

SHOWCASE

Tony & Jocelyn Driskill

DRISKILL FAMILY HOME — BELMONT HEIGHTS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PATRICK TREGENZA





The sunken great room provides a comfortable gathering space with easy access to the kitchen and bar areas.

When you come from a family of architects and builders—and then proceed to marry a builder—you might naturally expect to own a home that is second to none in style and function. Both attributes justly describe the elegant, refined home of Tony and Jocelyn Driskill.

Located in Salinas' beautiful Belmont Heights just off River Road's Pine Canyon area, the 5,200-square-foot home was built in 2003, with the Driskill family ultimately planting their roots there in July 2004.

"Planning and building is in my blood," Jocelyn says, "so it's a true labor of love to start your own family home from the ground up."

The spacious estate features four bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, a great room, a media room, a 2,200-bottle wine cellar, home gym, dining room, and a gourmet kitchen complete with a spacious pantry and walk-in refrigerator.

When asked what inspired the unusual inclusion of the large walk-in, Jocelyn says when her daughter was an ex-

change student in Norway, her host family had the same feature in their home.

"We thought 'how functional and practical' to have it close to the kitchen versus (putting) a second refrigerator out in the garage," she said.

The Driskill home is similar in layout and design to a 2,800-square-foot "spec" house the couple built in Hollister.

"We built again at 3,200 square feet in Foothill Estates (east of Salinas) and this is pretty much the 'over the top' version of those homes," she says. "We liked the function and flow so we just bumped the footprint out a bit. It was nice to have those experiences because we could see what space we used and what space we really didn't. We love the open floor plan. We've had more than 150 people here at a time and the space flows really well."

The intricate paintings accenting the walls are done by Wallflowers of San Jose. Jocelyn did all the interior decorating, while Swenson & Silacci does all of the family's floral arrangements. Irma Nunes from InStyle Furnishings provided

The dining room provides ample space for gourmet dinners and a stir of excitement when the animals at Wild Things can be heard in the distance.



Granite countertops and hickory floors accent this gourmet kitchen.



Jocelyn loves hummingbirds so they were incorporated into the stained glass design on the cabinets.



The raised ceiling and exposed beams adds a sense of grandeur to the master suite.



furniture pieces, as did Heaven, which was formerly located in downtown Salinas.

Affordable Décor and Rooms in Bloom are other local favorites of Jocelyn's.

Both Tony and Jocelyn love to cook and have entertained the idea of a culinary tour through Italy. The kitchen space includes three ovens and a requisite microwave; two dishwashers; a six-burner stove with a grill; and a 42-inch, GE Monogram refrigerator. The countertops are granite, while the cabinets were built by Micheli Woodworks in Salinas and are Knotty Alder wood with black glazing.

Charleigh Bell, the family's Havanese, and Jasmine, their miniature toy poodle, rule the roost—as does daughter, Ashlee, who has followed her mother's footsteps by beginning a career in cosmetology.

The back of the property has an expansive view of the Salinas Valley, and a jaw-dropping view of the animal park Wild Things. How many of us can start the day with the unique site of elephants delivering room service to guests at the park's bed and breakfast, or hear lions roar in the early morning? The Driskill's love of entertaining will continue

A spa-like master bath features warm hues. Dramatic columns frame the soaking tub.

into the backyard, where the couple soon will install an outdoor kitchen with pizza oven and a large firepit to provide a gathering place for conversation.

The Driskills chose all of their light fixtures from Home-lighter in Pacific Grove. They also have a smart house lighting system with different settings to set the mood or adapt to certain times of day, depending on where the natural light is flowing in. The hickory wood floors were given a distressed finish and stained in place. All of the home's tile work was designed and chosen by Jocelyn and installed by Mark Dee. The Driskill family also has a surround-sound system throughout the house with 12 separate zones.

Of course the home of a builder is not complete without ample workshop space. The expansive shop sits adjacent to the eight-car garage, where the family boat is stored and a tanning room is tucked away to enhance the Driskill family's active lifestyle.

In addition to their home in Jackson Hole, WY, the Driskill's favorite place to live and entertain family and friends is here in Belmont Heights. Elephants, lions and all—there's never a lack of visual interest or welcoming times at the Driskill's lovely home. **CG**



Entrance to the 2,200 bottle wine cellar.



The Driskill's home gym leaves no excuse for not breaking a sweat.