

## Corners on Contemporary

by Keith Sternal, Senior Territory Manager

When asked how he would describe the style of his latest Phoenix home, architect Clyde Rousseau answered, "I don't know, though others say, 'very Clyde-like.'"



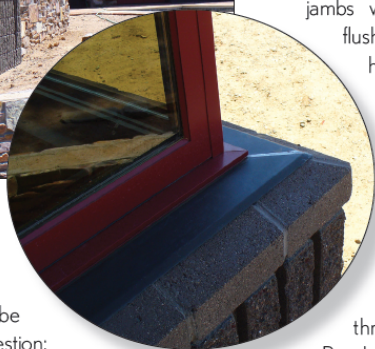
And this, we think, is a very good thing indeed! If you are reading this issue of *Cross Grain*, chances are you are immersed in the business of windows and doors, and 'into architecture.' Admit it. And do we not find ourselves pretty opinionated on what a home should look like? Do you fit the description of a "window snob" – and like it? If so, GREAT – read on!

Here's the deal: There has been such a movement towards contemporary design that we might need to take stock of what about it there is to love. We know we like some of it for sure; the openness, interesting lines, simplicity, and of course, windows and doors really speaking as the face of the building. But do we really like the industrial, hard, boxy or overly-clever look of the ultra modern often bundled into the description of "contemporary"? Do we really want to give up traditional distinct rooms for multi-use open areas, or the sensibility



of ranch style single-level living for multiple levels? Clyde addresses these questions and sincerely hopes that his designs will prove more than anything to be "Time-less." And the inevitable question: What about green? "To me," Clyde reveals, "green building' is just quality building that will pass the test of time through ageless design and highly durable materials."

Clyde turned to Marvin in this endeavor, tasking distributor sales manager, Saul Freeberg, and the Marvin Architectural department early in the process for detailed drawings and solutions to several challenges regarding how to configure, ship and install fourteen Marvin 90-degree corner windows. Stiles, rails and mulls could not look too diminutive, but also not too heavy. And one thing had to happen: dimensions of product had to be exact.



The core of the home was built around the placement of seven key columns and everything referenced from there. Window sills would be set in stone and head jamba would be flush to steel headers; horizontal simulated divided lites lining up throughout.

But the real test was coordinating all the work-points from the steel columns to those of the corner windows, complemented by wide awnings, casements and French doors. There was no room for error.

So, "Clyde-like" is gorgeous, and we can truly say with conviction that Marvin fits this contemporary style. Maybe someday Clyde's style will earn his stated goal of "timeless," or more elegantly, a perennial branding, "Rousseau Nouveau."

*Clyde Rousseau is principle designer of Rousseau Design Architecture and General Contracting in Phoenix, Ariz.*