

The Social Costs of Building a house

By Alyssa Raven

[Music: Made by me in Garageband.mp3] *this audio will be for the beginning of the show and then after the pic1, the bg-music will play.



1.jpg

NARRATOR: Many families every year try to take on large scale projects such as building a house and still fail to realize the consequences. My mother was one such person who desired to follow her dreams and attempt to build what is most likely considered “difficult to achieve” in most cases.



2.jpg

TERRY: “its always been a lifelong dream to build a house with my dad and I’ve always wanted to learn what it took to build a house from ground up. I’ve always been curious about how you actually do it.”



3.jpg

NARRATOR: she followed her dream for building her house in Los Altos, totally prepared for any obstacle that presented itself. But was she really prepared for the costs of building the house? After a year, Terry had drawn up the first plan for the house and submitted them to city Council. Some of the neighbors she had considered supportive and welcoming, came to the council to argue their COMPLAINT against the new house.



4.jpg

NARRATOR: Everyone in the community wanted things to remain the same. They formed groups before meetings, Talked to council members about their opinions before hand, and came by the property constantly to check to see if there were new things to argue about. It became increasingly stressful for Terry.



5.jpg

PHIL: “The neighbors didn't approve the first plan, they said it was to austentatious. So it was a little too much in other words, so she had to get the architech to draw 3 different drawings until the finally relented after two years delay. But the difficult thing to get around was the planning commission and the neighborhood.”



6.jpg

TERRY: going through all the political issues with trying to get the house design approved was ...just.....unbelievable. Getting through city planning and the review and everything else, having to re-design the house 3 times, and which took approximately what, 2 years? it was just unbelievable.



7.jpg

TERRY: trying to coordinate everything and to get everyone working and have everything happen on schedule has probably been the most difficult. When your a contractor in a project like this, there tends to be a lot of work management as well and you really need to be coordinating it on top of everything.



8.jpg

NARRATOR: Eventually, after the 3rd try, the plans for the house were finally approved, regardless of what the community said. Although Terry was overjoyed for a brief moment, there were still a lot of things that needed to get done.



9.jpg

PHIL: well the weather was one thing that was really a problem when we were digging the hole for the basement. They had about a month of delay because of rain, bur luckily this soil, agilates the water; that means it discipates into the soil quiet readily.



10.jpg:

PHIL: oh my which single item? probably getting all the mill work there at the same time. Some of it was specially ordered and the timing of getting up there was a difficult planning procedure; getting all the material that you needed to put it together. Its probably the most difficult and most aggrovating.



11.jpg

NARRATOR: Terry, over time, begins to feel left out from the family. She feels like she is doing the wrong thing, but the family thinks otherwise.



12.jpg

LINDSEY: “I miss her but I understand what she's doing. Its one of her, you know, one of the things that she really wanted to do. I can tell right now that she is really stressed with it, but from this experience she really learns it and you know, just giving her some space, i guess, is a good thing. But yeah, dad can be an ass sometimes, but i really love him. “



13.jpg

LINDSEY: It's just, it's kind of awkward staying with a parent for a really long time when you keep switching up and again there's that tension thing sometimes when you're thinking about it, people have tensions that are about being around other people too long, especially between SIBLINGS! yes so yeah, but I'm wondering if this has had a really big impact on mom; on her side.



14.jpg

NARRATOR: But the house not only had an impact on Lindsey, but other family members as well. The house is composed of many aspects of the family.



15.jpg

LINDSEY: Some of the family members think that the house was a bad thing, you know those people that aren't very supportive, but I can't really blame them because this has been really hard. A lot of people have had a hard time with the house and it's like the whole family has done. Dinnese has done the windows, grandpa has done the stairs, Lorrea is planning out our rooms, and then everyone is really committed to this house.



16.jpg

LINDSEY: Its been family funded, its been family contracted, that takes a lot of work. The people that have kind of worked on the house get that kind of experience and understand how hard it is. But the people that haven't been doing it, but already understand it have been against it.



17.jpg

LINDSEY: Mom was warned before she started the house that this was going to be really hard. And i don't blame her for taking it up, she's learned a lot, she got a new house, but this has taken a lot out of everybody.



18.jpg

LINDSEY: deffinatly, probably the tension that comes from the people after working all day long on the house because when they come home they have a really bad attitude and its really hard to work and get your homework done, you know, maybe even relax.



19.jpg

PHIL: There's a lot of detail that's put into it and the cabinetry. Especially the walnut that she has picked out to match her carithieum burl elm which is a very exclusive venir.



20.jpg

PHIL: So are you proud of her? Yeah, for her choices, her very nice materials that have been used, the walnut floors, the special moldings that are crom molding, baseboard, trim around the doors and windows.



21.jpg

NARRATOR: After the completion of the house, many lessons were learned. The house was not just a house, it meant something more to everyone.



22.jpg

TERRY: it will ultimately represent is that I had a dream and a goal and i achieved it.
it was an up-hill battle all the way, but it represents the fact that i was able to accomplish my goals.



23.jpg

PHIL: some of the material i havent worked with before like the black walnut that was used in the cabinets and some of the mill work. It was very nice to work with.



24.jpg

PHIL: its the first time that ive worked well i have worked with walnut before but not nearly as much as i have with the house. It was native walnut that came out of the valley from the farmers who pulled old trees out and a man came around and milled all this walnut that had been there for over a hundred years. Probably in the orchards and it made some beautiful wood work, so that was a real gift to me to be able to work with this material



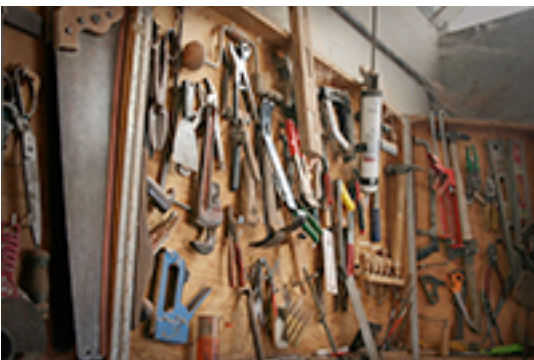
25.jpg

PHIL: there was alot of hard work, planning and engineering work that had to go into the plans and uh calculations and uh there are a lot of structural things that are in it that need to have met the requirements, the earthquake zone that its in. So there a lot of re-enforcing that had to be put in beyond normal i would think. It says "in case of earthquake, get inside the building".



26.jpg

LINDSEY: everyone...pretty much...LOST THEIR SANITY FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS! but its been a learning experiance and hey we get a new house. Its really big, really cool, I can't help but think that when i walk in the house, its like a deathtrap.



27.jpg

NARRATOR: In many ways, the house was a bad thing, such as losing time with loved ones as well as good relationships within a new community. But there were also many benefits that came with the house, and overall, we think Terry made the right decision.



28.jpg

TERRY: well, i dont think i could have done it without grandpa it was his knowledge it was his able to be able to mentor me through the process ummm that helped me learn so that i could do it.



29.jpg

PHIL: umm i think making the cabinets and all the corbals for the outside decoration and uhoh doing the finish work and finishing inside. Thats the fun part I like that.



30.jpg

LINDSEY: i will finally get to release all the tension from this stupid house. I DONT THINK ITS STUPID, it's stupid and it's great at the same time, thats the house, period!

31.jpg

[CREDITS! STILL HAVE TO MAKE]← BEGINS THE ENDING MUSIC!