of water-filled tubing. Inside the heat pump, a sealed refrigerant system is the heat-exchange source. During warmer months, the direction of the refrigerant is reversed, allowing the pump to extract heat from the air.

