

CRAZY SEXY SMART

A ho-hum patio home gets a luxurious high-tech makeover. BY RHEA MAZE



The kitchen went from builder-grade nice to stunning. One keeper: the original oak floors were sanded and refinished in a rich dark hue.

IMAGINE IF YOUR HOUSE texted you when you accidentally leave the garage door open or the front door unlocked. Or sent you a one-minute video of anyone who rings the doorbell while you're out of town. Or got your coffee going for you each morning.

These were a few modern features the jet-setting homeowners of a patio home on Highland Meadows Golf Course in Windsor were after when they approached HighCraft Builders in Fort Collins.

"It was important to them that their home have cutting-edge technology," says Gordon Winner, the project manager at HighCraft Builders who oversaw the remodel from start to finish. "So that, for example, they could see on their phones or tablets if the house was heating itself unnecessarily and control the thermostat from China, California, or wherever they happened to be."

Making the home as smart as possible using Savant home automation was one thing, but staying true to the homeowner's fashion-forward personal style was an equally high priority. "They are totally into sexy design,"

says Cheri Freestone, interior designer with HighCraft Builders who collaborated with the homeowners to bring what she calls the "wow factor" to the home. "Their taste is very luxurious."

Deceivingly modest on the outside (largely due to HOA policies), the four-bedroom, three-bath, 4,214-square-foot patio home reveals a surprisingly spacious and upscale open floor plan.

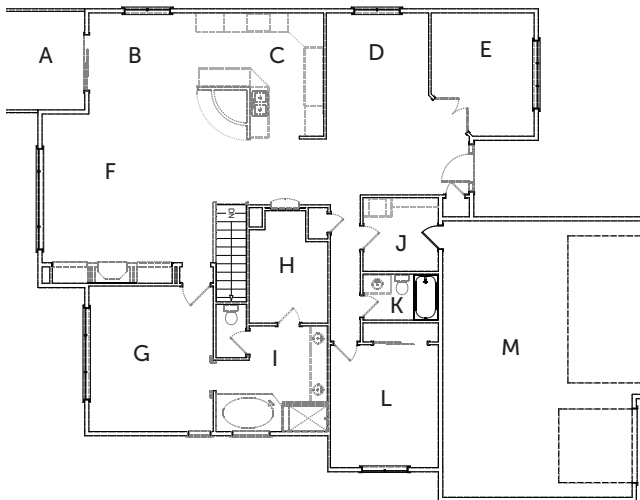
"It has clean, modern lines that are simple and sexy," Winner says. "We tried to make it elegant without being overly busy." Clustered banks of light switches have been removed and replaced by a simple keypad programmed to set particular scenes. A "movie" button can cause the lights to dim, the curtains to drop, and the doors in front of the TV to slide open as the TV turns on. A "good morning" button might turn lights on, heat up the bathroom floor, and start brewing coffee.

To maintain visual simplicity, the team kept all of the trim and casing and painted everything one color to achieve a sleek look. Not much else from the home's original design remains—from frosted glass pocket doors to hanging

Right: The master bath medicine cabinet doors, made of lighted mirrors on tracks, slide up rather than opening out and have a heat function to automatically clear off steam. Below: The monochromatic paint color throughout the home allows the design to flow. "There are a lot of neat things going on here with fabrics too," Freestone says. Below, right: A heated travertine tile floor leads to the master walk-in closet through a pocket door. "We tried to get rid of door swing wherever possible," Winner says.



- A. Deck
- B. Breakfast Nook
- C. Kitchen
- D. Dining Room
- E. Office
- F. Living Room
- G. Master Bedroom
- H. Master Closet
- I. Master Bathroom
- J. Laundry
- K. Bathroom
- L. Bedroom
- M. Garage



mini pendant lights, every aspect of the home's design is custom.

One of the most dramatic transformations occurred in the kitchen. "Just swapping out and repositioning its island created a whole new flow—it feels like a totally different house," Freestone says. Complete with professional-grade kitchen appliances, a wine refrigerator, a faucet for carbonated water, and a bench at the end of the island that helped transform the old formal dining room into a club room, it's become a dynamic space for socializing or solitude.

"The homeowners entertain all the time and didn't want a traditional seating area or an eat-in kitchen," Freestone says. "So I gave this space flexibility so that they can open it up when they want to."

The centerpiece of the adjoining living area is a unique, three-dimensional metal wall installation that wraps into the main space. Automated doors above the fireplace that slide open and shut store the 65-inch TV.



The custom metal mantle wraps into the surrounding space and adds depth to the living area. "The fireplace piece was a major challenge," Freestone says. "We had to balance design with a system that wouldn't melt the TV."

Beyond the metal wall, the master bedroom is softened by custom bedding with fur accent pillows and a paneled headboard made of crocodile-patterned leather. The expanded master bath has a special steam generator that can fill the shower with steam for a wet sauna experience. In his and hers side showers, benches allow them both to recline in the steam.

The finished basement rounds out the home with an element of family fun and includes a home theater, a wet bar, an exercise room, and a playroom for the grandkids.

"As far as remodel goes, this project involved minimal structural changes but still achieved a huge difference in feel overall," Winner says.

Making the home stylishly streamlined yet functional and user-friendly required the HighCraft team to navigate uncharted territory—from figuring out new technical specifications to finding suppliers for items like curtain rods that could feed into the Savant system.

"Any time we're thinking outside the box and doing a unique, custom project, we constantly have to tweak the design and rework the feasibility on the fly," Freestone says. "And these homeowners are definitely not the kind of people who just go with what's standard—they challenged us and we wanted to wow them."

GET THE LOOK

A luxe modern style is all about custom finishes that push the envelope. It's metal, glass, and dark woods meet leather, velvet, and silks with beads. Think one-of-a-kind items that no one else has, made locally.

"A lot of local craftspeople created custom pieces for this remodel," Winner says. "We're very lucky to have so much talent in our area."

- Handcrafted custom touches from **Raw Urth Designs** in Fort Collins include an antiqued steel wall with doors on an automated track for housing the TV, an integrated pewter counter and sink in the powder bathroom, and steel art panel shelves in the office. rawurth.com

- **Pin & Scroll Elegant Wood Designs** in Fort Collins created a stunning custom walnut credenza with a floating glass counter for the office. pinandscroll.com

- **Eclipse Designs** in Fort Collins customized the automated drapes and various window treatments throughout the home. eclipsemywindows.com

- **Tharp Cabinet Company** in Loveland built custom cabinets and island with a bench for the reinvented kitchen. tharpcabinets.com

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