

Ms. Barbee: Compassionate Architect



Nasrin Barbee designed the Khosho's new home.

Two years of bad dreams have ended for Francis and Bernadette Khosho.

Thinking the 2007 Witch Creek fire was far enough away to not be a threat, Khosho recalls that he "left for work expecting nothing, and by day's end our home had been burned to the ground."

As they started rebuilding their lives, Mr. and Mrs. Khosho noticed that many of the people they met, including volunteers and paid professionals, mentioned architect Nasrin Barbee as someone they should talk to about designing their new home. So they did. And now that their home is complete, all they can say is "We were blessed to choose Nasrin Barbee."

Ms. Barbee, a Poway resident, says, "I worked with the Khoshos to make sure we stayed within their budget, designing and building an energy-efficient home suited to present and future environmental challenges. The solar panels heat the pool and water. The pieces are in place for solar electrical usage. Plus, the plumbing's there for future greywater use."

"The house is beautiful!" says Mrs. Khosho now of her two-story home.

Ms. Barbee is known for loving challenges, and designing a better home on the old pad was difficult. Her clients also needed a great deal of personalized attention.

"The Khoshos loved their old home. They never wanted to go through this," she observes. Recognizing their unique needs, Nasrin made herself available day and night to answer questions and address concerns. "I've never met an architect who was so concerned with easing a client's pain," Mr. Khosho notes.