



GATHER 'ROUND THE TABLE

J. CHRISTOPHER STUHMER, owner and CEO of Christopher Homes, believes that "no matter what you do in any area of the house, design-wise, people always end up in the kitchen when you're entertaining." So in this custom home, he made the kitchen a place to entertain, and the living areas places to eat. Instead of closed cabinets full of dishes, kitchen shelving here is open to display artistically stacked dishes, spices and cookwear. The long rectangular island paneled with vertical grain zebra wood runs into an oversized round island, set apart with a brushed aluminum siding and a different colored stone top, Within 50 feet of the kitchen are five different places to eat, and the kitchen spills seamlessly into the bar/living area, which spills seamlessly onto the patio through stacked glass doors.

"We wanted to make the kitchen the hub. When somebody's in the kitchen, they want to be part of what's going on," Stuhmer says. This sense of togetherness extends to the art, too, such as sculptor Bob Wilfong's piece, "Circle of Love," seen through the kitchen windows giving way to the courtyard.



