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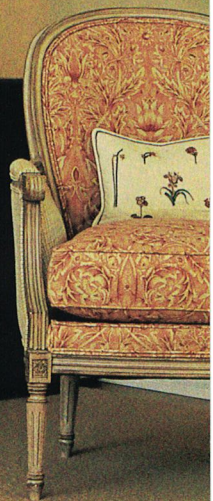
A Spring Lake getaway home appeals to absolutely everyone in the family

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ARCHITECT: JOHN J. LEDERER



PAT AND LIZ BOYLE DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO THE adage "friends welcome, family by appointment." Some of the best times of their lives were spent vacationing at the shore with lots of family members, the couple said. "Pat is one of seven kids, and I am one of four," Liz Boyle explained. So when the Boyles decided to acquire a summer retreat, their favored location was somewhere at the shore. Their major requirement was for a place

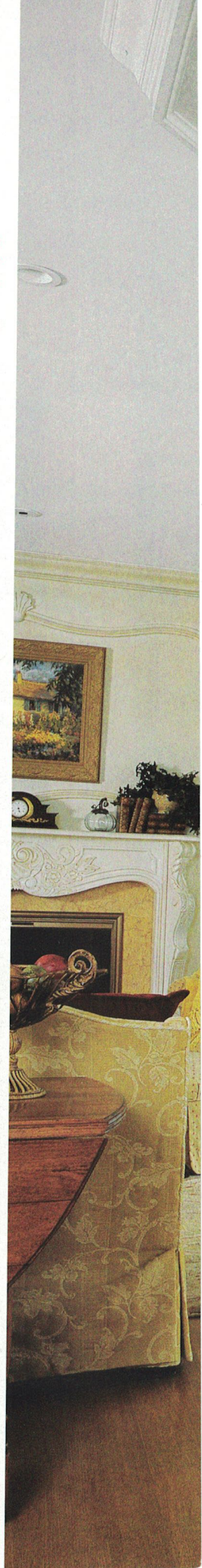


THE SECOND-FLOOR COMMON ROOM is one of Liz Boyle's favorite spaces. "I love seeing the kids lying with their jammies upstairs at the end of the day." The room features turn-of-the-century-style details such as the built-in shelves leading to the guest suite (background) and a window niche. **SOURCES:** millwork, Dovetail Designs in Toms River; design and furnishings, Well-Designed Interiors in Shrewsbury.



"I WANTED the kitchen to be light and airy," says homeowner Liz Boyle, who selected maple cabinets in a buttery finish (left). The island provides contrast with dark cherry on its base. Crackle-finish tiles featuring a dogwood-flower relief comprise the pale backsplash. **SOURCES:** kitchen design, installation, and cabinetry, Leonardis Kitchen Interiors in Morristown; Pratt & Larson tile, Hudson Tile in Philadelphia; cooktop, Viking; farmhouse sink, Shaw; faucet, Concinnity.

■ Cherry cabinets with an antique caramel stain line the butler's pantry (below). Tiles in a French-influenced design are used for the backsplash above the Crystal Gold granite counters. **SOURCES:** design, cabinetry, and installation, Leonardis Kitchen Interiors in Morristown; sink, Kohler; faucet, Herbeau; tiles, Monmouth St. Tile in Red Bank; coffee system (foreground), Miele; window treatment, design by Well-Designed Interiors and fabrication by Fiolek Designs, both in Shrewsbury.





A SPOKE-BEAM CEILING lends drama to the breakfast nook, which connects with the kitchen and family room. SOURCES: window treatment, design by Well-Designed Interiors and fabrication by Fiolek Designs, both in Shrewsbury; built-ins and carved mantel and fireplace surround, Dovetail Designs in Toms River.



YELLOWS, GREENS, and earth tones in the hearth room area rug (above) drove the color scheme for the home's interior. The space is one of many family-friendly spots in the Boyles' 15,000-square-foot vacation home. Opposite the sofa are a gas fireplace and a built-in entertainment unit (not shown). The staircases in the background lead up to another living area called the common room and down to the finished basement. **SOURCES:** design and furnishings, Well-Designed Interiors in Shrewsbury; stairs, G&G Stairs in Howell.

■ Bead-board panels hide an under-counter washer and dryer in the vintage-style laundry. **SOURCES:** design and installation, Penterman Kitchens & Baths in Manasquan; countertops, DuPont Corian Abalone; washer and dryer, Miele.

large enough to accommodate their three young children, huge extended family, and friends. As Pat Boyle put it, "We love the concept of getting three or four families together."

In 2000, the Boyles realized they would have to build from scratch to satisfy their large-scale lodging and entertainment needs. But where would they build? "We looked around quite a bit," said Pat Boyle, who had liked many of the coastal communities where they rented over the years.

Their search ended in Spring Lake, where the couple found a large corner lot one block from the Atlantic. "It's a beautifully kept town and a great community," he said. The easy commute from their main residence in the Princeton area also appealed to them. "Door-to-door, it's about 45 minutes from our other house, [and] any one of our family members can get here in less than an hour."

The Boyles envisioned a Shingle-style house with a shady porch. "We wanted it to look like it had been here for 100 years," the husband said. Finding an architect was easy. The Boyles saw four homes they loved in the Spring Lake area, and all of them were designed by John Lederer of Lederer and Wright Partnership Architects in Bay Head.

Soon after signing up Lederer, an American Institute of Architects member, the couple hired interior designer Suzette Donleavy of Well-Designed Interiors in Shrewsbury. Donleavy would assist with every facet of the project from initial planning to completion.

In their first meeting with the design team, the clients shared a stack of favorite photos clipped from home magazines. The pictures revealed their preference for quality craftsmanship and custom details. "This became my inspiration file," said Donleavy, who also worked on the function and layout of the rooms.

Because a typical family gathering

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EACH OF the Boyles' two daughters has her own room, but the girls like to double their fun by sharing this country-French bedroom (above). Tall wainscoting delivers a period look. Decorative painter Diane Ellison finished the area inside the panels with a crackled finish and a subtle toile design. **SOURCES:** beds, Louis J. Solomon Inc. in Hauppauge, New York (to the trade); custom bedding and décor, Well-Designed Interiors in Shrewsbury; decorative painter, Diane Ellison Faux Finishing in Oceanport.

■ Touches of lavender — such as the glass droplets in the chandelier and other accents — coordinate with the adjacent girls' bedroom, one of 10 in the house. **SOURCES:** custom cabinets, Dovetail Designs in Toms River; tile, Artistic Tile in Shrewsbury.



would consist of about 25 people, Liz Boyle requested several living areas where people could unwind. Many rooms would be designated for child and adult recreation. And her husband had his own requests: for an English-style pub, a theater, and a library.

Lederer came up with plans for a rambling 15,000-square-foot house with classic features: cedar shingles, a hip and gabled roofline, copper gutters, and a porch bookended by gazebo-like pavilions. In addition, the architect designed a guest suite over the three-car garage; this suite connects to the main house by a second-floor enclosed hallway that serves as a bridge to the main house. To satisfy the homeowners' outdoor entertaining needs, Lederer also carved out space beside the garage for a built-in bar plus a bathroom and shower for beachgoers.

Inside the house, a two-story foyer with twin stairways opens to a family room and adjacent kitchen. Lederer explained the backbone of his open layout is a "central gallery or open corridor" with rooms positioned along its perimeter. The western end contains a formal living room, bar/game room, and step-down study. A formal dining space and a hearth room with a 20-foot ceiling and windowed wall occupy the eastern end.

Stairs lead from the hearth room to another gathering space on the second floor called the common room. This area intersects with the guest suite and five additional bedrooms. To maximize the sleeping potential, the homeowners also would use the attic as a nautical-theme bunk room, where every nook and cranny would include space-saving built-in dressers along with bunk and trundle beds.

With a year of planning behind them and final blueprints in hand, the Boyles were ready to break ground. Rick Hall, owner of Richard R. Hall Custom Homes LLC in Brick, led the construction process, which



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High-Tech Toys

HOMEOWNER PAT BOYLE ENVISIONED AN "OLD beach house look" for the vacation home, but gave one caveat: The inside would contain state-of-the-art technology.

"I got everyone on board early" with the concept of incorporating a whole-house Crestron automation system into the new home. The touch of a button would control everything: security devices, lights, thermostats, appliances, gas fireplaces, and audio systems.

A Lutron illumination system, with control panels, also offers a range of lighting environments as well as an all-off button. "We can turn off lights from anywhere in the house," Boyle said.

The homeowners can manage the systems from three control screens in the house; one of them is

located in a kitchen command center.

In addition, "every major room has a small LCD touch screen to control the lighting and the in-house audio systems," which can hold 700 compact discs, Boyle said. "We have the oddest collection of music," he added as a postscript. It spans the generations, ranging from classic Broadway tunes to the rock songs teenagers would enjoy.

One of his favorite high-tech gadgets, however, is the digital camera. "I love to put the digital photos of family members into a slide show, so every time they come, they're reminded of their last visit."

SOURCES: Lutron lighting system, R.F. Romano Enterprises in Branchburg; Crestron home automation system, Home Entertainment Systems in Matawan.

THE COFFERED CEILING in the English-style pub/game room (opposite) conceals speakers, and a 60-inch plasma screen rises from the bar in front of the stained-glass Boyle family crest. The crests of other names within the family adorn the glittering windows. **SOURCES:** millwork, W.F. Sherman & Sons in Manasquan; wood finishing, Gulotta & Gallante Finishes in Long Branch; stained glass, Bissey Glass in Point Pleasant; furnishings/accessories, Well-Designed Interiors in Shrewsbury.

■ The kids love to hang out in the basement (right and below), which contains a rumpus room complete with a padded floor, performance stage, mirrored doll room, and pinball arcade. Also occupying space down below is a desk area stocked with arts and crafts supplies, a video-game center, and a 12-seat home theater. "There is something for everyone," Pat Boyle says.





THE FINISHED ATTIC — coveted by kids for overnight visits — resembles a ship's sleeping quarters. The door for the "head" has a frosted porthole window with its curves echoed in the rounded door. The bunk-bed set, made of mahogany and bead-board, was custom-built on the site. **SOURCES:** millwork, Richard R. Hall Custom Homes LLC in Brick; antique Japanese fishing float (on floor at foot of bed), Recycling the Past in Barnegat.

■ A corner alcove in the attic bunk room makes an ideal reading spot. **SOURCE:** some nautical accents, Authentic Models in Anderson, South Carolina.

had a two-year deadline. Hall had worked with the architect on other large-scale projects.

Given the home's size and details, the Boyles hired four millwork companies to break up the lead time, allowing the work to be executed simultaneously. Among the projects were built-ins in almost every room, intricate ceilings, a cherry-paneled library, a white-oak paneled game room/pub, and hand-carved mantels for five gas fireplaces. Designers from two kitchen companies assisted with plans for the main kitchen, butler's pantry, and laundry room.

During construction, the Boyles often set aside 15 to 20 hours a week to review colors, fixtures, fabrics, and furnishings with Donleavy. "We had to be decisive" because of the two-year timeline, Liz Boyle said.

The comfort factor determined many of the homeowners' choices. "We wanted the interior to be comfortable and inviting, designed to be lived in, with no space off-limits," Liz Boyle said. As a result, every room has plush seating arrangements in textures from leather to chenille. White-oak floors are fuss-free in the main living areas.

Donleavy describes the traditional setting as "casually elegant" with country-French influences. "We did not want to do over-the-top nautical references," the designer said, although the attic bunk room mimics a ship's sleeping quarters.

Elsewhere, the maritime theme was subtle and classic. Examples include the stylized compass motif inlaid in the foyer's marble floor and paintings of old-fashioned beach scenes by Bay Head artist Dick LaBonte.

Family elements also hold prominent roles in the décor. Oil portraits of the couple's children by local artist Donna Ayres hang in the living room. The Boyle family crest, executed in a stained-glass panel, hangs above the bar in the first-floor game room. "I wanted to personalize the

space," Pat Boyle explained. He commissioned four other family crests — including his wife's maiden name, Carrigan — in stained-glass windows along the room's north wall.

The hearth room's rug, which contains yellow (the wife's favorite color), greens, and earth tones, set the color scheme for the house. Donleavy introduced jewel tones primarily in rooms where dark panel-

ing called for stronger colors, such as in the cherry-paneled library or in the dark pub.

Not surprisingly, Liz Boyle was drawn to the butter-chiffon finish on the vintage-style cabinetry in the kitchen, a room she wanted bright. "I cook a lot," so the kitchen had to be pretty and functional. Its combination of high-powered appliances includes a six-burner cooktop that



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LUCKY, the family's Brittany spaniel, relaxes on the mahogany deck (above). Behind the stainless-steel grill (at left in background) is the built-in bar, referred to as Pat's Pub, which occupies space beneath the guest suite. The bar-and-barbecue area has a sink, refrigerator, ice-maker, dishwasher, and TV. "We love to barbecue," says homeowner Pat Boyle, who can cook about 30 burgers simultaneously on the 53-inch stainless-steel grill. **SOURCE:** bar, Dovetail Designs in Toms River.

■ An arched breezeway (right) is an interesting and functional structure. It connects the main area of the house (at left in photo) with the guest suite over the garage (at right). The brick path leads to the rear courtyard. **SOURCE:** fence, Walpole Woodworkers in Morris Plains.



THE SHINGLE-STYLE HOME (right) suits the seaside vernacular with cedar siding plus a hip-and-gabled roofline. Additional time-honored touches include copper gutters and a columned porch with circular pavilions. **SOURCES:** architecture, Lederer & Wright Partnership Architects in Bay Head; builder, Richard R. Hall Custom Homes LLC in Brick; shingle stain, Cabot's Cape Cod Grey.

lets her "whip up pancakes for a crowd quickly."

Pat Boyle gets more fired up talking about other parts of the house. "We lose all the kids to the basement," where the attractions range from a video-game arcade to a performance stage. There's also a 12-seat wide-projection-screen theater complete with a popcorn machine, ticket booth, and snack bar.

If the theater show doesn't float a person's boat, he or she can watch one of the 22 televisions in the



house. There's even a TV outside in the built-in bar called Pat's Pub. "As much as I wanted a TV in every room, I didn't want them visible," Boyle said, so he made sure the TV screens — even 60-inch ones — were installed to pop up or disappear with ease.

In contending with all these precision custom details, did the team

of designers and artisans make that two-year deadline? Yes. The Boyles enjoyed their first summer vacation there in 2003.

But they weren't the first ones on the scene. "Some of our relatives actually arrived before us with their suitcases," Pat Boyle said with a hearty laugh. ■

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