

2013 VESTA HOME SHOW: DAVID CLARK CONSTRUCTION

THRILL IS IN THE BUILD

■ The Silverton was created with families in mind

By Robin J. Terry
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When builder David Clark of David Clark Construction decided to be in the 2013 Vesta Home Show at St. James Place in Germantown, he knew just the house plan he would use to build the home he's named Silverton.

He'd had the plan for the 5,200-square-foot home in his wheelhouse for a while, but the slowdown in the national economy also slowed new construction locally. As the economy improved and the Vesta opportunity presented itself, Clark and architect Carson Looney pulled out the plan they'd been tweaking over the past couple of years to get it just right for the Vesta home Clark wanted to build.

Clark, a third-generation builder who is the father of two young children, said he approached the task by choosing the design for a home he'd want to live in, and one that reflects how modern families really use their space. The Silverton is a home that works for families with young children as well as families who have aging relatives who may eventually become part of their household.

Attention to detail makes the home something unique and special, even before one actually gets inside. Looney and he chose to use large cypress entrance doors and cypress columns on the front porch, which Clark had to get in Mississippi, a feature others may have substituted with cedar posts. One detail that many people "who aren't builders" may not even notice is that the cypress columns are slightly tapered, not an easy task, Clark explained on columns that massive, but one



David Clark said details make the 5,200-square-foot Silverton plan an easy-living home for young families, but it also accommodates older residents.

that makes a huge difference in the style of the front entrance. Once inside, the welcoming foyer opens into a formal dining room, which is easily accessible from the kitchen through the butler's pantry.

The heart of Clark's home is the open-concept common area with its central kitchen. "When you stand at the 'command center' — the apron front sink — you can see all of that open family gathering space," Clark said. This includes the family room, with its massive stone fireplace and built-in cabinetry, the breakfast room, and the adjacent screened-in outdoor room, which Clark envisions will be used quite often

because of its proximity to the kitchen. With state-of-the-art design, the kitchen features granite countertops, Thermidor appliances, an easy-on-the-back raised dishwasher, and both a butler's pantry and walk-in storage pantry.

"I can easily see a party, with people in the kitchen and family room, kids playing out in the yard, and the guys gathered in the outdoor room watching football or around the grill," Clark said. "That's the way my family entertains."

The downstairs floor plan includes a second bedroom with private bath, an office off the side "friend's entry" and the private master bedroom,

which include its own special features. In addition to the spacious storage in his-and-her closets, one has a unique "early morning entry" a touch Looney included in the design that is perfect for professionals who may be on-call or work different hours from a spouse, allowing someone to enter or leave the master suite without having to go through the bedroom and disturb a sleeper.

Clark explained that all of the doors into the master bedroom and bath were built to aging-in-place standards, with wider frames for wheelchair accessibility. The shower also was built for easy access, and includes what Clark said may be "Shelby

County's first approved linear drain", drainage lines built into the floor at the rear of the shower, not in the center, which is commonly the case.

The entire home was also built to MLGW's Eco-Build standards, Clark said, which makes it extremely energy efficient. This is his first total Eco-Build home, and he commended MLGW employees and his subcontractors and suppliers for making the process seamless. "You can tell that this level of energy efficiency is understood and important to everyone in the building process, including homebuyers," Clark said. Because today's family members are also much more tech-savvy

than our parents' generation, the Silverton includes home automation with whole-house remote integration.

Family-friendly features aren't limited to the inside of the Silverton, Clark said. The home includes a two-bay garage, each bay with extra-wide doors and rooms that are deeper than standard garages, to accommodate family SUV's and lots of storage. In addition, there is the convenience of a pull through single-bay garage, which has its own water supply and central vacuum system to create a wash bay for equipment such as ATVs, boats and riding mowers.

A stairway off the side entrance leads to the upstairs.

At the top is a short hallway with even more storage, leading to the media/bonus room, but the standout feature is another room totally designed with family in mind — the bunk room. With built-in bunks and stairs leading up to the beds, this room is something every child dreams of having, and parents will appreciate it, too. Being located next to the media room makes it ideal for

sleepovers. "I can just see a whole bunch of cousins piling up in that bunk room," Clark said.

Rounding out the second story is a children's study and two additional bedrooms with walk-in closets and access to private baths.

Clark said builders tend to build homes they could see their own families living in. Both he and his wife, Laura, (who happens to also be his Realtor) really loved the floor plan of the Silverton, and how well-suited it is for an active family. "From the time we turned over that first shovel of dirt, I've had to keep reminding Laura 'we are not moving into this house.'" The closer the home got to completion, though, Clark said for the first time ever as a homebuilder, he was definitely tempted.

"I've loved every house I've built," Clark commented. "And while no home is perfect," he added, "I haven't found anything that I would have done differently."

Tour Silverton, and the other five Vesta homes at the 2013 Vesta Home Show, Nov. 9-Dec. 1 at St. James Place, off Forest Hill Irene Road. For details, visit vestahomeshow.com.



Clark follows progress on the house, one of six that will be featured in the 2013 Vesta Home Show.