

Innovative Design

Stillwater Dwellings specializes in high-end prefabricated homes at a great value.

BY KAMALA KIRK

Many who lost their homes during the recent California wildfires are still in the process of rebuilding and face a series of ongoing challenges, from delayed construction and permit issues to high costs. To answer these obstacles, prefabricated homes have become increasingly popular due to their short build time, lower costs and high-quality designs, making them an ideal choice for people who need replacement housing or want to add to their property.

Stillwater Dwellings is a full-service architectural firm that has specialized in high-end, modern prefabricated homes since 2008. After the recent fires in Northern California and Malibu, they have been working with more families to accommodate their needs.

"Prefabrication is a way to deliver quality components and materials at a better value in a predictable process to the client," Kaveh Khatibloo, co-CEO of Stillwater Dwellings, said.

Dan and Charlie Grant lost their home in the 2017 wildfires in Northern California and are currently in the process of building a Stillwater home. They chose Stillwater Dwellings because of the company's personalized service, design aesthetics, home quality and sustainable practices.

"We toured an existing Stillwater home and fell in love with it," Dan said. "We were lucky enough to be invited to Reno to see inside the factory. That was the moment it sunk in that we were getting a brand-new home of much higher quality than the others we have seen being built using traditional methods."

To simplify the building process,

Stillwater Dwellings offers a series of packages that clients can choose from. Although not restricted to those selections, it provides a starting point where customers can choose everything from fixtures and plumbing to interior color, and more. Stillwater has a team of architects and project managers who work with clients from start to finish, and an interior design department to help provide customization.

The company currently specializes in two specific design aesthetics—the Stillwater Signature Series and the Stillwater Connection Series. The Signature Series blends an updated mid-century aesthetic with the precision of a modern, systems-built home and encourages indoor-outdoor living. The homes, which are available in both one- and two-story options, feature Stillwater's mid-century modern butterfly roofline that the company has become known for, along with a solid steel canopy entry, and a glass wall of windows and doors.

The Connection Series "blurs the line between inside and outside, and the design is developed around an exterior living room area with a disappearing glass wall," Khatibloo noted. Three different homes—Desert, Coastal and Mountain—are designed to work in harmony with their respective landscapes.

Heather Paradis and her husband Nick, a third-generation carpenter and house builder, used the Stillwater design as a platform for their home and brought materials from the outdoors inside.

"We call it our 'see-through house,'" Heather said. "We love the feeling of walking up to the glass front door and having it





seemingly opened by the Olympic Mountains in the background. Because the house was built on a hill, the massive cantilevered deck and butterfly roof creates the sensation that the house has taken flight. It feels as if we're floating above it all in our own piece of paradise. Stillwater homes are a piece of art."

Stillwater Dwellings builds in a three-phase process. Phase one focuses on design and pricing, where a design is selected, an analysis of zoning and building permit requirements is conducted, and complete plans are developed, which includes a fixed price.

Phase two is engineering and permitting, and Stillwater architects develop final detailed floor plans. Project managers apply for permits, and the building contractor uses the final drawings to refine on-site related costs.

And, finally, phase three focuses on production at the company's climate-controlled manufacturing facility in Reno, Nevada. Once the fabricated components are shipped to the property site, installation begins. Every client follows the same process, which consists of a logical series of steps to ensure predictability, and that the project stays on time and budget.

In order to fast-track a project, which Khatibloo noted is especially appreciated by clients in fire-ravaged areas, clients can select from hundreds of pre-engineered homes.

"All we have to do is modify the foundation to fit the specific site, then apply for a

building permit," Khatibloo said. "If a client chooses this option, we should be able to have the house built within a year or less."

Susan and Rick Weber were immediately on board after their first meeting with Khatibloo, and just over a year later, they were living in a brand-new Stillwater home.

"We felt so comfortable with Stillwater that we hired our contractor without bidding the job out," Rick said. "The next 14 months were a breeze. The house we wound up with is a joy to live in. We couldn't be happier."

Stillwater Dwellings also prides themselves on dedication to sustainability. Their homes incorporate highly efficient sustainable building design with environmentally responsible materials. Khatibloo noted

this "significantly reduces output of material waste, [and] improves design and production efficiency, from beginning to end."

Stillwater Dwellings will also introduce a new series of urban design homes for smaller lots and budgets by 2021 in order to help more people live in their dream homes.

"When building a home, you have to be passionate about it," Khatibloo said. "What drives all of us is the end result and satisfaction we get from clients. What we promise them in the beginning is what they'll get at the end. The best part of this process is that we always exceed expectations and the end results are always much better than what they had envisioned." ■

stillwaterdwellings.com.

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