

HOMES & LIVING

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Living the American dream

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Lake Sun

LAKE OZARK - The iconic home coined the "concrete house" located in Lake Ozark conjures up a misconceived image for most people due to its name. Owners Peg and Lynn Griswold were gracious enough to open their home for viewing.

This modern-style house finished in 1995 took ten years to build. It is framed with clean lines, an open-floor plan and flooded with an abundance of natural light. Falling water was the inspiration architect Mort Henigman used when creating the design. Amos Watson was the original owner of the house. Watson owned a concrete business, which is thought to be the reasoning behind the construction material.

The sharp lines on the outside provides the structure with a layered cubical appearance. The 10,000-square-foot concrete house has five bedrooms and nine bathrooms. Heated marble floors line the interior and a heated driveway leads up to the house.

Upon entering the house the interior is, contrary to its exterior, boxy in appearance. An expansive living room



Light fills the living room of the "concrete house" through a wall of windows. Inset, the architect was inspired by falling water when creating the plans for the house

with a three story vaulted ceiling flows into the dining area and kitchen. A grand piano sits off-center relative to a wall of windows overlooking the lake. A magnificent fireplace towers against the wall near the entrance.

On the fireplace, artist Ray Harvey from New Haven, Mo., painted a multicolored abstract modern design that appears to change color with varying light. A large rectangle glass dining room table is positioned at the far end of the

room. The table itself is a work of art. The supporting leg structure resembles icicles. The "glass-cicles" jut through the table, producing a prism effect illuminating the entire table.

A full kitchen with bar seat-

ing is located near the dining area. Behind closed doors and the standard everyday kitchen is a second commercial kitchen used to cater parties and functions.

Behind both kitchens is the master suite. One wall of the suite is constructed of glass pane sliding doors that opens to the outside pool. The opposite wall is also glass and leads to a small privately enclosed area housing a two person Jacuzzi that is lit by a sunroof.

One can ironically take the glass elevator to the third floor where the exercise room is located. A steam shower is conveniently placed next to the work-out room. As with much of the house, paying attention to details is paramount. The exercise room has a unique ceiling. The supporting concrete beams create large cubical pockets that have been painted with a vivid tapestry, giving an energetic vibe to the room.

Due to the Florida concrete design of the house, it has a multi-levelled flat roof. Part of the roof has been landscaped and the other portion allows ample room for a helicopter landing pad.

Back down on the first level is a pool tucked into the side of a carved out landscaped hill

parallel to the kitchen and master bedroom. A hot tub facing the lake generates a small waterfall that flows into the pool. Two of the Griswold's children were married here.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the concrete house is, it is one of two guest houses on the Griswold's 11-acre estate.

Another guest house called the "dollhouse" sits near the entrance of the estate next to the tennis court and putting green.

The dollhouse is much smaller than the concrete house, yet it carries its own charm. It has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a free standing fireplace.

The main house built in 1998, was originally 5,000-square feet when the Griswold's purchased the property in 1999. The Griswolds jokingly say they intended to expand the kitchen and wound up adding an additional 6,000-square feet.

The house has now been completely personalized to fit the needs and wants of the Griswolds and their expanding family as more grandchildren are introduced into the clan. It

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