

Parade of Homes entries respect mountain environment



Sherri Vasquez

Fresh mountain air tinged with ponderosa pine, herds of grazing deer and elk and breathtaking hilltop views are just a few reasons people move to Colorado's mountain communities. Still others are drawn to the quiet lifestyle far from the bustling city.

But it's these natural amenities that often suffer when structures are built in the mountains.

Preserving nature's beauty was the challenge homebuilders faced when creating homes for this year's Parade of Homes at Tanoa at Elk Meadow in Evergreen. This is the first time in 11 years the event is set in a mountain community.

"Every mountain homebuilder has a responsibility to blend with the environment," says Jim Gregg of Gregg & Co. Builders Inc. "Each site is unique. Mountain homes take a lot of time and thought — they're not cookie-cutter homes. You have to consider the slope and existing trees."

Tall Timbers, a 4,880-square-foot custom home priced at \$759,000 and built by Gregg & Co. of Evergreen, won the 1996 Parade of Homes Grand Award. The architect was Sears Barrett of Denver.

In keeping with the wooded setting, Gregg used natural stone, aged wood, stucco and earth tones on the exterior of the two-story structure. The landscaping by Ken Ball uses native shrubs, perennials and grasses that do not require large quantities of water.

The interior features an Early American feel with European flair. Plank flooring, 200-year-old hand-hewn beams and architectural antiques such as antique doors enhance the rustic ambience.

When you walk through the front door of Tall Timbers, you arrive in style through a spacious entry set with flagstone and framed by mas-



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Tall Timbers by Gregg & Co., one of the six homes in the 1996 Parade of Homes, features architectural elements such as 200-year-old hand-hewn beams, windows galore and a wood and wrought iron stair rail.



Earth tones warm the family room, which is topped with a geometric vaulted ceiling. Below: Knotty pine cabinets and plank flooring add a country feel to the Tall Timbers kitchen.



basement, also with ample windows, has a stamped-concrete patio.

The interior design team of Lynn Shannon, Jaime Cummings and Laurie Gregg carried nature's tones inside. "People living in the mountains want a more relaxed lifestyle — not formal or stuffy," says Shannon. "The hearth room has a leather and corduroy sofa by Ralph Lauren, which we dressed up with tapestry pillows. We kept the design simple and clean because we wanted to accentuate the great work the architect and builder had done." Lamps, candlesticks and andirons in wrought iron echo the staircase's iron detailing.

Knotty pine cabinets and plank flooring give the kitchen a country feel, but the marble countertops and stainless steel appliances add modern appeal and high-tech

efficiency.

While some may worry that development decreases the quality of life in the mountains, Gregg says that responsible planning and quality construction help maintain balance.

"People worry that construction pushes wildlife out of their habitat, but building in Evergreen is very limited and they're setting aside enough open space for us to co-exist comfortably. You can't avoid change — just make sure that when you make changes, you do it right."

Decks extend a home's living space outside, and Tall Timbers features a wrap-around deck with access from three rooms, while the master bedroom upstairs has its own private deck. The walk-out

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Sherri Vasquez is a staff writer at the News.

If you go

The Parade of Homes at Tanoa at Elk Meadow in Evergreen runs daily through Sept. 2. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. No one admitted after 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 on weekends and \$5 on weekdays. Discount tickets are available at area King Soopers. Children 12 and under are admitted free and entertainment is offered every weekend. Information: 778-1444.

To reach Tanoa at Elk Meadow from Denver, head west on Interstate 70. Take Exit 252 (Evergreen Parkway.) You will be on Highway 74. Travel about 10 minutes. Take a right on Stage Coach Boulevard. Follow the signs to the site.