Palmer Lake star

Home shines thanks to thoughtful floor plan, attention to detail

Above: The seller fell in love with the great room's magnetic views. Right: Natural light and bird song come through the master suite's corner windows.

Photos by Bill Sommer

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On a treed lot cupped by Raspberry, Sundance and Ben Lomand mountains, the air smells fresh and piney at this Palmer Lake home. The quaint village with its country grocery and old-fashioned storefronts sits down the hill, past the town's namesake lake and the Santa Fe Trail recreation area.

"A lot of what draws people to this area is that it's very close to hiking, biking and the lake. You can just send the kids out the door and there is so much to do," says Kathy Allen of Raspberry Mountain Real Estate, who lists the four-bedroom, three-bath home for $395,000.

Allen also points upward to the Palmer Lake star, which is situated on Sundance Mountain and lights up the night during the Christmas season and on patriotic holidays. "That's what the street — Star View Circle — is named after."

The seller loves the natural environment and Palmer Lake's atmosphere, admitting both were selling features in his mind.

"(Palmer Lake) has that small-town, almost European feel," he explains. "It has the feel of hundreds of years ago that it's difficult to find in Colorado, if not in the U.S."

Despite the rugged natural landscape and the small-town aura of Palmer Lake, the stucco-and-stone exterior and tasteful xeriscaping easily identify the home as a modern, comfortable construction.

An oversized, red front door flanked by stone pillars opens into the main level's open floor plan. Hardwood floors spill to the left into the eat-in kitchen, while carpet beckons into the combined living and dining area.

"It opens into the great room concept with a three-sided, gas log fireplace visible from the dining and living area," says Allen.

A large picture window and a sliding glass door offer a view of the Front Range toward the south.

The seller admits the views from this great room proved magnetic for him. "I took one walk into this room and looked out at the mountains and fell in love with it."

The view can also be admired from the wood deck, which is accessible off the dining area and provides a great space for grilling up steaks or eating al fresco with friends.

The nearby kitchen features granite tile counter tops, a stainless steel refrigerator, cherry cabinets and an attached eating nook with a bay window.

Allen's favorite features of the kitchen include the skylight and the kitchen's proximity to the two-car garage and laundry room.

The seller, on the other hand, likes the

See **PALMER LAKE** on page 6

PALMER LAKE, continued from page 4

kitchen's functionality, saying, "You don't have to exert yourself to cook up a good meal in this kitchen. Everything is handy , and it's laid out so you have enough space but not too much space."

Rounding out the main level are two supplementary bedrooms with a full bath, the master suite, and designer touches such as rounded corners, arched doorways, plant ledges and vaulted ceilings.

The master suite, with its large corner windows offering views and natural light, is one of the seller's favorite retreats in the home. "Waking up every morning to the birds outside is great," he says. "It's like you're in the country."

Allen, however, loves the attached five-piece bath with its travertine tile, jetted tub, walk-in shower and separated his-and-hers vanities with cherry cabinets. She also notes that three windows paned with glass blocks make the bath light and airy without losing privacy.

More space for relaxation can be reached down the stairs, which are lined with wrought-iron spindles, in the walk-out basement. A bedroom — currently used as an exercise room — and a full bath offer guests private space, and a recreation room is great for family get-togethers, movie nights and more.

The seller explains that the basement allows for flexibility. "You can live on the main level and get away down here," he says. "You can come down here for exercise or for TV, and it's a great area for entertaining."

And if the party gets too large, guests can spill out through a sliding glass door to the concrete-and-flagstone patio. While much of the landscaping is xeriscaped, grass covers the side and backyards, offering space to throw the football or play fetch with the dog.

"You have your privacy, too," says the seller. "I virtually have no views of any other houses where this home sits."

In addition to the finished space, the basement includes a spacious unfinished area, large enough to one day accommodate another bedroom as well as a theater or billiards room.

Because of the well-designed floor plan and a wealth of amenities, Allen calls the home "a good getaway" from the world — a getaway you won't ever want to escape. "This (neighborhood) has a very stable population," she explains. "It's like once people find it, no one wants to leave." ■

You can view this home at 126 Star View Circle in Palmer Lake tomorrow from noon-4 p.m. during an open house hosted by Kathy Allen of Raspberry Mountain Real Estate. Contact Allen at 234-1182.