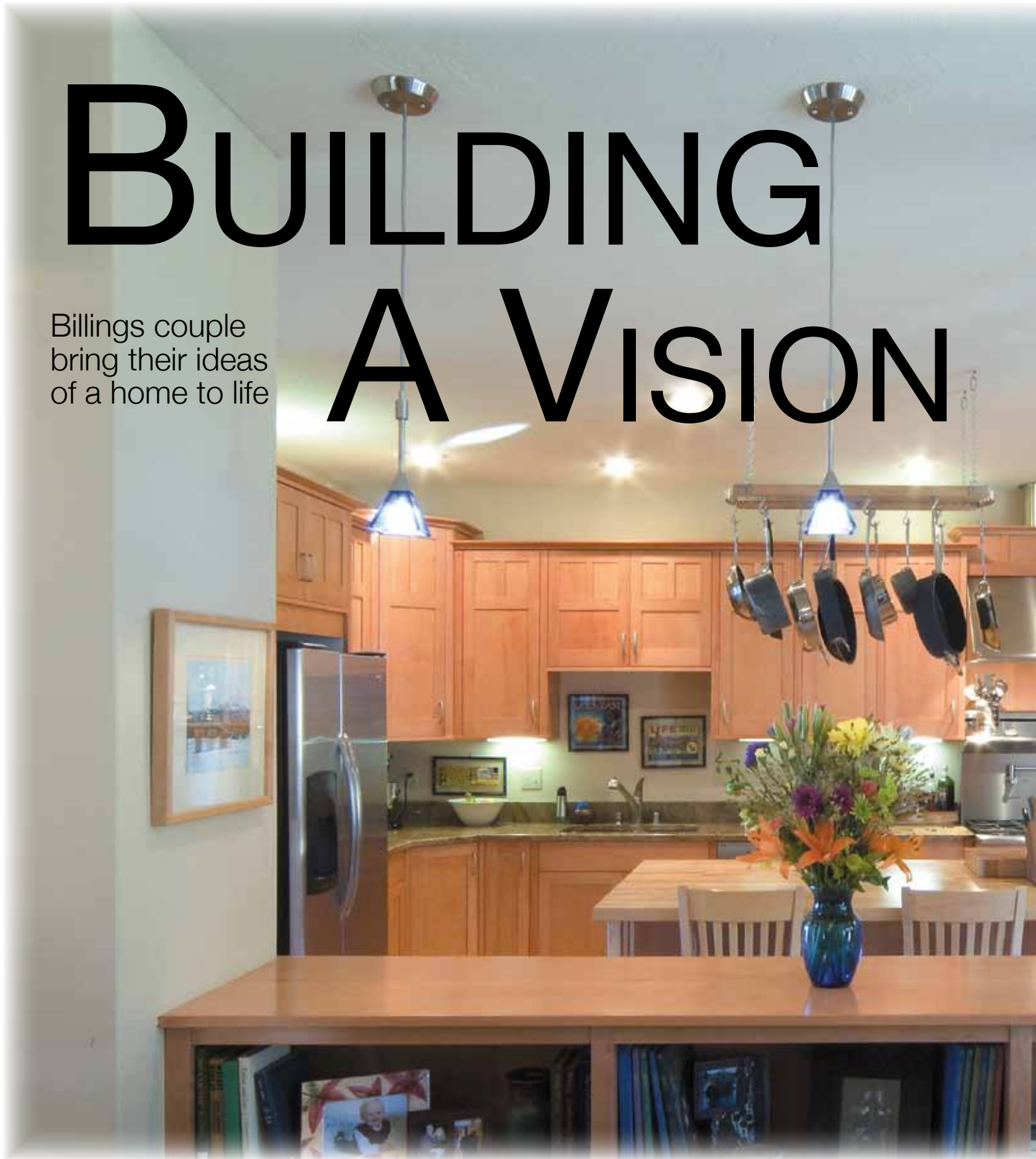


BUILDING A VISION

Billings couple
bring their ideas
of a home to life







By **Julie Koerber**
Photography by **Phil Bell**

With its contemporary edge and a touch of Prairie Style architecture, you might wonder where the inspiration came from for Brian and Janette McGovern's home. For years, the ideas were locked in Brian's creative mind. He chuckles when he says, "We had been thinking about building a house for a couple of years. You see ideas and you just tuck them away." Mark Ventling of Ventling Building and Development admits never before has he built a house quite like this. "Most of that house was trying to bring out what was in Brian's head and bring it to reality."

Before the home was even roughed in, Brian worked meticulously to map out room sizes and form ideas for the home's floor plan. He charted it all out on his home computer. When all was said and done, an architect took his ideas and made them structurally sound. Looking around the McGovern's finished home, Janette says, "He knew exactly where he wanted everything!" Pointing to the architecture Brian says, "I've always liked the Prairie Style architecture with open rooms and straight clean lines."



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That's evident with the mission style transom windows sitting above each upper level door frame. The custom maple kitchen cabinets have a real linear feel to them, which is true to the era. The feel is also alive with the amount of natural light that is ushered in. The concept of a Prairie-style home is to take the natural surroundings and incorporate them into the home's interior. The floor to ceiling dining room windows frame fantastic views of the Beartooth Mountains. The large picture windows off the back of the home take in the vista of the rims. Even the interior colors found on heavily textured walls are ones handpicked from the tawny shades found in the sandstone.

While the architecture is a high point of the home, the hot spot is the kitchen. That's where Brian can be found firing up the wood burning pizza oven. Janette smiles and says, "He makes his own dough and sauce. He does it from top to bottom." The pizza

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oven was also a part of Brian's grand plan. Mark Ventling admits, "That was the first and only pizza oven we've ever done." He had to bring in his masonry crew and work from a kit to bring Brian's dream to life. Brian will tell you, "We had it shipped in and no one here had ever put one in before. We just kind of winged it. We just took the plans and they built the enclosure for it." Having tasted some of Brian's gourmet pizza creations, Mark is quick to point out, "I've seen the oven in action and it is pretty neat." Just in case you were curious, Janette's favorite pizza is Brian's smoked salmon while Brian loves throwing feta and caramelized onions on his pie.

Another unique feature of the home is the many built-in cabinets. While this home is far from small sitting at 4,200 square feet, the couple borrowed ideas from



"It was clear Mark's main concern was that we got the house we wanted... the quality is outstanding."

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McGOVERN

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the “not so big house” philosophy. It’s a green design concept that looks at a home’s layout to make sure every inch of the home is used. That’s why you’ll find built-in bookshelves, benches with additional storage, and a drop zone in the home’s laundry room for coats, bags and shoes. Brian points out, “We designed it so that Janette and I could basically just live on the first floor. We designed it so that not a lot of space is wasted.”

There are other green features that can be found in the home. Out front, you’ll notice the Xeriscape landscape that uses natural plants which don’t require heavy watering. Inside, water is the main source of heating. The couple installed what’s called a ground source heating system to keep the home heated and cooled. Brian explains, “Ground source heating involves drilling a series of wells. We have four two



Seasoned Greetings

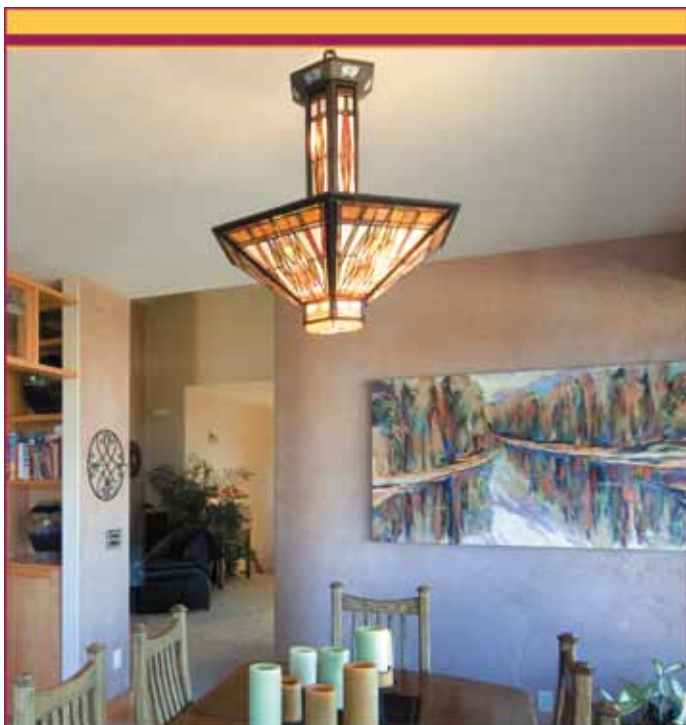
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What Brian and Janette have today is a comfortable, smart home built on old school architecture. Question is - did all those years of socking away ideas and formulating a plan for a home pay off? Brian enthusiastically says "yes." In fact, he says, it was the highlight. He'll admit that while his home isn't exactly the vision he had in his mind, "It came out amazingly close to what we wanted it to look like." YW

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