

The sunny side of the Street (of Dreams)

Local company keeps it casual, has fun with creating dream homes

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PRESS REPORTER

Most people receiving an invitation to a \$1.9 million home probably would not feel comfortable showing up in jeans. But that is exactly the goal of luxury home designer and builder Roger MacPherson.

"This is a home where you feel comfortable coming in a pair of jeans," he said from the arched driveway of his latest creation — a 6,200-square-foot French Chateau-style home named "Greensgate." The home is complete with an English garden, golf green and sport court.

Casual is key when you're working in the back yard of Pacific Northwest companies such as Microsoft, whose work attire is anything goes.

The home also is a reflection of MacPherson, his company and the 20 people he employs at his firm on Pine Lake, MacPherson Construction and Design.

When designing homes, "the whole idea is this casual elegance," explained MacPherson, president and founder of the company. We want to "make people feel comfortable and relaxed in their home."

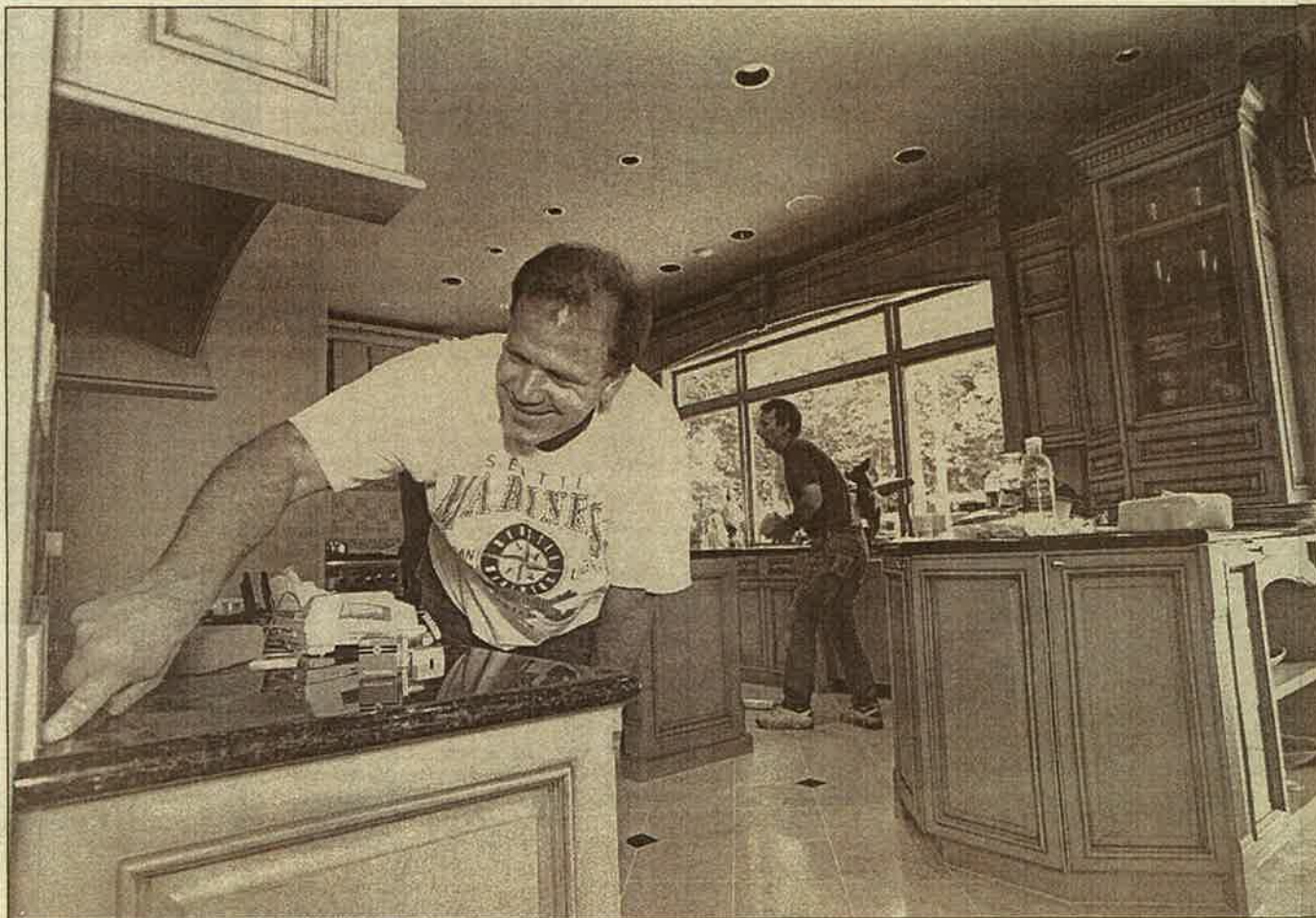
At sizes of 6,500 square feet and up, the custom houses MacPherson designs and builds could quickly become stuffy and pretentious monuments instead of homes — especially when only one or two people live in them. But he steers clear of that by using warm, natural tones and other design techniques. The result is a comfortable but classy home.

Greensgate — named by the home's owner, who develops golf courses for a living — is a perfect example. The five-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath home features lots of open spaces, soft hues and repeat patterns and tiles.

The theme immediately greets visitors in the home's grand entryway, where the eye is drawn to a wall of large arched windows capturing a picture-perfect view of the English gardens out back. Beyond that are two acres of native trees, a requirement of the development the home sits in — The Estates at Treemont.

A new community of high-priced homes eight miles northeast of downtown Issaquah, it is also the site of the 1999 Seattle Street of Dreams, running now through August 15.

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Press photo by Greg Farrar

The president of MacPherson Construction and Design, Roger MacPherson, works in the 'Greensgate' home kitchen right alongside a huge crew on July 9 to meet the Street of Dreams grand-opening deadline. The millwork cabinets, behind where MacPherson grouts countertop tile backsplashes, made by Mennonites in Abbotsford, British Columbia, have heavy crowns with dovetailing work.



Press photo by Greg Farrar

The 'Street of Dreams' Greensgate home by MacPherson Construction and Design, a 6,200-square-foot French Chateau-style home, features balconies from two second-story bedrooms, a waterfall rock garden and cedar trees at the front view. The Street of Dreams event will provide an opportunity to see luxury homes in the area through Aug. 15.

□ The 15th annual Seattle Street of Dreams kicked off last weekend at The Estates at Treemont, an exclusive new community eight miles from downtown Issaquah. Four fully decorated luxury homes ranging in size from 6,000 to 10,000 square feet and valued at up to \$3 million currently are open to the public. The home sites average more than 3 acres. Show times are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily through August 15.

□ Admission prices are \$12 for adults age 16 and over, \$10 for senior citizens over age 65 and \$10 for children age 6-15. Children age 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets are sold until 8 p.m. each day at the entrance to The Estates at Treemont. Event organizers will donate \$45,000 raised from the event to the Children's Home Society of Washington.

□ Directions: Head north on East Lake Sammamish Parkway (exit 17 off Interstate 90). Turn right on Issaquah-Fall City Road. Go up the hill and turn right at the second stoplight. Follow the signs to the parking lot. A shuttle will take visitors to the Estates.