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Top Builder: Paul Gray Homes advocates for a clear view



Front row, from left: Rebecca Mies, Paul Gray, Adriana Gray and Erin Blevins. Back row, from left: Kenneth Allen and Justin Blue.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Weather should never be a hindrance to building the home of your dreams, according to Paul Gray.

The Paul Gray Homes CEO sees how his favorite concepts work in more temperate climates such as Arizona, Texas, Florida and California and can't fathom a reason why they can't work here.

So, Gray says, bring on the multitude of windows. Bring on the large doors that accommodate back patios and back living areas, even if it gets cold sometimes.

"We kind of bucked that trend," Gray said. "Even if you can't open this giant door in your living room because it's too cold outside, sure it's nice to look outside. Who doesn't love big, huge windows? That's something you're going to see in every house I build – we push the limits on windows."

Gray may be windows-focused in his designs, but his style suits a wide price range. His company builds homes for about \$200,000 and pushed itself to build a \$1.15 million home in Reeds Cove Reserve, which is on sale in the spring Parade of Homes.

Gray built the home, he said, just to prove that he could.

"We appreciate everybody who builds in that space and we recognize the quality of a lot of our compatriots and their business," Gray said. "We knew we could do a lot of unique things, and we really did it. I enjoy trying to be as creative as humanly possible, but at the same time be creative for what people want."

"It felt great," company superintendent Justin Blue said of the high-cost home.

"It was just an interesting thing from start to finish, putting in a lot of the

electronics and stuff that we don't normally put in a house.”

Gray has been successful building in neighborhoods such as Firethorne and Firefly. He stays true to his ideas and has made them work in Wichita, where the weather isn't always predictable.

“People still like light and bright. They want everything to be light and bright,” Gray said. “They want as open of a space as they can get. We're bringing the outdoors in, that's the big thing right now. It's been a trend for a couple years, but it's becoming even more prominent.”

BY JEFFREY LUTZ