



Everybody in Martin area is familiar with the iconic "igloo house" on Hwy 22. Now is your chance to get a glimpse inside this unique home.

## A Martin landmark gets a facelift

By Karen Campbell  
Press Reporter

Most children are drawn to the collection of igloo-shaped structures on Hwy. 22 just outside of Martin. But Cory Garrett took admiration one step further. As a child, he laid claim to the structure.

"I said, 'I'm going to buy that someday,'" he reports. Decades later, the Greenfield native took possession of the three-bedroom, four-bath abode and began the renovation that he and his family have called home for more than three years.

But first he had to get the finances to make the purchase and that proved almost as difficult as finding a flat wall in the structure that is made up of triangles of concrete, foam and dry wall.

The structure is considered an "unconventional home" and many banks are not set up to provide the financing. With a little research, Garrett eventually learned of the Dome Home Association and was connected to Wells Fargo which does allow for such loans. After 28 appraisals, he secured the needed financing for the home which is valued at around \$250,000.

But a deed does not a home make, and next up in the list of challenges was renovations.

"It was rough," said Garrett who did all the repair work from several leaks that had formed as the result of space between the triangular sections and the fact that the French drains weren't deep enough. After resealing, he's had no problems. He has also systematically replaced flooring and fixtures in all but the master bedroom and bath and those are now in process.

With no flat surfaces, he's found a way to add art without hanging paintings by employing bright, colorful wallpaper on accent walls. He added a



Cory Garrett swings open the bookcase to reveal his mancave containing a pool table and several hunting trophies.

backsplash to the kitchen and even built a hidden entrance into the "mancave" module. At the suggestion of one of his sons, he

installed a door that not only looks like a bookcase, it is a bookcase, and with the pull of the right bound copy, the door opens to the

room containing a redone pool table, media center, and many of the trophies he and his sons Gage and Avery have downed and mounted for display.

The "mancave," main living space and garage make up the three modules. And Garrett points out that with a lack of straight edges, anywhere there's a space or gap, there's a closet, or cabinet including a built-in storage space for nails and small items set into the wall of the garage.

An electrician by trade, Garrett is particularly impressed with the efficiency of the structure that takes its shape from triangles of concrete and varying amounts of foam. The power bills are \$120 on average and the AC unit is half the size that it would normally be for a 3,000-square-foot-structure. He has a propane tank in the back and has installed a new AC and heating unit.

The Pitchers were the original owners and Garrett purchased the property

from Becky, who as a widow, found the house too much to care for. Billed as fire-proof, tornado-proof, and earthquake-proof, the structure was originally shipped as triangles that had to be attached and the joints filled with concrete.

"They say it is rated for 250 mile an hour winds, but I don't want to test that," mused Garrett.

Along with work on the master suite, Garrett is completing the finishing touches on a Lifebreath heat recovery unit that recirculates fresh air and concluded a new coat of paint on the exterior this

spring.

Since Garrett confesses he is "always bad about needing something to do," the house has provided plenty of activity to keep him busy. As he nears the end of the renovation process, he may have to focus more on crowd management as many, like him as a young child, are mesmerized by the "igloos" on the hillside and often stop by to ask if they can see inside.

"I bought a landmark, not a house," Garrett says with a chuckle.

For more pictures see page 6.

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