



The Westridge Homes' team works from the home offices of Reagan Tameling. Pictured left to right are: Tara Lefebvre, Reagan Tameling, Mark Mitchell and Aaron Keays.

Willowgrove home does double duty

BY JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

PHOTOS BY ELAINE MARK, D&M IMAGES

Reagan Tameling doesn't have far to go to work every morning. The spacious walkout basement of his attractive Willowgrove home is the Saskatoon base of Westridge Homes.

Tameling heads up the residential homes division of Westridge Construction, a long-time commercial construction company headquartered in Regina. The company built its first single family home in Saskatoon in 2000 and now constructs approximately 12 homes a year in our city. Most are custom builds, although Westridge usually has a couple of 'quick possession' houses on the go.

"When we started the business in Saskatoon, we had commercial office space," says Tameling. For the past five years, he's operated the company from the offices in his Willowgrove home. It's a move Tameling doesn't regret.

"Going back at night and on weekends to meet with customers, it's so nice to have everything right here," says Tameling. "Plus, bringing the clients into your home not only shows the quality of work that we do, it also forms a bond, a friendship. It makes the build-

ing process more personal and that's who we are. By the time we finish a client's home, we have become really close. They are sharing their lives with us."

He adds, "Customers get a chance to see, not only a house that we've built, but a house that has been lived in for five or six years. It's a great way to see how our homes stand up and how timeless the style is."

Tameling also enjoys sharing his home with his employees. "We are a pretty close group. The work/friendship thing is quite blurred," he says of his long-time employees – design consultant Tara Lefebvre, site supervisor Aaron Keays and construction manager Mark Mitchell.

For Westridge staff, going to work is a literal walk in the park. Tameling's home backs onto one of the beautifully landscaped linear parks in Willowgrove. Staff and clients enter the business through the lower level garden door.

When he designed his 1,460 square foot raised bungalow, site orientation was important to Tameling, who has a background



in architecture. "To get the best views of the park, I angled the house on the lot. I wanted to make the park the focal point, rather than the neighbours' houses across the park," says Tameling.

"Everything in the house worked off that angle – the placement of the staircase and the fireplace. Because it's a corner house, I wanted to have windows all around, so I could catch light all through the day. It wasn't a fun house to frame, but it worked out really well."

Although Tameling's home is ultimately a 'living' showhome, he didn't design it with future clients in mind. "It was always meant to be my house. It's my style. If it was meant to be a showhome, the style would have been more general – and less 'me'."

Tameling's personal style leans toward classic old world elegance. "Although I built this home five or six years ago, to me, it doesn't feel dated yet," he says.

Design touches that express his personality include the exquisitely crafted wainscoting and mouldings throughout the home.

"I love fireplaces, and I wanted mine to be the focal point of the great room. I raised it up to give it more grandeur in the room and moved the TV off to the side so it wouldn't detract attention from the fireplace," says Tameling.

The painting over the fireplace is Tameling's own. "It's one of two paintings I've done in my life. I think my sister has the other one," he laughs.

The vaulted ceiling in the living room is accented by maple beams. "In open spaces, I always like to incorporate design features that define the different living areas within a great room. In a lot of our plans, we'll bump up the ceiling over the living room. Even though it's one large open space, it creates the feeling that this is its own separate room," says Tameling.

"This was supposed to be an 11-foot ceiling, but because of the roof system, I had to vault it instead of going straight up. I enjoy the way it turned out."

Tameling continued his design theme of classic elegance into the kitchen. The hand-somely crafted maple cabinets are stained white with a glazed finish for a slightly 'antique' feel. The top tier of upper cabinets feature glass inserts enhanced with satin nickel caming.

The granite-topped island is designed for style and function. "The island has six angled corners, so when people gather around, you can have a conversation instead of sitting in a row," says Tameling.

He's particularly pleased with the wide



— BUILDING OR RENOVATING? —
**SUPPLYING HOMEOWNERS, BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS
 WITH COST-EFFECTIVE INSULATION PRODUCTS**



INSULATION:
 - BASEMENT - NEW AND RENOVATION
 - HIGH R-VALUE = ENERGY SAVINGS
 - LIFETIME TRANSFERABLE WARRANTY
 - FLOOD RESISTANT - **NO MOLD**
 - HEALTHY LIVING ENVIRONMENT

ALL -IN-ONE INSULATION
 - INSULATOR, VAPOR + RADON BARRIER
 - SASKATOON CITY CODE APPROVED

Call for information

**Effective Thermal
 Solutions**

Edwin (306) 222-4428

etsinsulation@hotmail.com



www.quiktherm.com

Provincetown Suite
 by Mirabelle



Our Showroom is Your Showroom

649 - 51 Street East • Saskatoon • 306-933-2237
 Hours: Monday - Friday • 9:00 - 5:30
 Saturday • 10:00 - 4:00

www.kitchenandbathclassics.com

**Kitchen & Bath
 CLASSICS**
 a WOLSELEY company



AT HOME continued from page 14

plank oiled maple floor that extends throughout the main floor. "So many people comment on the warm feeling it gives this room," says Tameling. "It's very forgiving. You don't see the nicks and dents."

The rustic solid wood floor perfectly complements Tameling's furniture choices. Most are vintage items that he's collected and painstakingly refinished in his immaculate garage.

A weekend farmer, Tameling also wanted the home's floor plan to incorporate a combination mudroom/laundry room with direct garage access. Built-in laundry baskets keep the room organized.

The master suite features more of Tameling's antique pieces, including a gorgeous armoire he restored. His must-have in the ensuite was a wall-mounted TV. "I always watch TV when I'm getting ready in the morning. It's off to one side and I can see it from all locations. It's something I'd do in any future house I built."

The bedroom's large windows capture views of his attractive backyard. "I love my backyard. I worked with a landscape designer and then got Visions Landscaping to do the work. The plan takes advantage of the natural sloping terrain, with a waterfall of rocks coming down. It's all low maintenance, which was important," says Tameling.

Although his Willowgrove home is constantly on display, Tameling is quick to point out that it's just one example of what Westridge can do.

"This is my style; it's not 'Westridge' style. Westridge will do any style. We've done everything from ultramodern to almost Victorian. We design and build to suit the client's tastes, not our own."

In designing any home, Tameling says the most important factor is 'liveability.'

"Sometimes people go for the 'wow' factor, but they don't realize they have to live in that house too. We point out the positives and negatives of different design concepts and let the customer decide," he says. **LS**