

SMOOTH MOVES

THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S PROFESSIONAL BUILDER DESIGN AWARDS SHOW DESIGN VIRTUOSITY, SKILLFUL SITE USE, AND ECO-SMARTS

By Susan Bady, Michael Chamernik, Peter Fabris, and Debbie Reslock



JUDGES

Larry Garnett, FAIBD, Owner
Larry Garnett Designs
Glen Rose, Texas

Curt Gelotte, AIA, Senior Principal
Gelotte Hommas Drivdahl
Bellevue, Wash.

Alaina Money, Owner
Garman Homes
Durham, N.C.

Donald Ruthroff, AIA, Principal
Dahlin Group Architecture | Planning
Pleasanton, Calif.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR / GOLD CUSTOM HOME

DANCING LIGHT

Paradise Valley, Ariz.

ENTRANT/BUILDER:

Desert Star Construction

ARCHITECT: Kendle Design Collaborative

INTERIOR DESIGNER:

David Michael Miller Associates

PHOTOGRAPHER: Alexander Vertikoff

SIZE: 6,200 sf

COMPLETION: November 2016

THE SOARING CANOPY of intersecting roof planes is your first sign that Dancing Light is special. Brent Kendle, president of Kendle Design Collaborative, says the design team was influenced by desert boulder fields and Native American cliff dwellings, some of which are located within 30 miles of the project. "The fins are essentially a standing-seam metal roof placed on its side," Kendle says. "They project out far enough to cast a shadow that changes throughout the day."

Builder Jerry Meek, president of Desert Star Construction, says the home took 22 months to complete, partly because of the rammed-earth walls. "Their thermal mass absorbs heat and prevents it from reaching the interior of the home," he says, "but it's a process that dates back to 5000 B.C. in China, and is very slow and labor-intensive."

Kendle laid out the garage, master suite, main living areas, and guest quarters to resemble separate structures, spaced around a central atrium and connected by glass corridors. Visitors enter through an oversized pivot door sheltered by a stealth-wing-shaped canopy and are greeted by the atrium with its glass walls, sculptural rock, succulents, and an ironwood tree. It creates the effect of being indoors and outdoors simultaneously.

"Numerous cracks and crevices allow natural light to come through the roof and bounce in unique ways," Kendle says. "The light changes throughout the day as the sun moves across those spaces."

Kendle and Meek call superintendent Jared Bazzell "the MVP of the project." Among the many trade superstars is Linear Fine Woodworking, whose crew spent four months on a lift assembling the wood ceilings. —S.B.



Dancing Light, Project of the Year, is "magic ... so in tune with everything around it," said the judges. The home is named for the way light bounces off floors and walls, and across the wood ceilings. The pool, set close to the house, acts as an evaporative cooler, says builder Jerry Meek: As air moves across the water's surface, it cools the interior.