

30-love: Cozy yet spacious home won her

Ruth Berkey loves the design of her home and the gardens that surround it.

The previous owners, who sold it to her five years ago, designed a place that she immediately wanted to buy.

"It was turn-key when I bought it," she said. "All I had to do was move in and

maintain it."

Her about 4,000-square-foot home in southeast Grants Pass is a combination of all the best of an arts and crafts style home on the exterior and an elegant lodge inside. Her favorite room is the family room, with its open floor plan that connects it and the dining room, stacked-stone

fireplace and large windows that let in light, and the picturesque garden. But it was the timber-covered ceilings she first noticed.

"I love the ceilings in here," she said. "I love the wood. That is what sold me the house. It makes everything seem so cozy, relaxed and comfortable."

She moved to Grants Pass from Sierra Madre, Calif., in 2005 to be closer to her son and his wife and her five grandchildren. Berkey, who is now retired, worked as a coach at Occidental College in Los Angeles for 20 years, overseeing

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the volleyball and basketball programs. She was hired in 1980 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and charged with creating the first college championships for women's sports at the Division I, II and III levels. She eventually became an assistant executive director, one of the top spots in the NCAA.

These days, she coaches tennis at Hidden Valley High School and is president of the Grants Pass Community Tennis Association. One of her projects is trying

to raise money and support to build an indoor tennis facility.

Berkey's four-bedroom house was the only one she looked at when she moved to Grants Pass five years ago. From the first foot she set inside, she knew she had found her new home.

The original house was built in the 1980s. The previous owners remodeled the house in 2004, taking it down to the studs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Ruth Berkey can enjoy a blaze in the fireplace and views from her couch.



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