

March 17, 2008

Master multi-tasker: Businessman stays busy with racing, homes

For owner of Wellman Custom Homes, Wellman Racing and furniture company, idling in neutral is just not an option

By Dana Knight



Busy guy: Derek Wellman, with dog Zoe, shows off the entrance to his home. Wellman is a home builder, owner of a racing team and co-owner of a furniture store. "No one knows what they want to do," he said. "I worked for many industries, got in and out until I realized what I love." - JERI REICHANADTER / The Star

Derek Wellman

Age: 37.

Owner: Wellman Custom Homes, Wellman Racing; co-owner Bella Chic.

Education: Indiana University, degree in business and finance.

Personal: He and his wife, Amy, have three children: Eli, 6; Ty, 1; and Halle, 2 months.

Derek Wellman put on a suit and went to work after college, but it never felt quite right.

Getting grubby and sweaty as he framed and painted houses was more his style. Kind of ironic how things turn out.

Today, Wellman's passion for that down-and-dirty work has him building million-dollar homes for those other guys in suits.

His building project of choice? High-end custom mansions (of up to 10,000 square feet) featuring indoor waterfalls and elevators, views of golf courses and elaborate outdoor kitchens.

"I was really fooling myself, because building and creating is what I love," said Wellman, 37, who owns Wellman Custom Homes.

His portfolio includes dozens of homes in communities such as Zionsville, Fishers and Geist. His 2001 Home-A-Rama creation received accolades for its three-story interior waterfall. A gourmet kitchen in the same home appeared in Better Homes and Gardens, and Builder's Journal has