



# A PERFECT *Pairing*

## A Blend of Passion and Conviction Yields Remarkable Results

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP • PHOTOGRAPHER DAVE SPECKMAN

**J**oe and Leslie created a perfect marriage of the interior and exterior of their Traverse City home by combining their respect for nature and their passion for cooking and entertaining.

They were persistent in their search for perfect surroundings—a place of lush greenery, privacy and rolling hills. A place with the sights and sounds of water softly caressing a sandy bend as it flows gently over rocks and stones. Upon discovery of the environmentally-focused Cedar Valley Ridge, the search was over. This community shares the same strong environmental ethos the homeowners hold dear.

Cedar Valley Ridge is certified by the National Association of Home Builders Emerald Certification. Cedar Valley is the first to receive this certification in Michigan and the first to be certified at the Green level in the United States. Certification is based on rating the development process and facility on a number of criteria including: educating the contractors and staff on sustainable development processes, educating the public on green development, use of sustainable materials and indigenous species, conservation of natural resources and minimum use of water for landscape irrigation, minimizing the use of fertilizers and pesticides, recycling of materials such as trees and plants disturbed by development, protecting the natural environ-

ment and wildlife habitat along with clustering of dwellings and orienting them for maximum use of alternate energy such as solar. More than 75 percent of the Cedar Valley Ridge property is set aside as permanently protected, private nature reserve with only 35 building lots of the total 175 acres. For Joe and Leslie this translated into miles of hiking trails and endless hours of visual pleasure enhanced by undeveloped common areas including meadows along with mature trees and wildlife.

Upon discovery and purchase of the perfect building site, they could move forward with designing and building their home. Builder Roger Gribi and architect Caleb Luibrand carefully evaluated the building site and easily translated their goals into functional living spaces.

Long before the first nail was set and ideas were formulated into something tangible, Leslie's non-negotiable, prerequisite for a kitchen with a corner sink and a spectacular view became the corner stone and building block from which the design of the entire home grew. "It was our lifelong dream to build a gourmet kitchen surrounded by a beautiful home," explains Leslie.

The kitchen was designed for two people who love to cook, but also multiple chefs working simultaneously on their epicurean

specialties. It has spacious walkways around counters and island, a walk-in pantry, six-burner Wolf cooktop, double ovens, two sinks—including a prep sink and a coffee/espresso station—along with a display area for Leslie’s martini glass collection.

The kitchen opens onto a screened porch with attached decks; one for cooking and eating, the other for sitting and enjoying southern and northern views.

The homeowners credit Roger Gribi and his team with executing an enjoyable building process, helping them to stay within budget and ultimately, build the home of their dreams. In spite of all the amenities to appease Leslie and Joe’s passion for cooking and entertaining, they integrated environmentally-sound ideas throughout the house. They started by controlling the square footage, while scaling rooms to sizes that are appropriate and comfortable for two people. They also analyzed the usage of rooms and how they could double in function. For example, Joe’s man cave is also a guest bedroom. They used Certified Fluorescent Lighting (CFLs) and green lighting. They installed endless hot-water heat and a heat pump.

Roger, Kevin and Brad Gribi of Gribi Builders stepped in to expertly execute the building process and guide budget and quality performance. “They worked tirelessly to make sure that our home was exactly as we had envisioned it to be,” share the couple. “We had complete faith in their team.”

The lengthy property search, thoughtful planning and quality construction paid off for this pair. “The culmination of effort is a dream home designed to support our love of cooking, entertaining and nature in our upcoming retirement years,” share the beaming couple.



**COVER PAGE:**

Thoughtful exterior color and materials selections achieve a balance with the wooded setting.

**RIGHT:**

This kitchen was designed to depict the passion of two people who love to cook together and entertain family and friends.





ABOVE: Local artisan Rosalyn Tyge incorporated the homeowner's fondness for family pets and hobbies into the tile surround of the fireplace.  
 BELOW: The spacious master bath is perfectly designed to blend beauty, comfort and style.  
 OPPOSITE: The master bedroom has a panoramic view of meadows, woods and streams.



The home projects a soothing and serene charm.



**ABOVE:** The powder room was designed around the white onyx sink purchased in Mexico long before the home was built.

**BELOW:** Joe's man cave doubles as a guest suite.



# Gribi Builders Inc.

**PRINCIPAL OWNER (S):**  
Roger Gribi, Kevin Gribi and Bradley Gribi

**NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:**  
38

**YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:**  
March 1975

**EDUCATION:**  
BBA from University of Michigan

**BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:**  
We do the worrying for our clients so that they don't have to. Our clients know that they will receive the best customer service in the business.

**WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?**  
We deliver an amazing product with outstanding customer service.

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For additional information, call the office at (231) 264-5545 or visit [www.gribibuilders.com](http://www.gribibuilders.com).