

➤ John loves his gourmet kitchen with its cherry cabinetry and granite countertops.

⌞ The formal dining room is the perfect setting for a happy family gathering.

▼ Views of Lake Belton are majestic from the master bedroom.



families from Sweden, Japan, Korea, and Germany into their home and lives. John invited a recuperating Iraq veteran into the home to pamper; his family soon joined them for a time and became part of the Cooneys' kin.

"We love people," Patsy explains, "so we didn't want to downsize at all. We wanted room for all our friends and family." So the Cooneys approached Thomas Heath and Charles Richardson, owners of Central Texas Designs, to start the design process on the Cooneys' dream home.

"It was easy working with the Cooneys," Heath says. "They knew what they wanted, and all I had to do was bring it together to make it more comfortable for them in the space they needed. The home is

three stories with plenty of space for the many people in the Cooneys' lives."

The three put together a stone-and-stucco exterior that would maximize lake views and brought the plans for the 4,000-square-foot home to Baker Brothers to build. "They were fantastic," Patsy enthuses. "Robert Home Improvements did all the detail work, including the stonework and fencing. It wouldn't be what it is without all of them."

But even with all the space, the Cooneys added plenty of low-maintenance features, such as granite windowsills. "I don't have to worry about the

