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FALLING in love again

An addition breathes new life into an older home

Built-in cabinets with custom leaded-glass doors flank the gas fireplace in the new family room. "It's a really peaceful room with great light," the homeowner says. "We hang out there day and night." Interior Designer Suzette Donleavy introduced a contemporary metal table by Barbara Barry (far left) to mimic the pattern on the doors in a way that's not overpowering.

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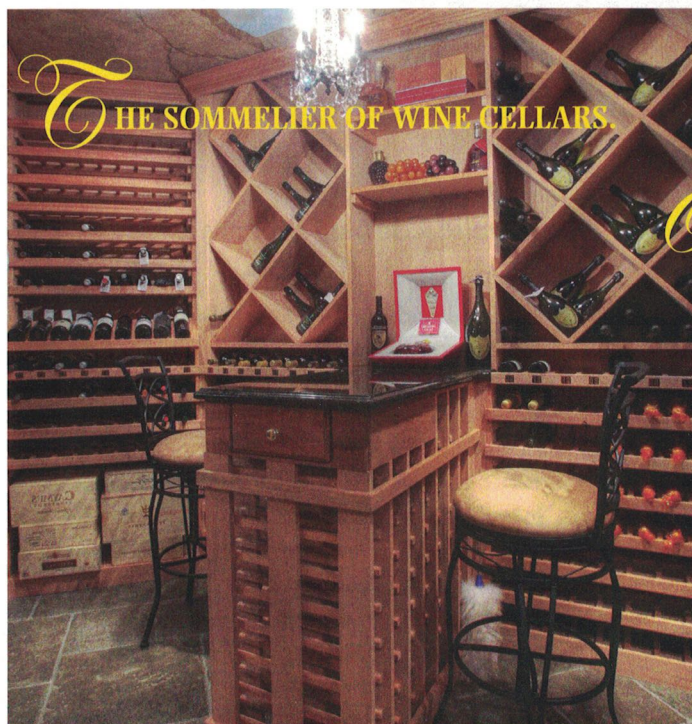
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The architect was Jeremiah J. Regan of Long Branch, a member of the American Institute of Architects. "Because of the shape of the house and the property, the only place to put the addition was in the front of the house," a center-hall colonial-style with clapboard siding. "The idea was to make the addition look like part of the original house." The addition is seamless and the rooms flow naturally.

From a design perspective, the homeowners had a good sense of what they wanted, from the color palette of soft blues and yellows to the architectural elements and built-in cabinetry. That keen eye was inspired by the homeowner's art background and augmented with a file of magazine clippings.

Turns out Suzette Donleavy of Well-Designed Interiors LLC in Shrewsbury had a thick file of her own, with a similar collection of pictures. "I have specific tastes and know what I like," the homeowner says. "I was wary about a decorator making it look like her house. But Suzette totally got my sensibility. I didn't need a designer to pick things out, but to help me avoid making mistakes in furniture placement and scale."



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ARCHITECT: JEREMIAH J. REGAN, AIA

A gallery with detailed millwork connects the addition to the original home. It contains a recessed area with a bar where the homeowners display their china collection.



For one Brielle couple, there was **a lot to love** about their 60-year-old home.

Plenty of character, an abundance of charm. But after 16 years, it wasn't what the four-bedroom house had but what it lacked that got to them: a dearth of closet space and the absence of a spacious family room. Their solution was to start combing real estate ads for something larger.

Turns out the home they wound up falling in love with was their own. "Every time we looked to move, we would come home and say, 'We didn't see anything we liked as much as this house,'" the homeowner says. "It's a great house. We just wanted to enhance the space."

Natural Flow

In May 2006, the empty-nesters began work on a two-story addition that would comprise a great room and gallery on the first floor and an expanded master bedroom suite with a walk-in closet on the second floor. They moved to temporary quarters during the renovation, returning when it was completed a year later.