

Summer Breeze

by Julie Craven Wagner
Photography by Mike Crane

A new home on Lewis Bay provides
peace and respite for a family on the go.



*See the curtains hangin'
in the window
In the evening on a
Friday night
A little light a-shinin'
through the window
Lets me know everything's
all right.
Summer breeze makes
me feel fine
Blowin' through the
jasmine in my mind...*

-Seals & Croft

For homeowners Paul and Lori, time spent on the Cape has always meant family, fun and relaxation from a busy, full life. Lori's sister had settled with her own family in a quiet West Yarmouth neighborhood just steps away from bustling Lewis Bay. "We would escape to the Cape any chance we got, and bunk in with my sister," says Lori, who due to her husband Paul's busy work demands, has called several states around the country "home" at one point or another. "And our kids couldn't wait to get over the bridge. When we are here, the rest of the world is very far away." When an out-of-date home just around the corner from Lori's sister came on the market in 2019, the couple met with architect Peter McDonald, AIA, principal of Peter McDonald Associates in Eastham, (who had previously worked with Lori's sister and brother-in-law) to devise a plan for a newly built

structure. An introduction to Brewster's Cape Dreams Building and Design brought Allen Furman, the company's vice president, to the project.

"The lot was pretty small, but we knew we wanted to take advantage of the incredible view opportunities, so our design discussions focused on second story living," Lori explains. McDonald fashioned a traditionally-inspired two-story Cape with a welcoming front entrance that greets visitors to the spacious first floor foyer with quarter-sawn Sawyer Mason oak flooring, and 10-foot ceilings. Two guest rooms reserved for Lori and Paul's children are accessible on the lower level, as well as a full bath which showcases just some of the bespoke tile choices (sourced at Cloutier Supply Company in Hyannis,) found throughout the home. Finally, a lounge area at the end





of the center hall provides extra sleeping options for guests, or serves as a place to chill after a day on the beach, or a place to catch Sunday's football line-up.

Adjacent to a small alcove, which features a sublime chest where keys, mail and sunglasses often find a landing spot, a winding stairwell, wrapped in shiplap, leads to the second floor where all the magic happens. Upon arriving at the top landing of the stairwell, a bright, open expanse of living, dining and kitchen spools out with 180-degree views of Lewis Bay, Hyannis Harbor and Great Island beyond. To the right, the kitchen with an over-sized galley layout, revolves around a long quartz-topped island. At the far end of the kitchen, a modest L-shaped pantry can be closed off with a pocket door, but an inviting shade of blue that covers the walls begs not to be closed off from the

action. The quartz countertops throughout, fabricated and installed by Cape Cod Marble and Granite, top simple and unfussy white cabinetry provided by Kitchen Port in Orleans. White kitchens continue to be the favorite for today's homeowners, but as Dean Sarrasin, owner of Kitchen Port says about this kitchen, the clean, sleek style just nails it. "These homeowners were such a delight to work with, truly some of the most easy-going and nice people, but also just great taste," he recalls. "Lori is that perfect client, in that after you have spent time understanding her style, and how they live, you give her three choices and she will decide on one."

That sentiment is echoed by Cathy Kert, of Cathy Kert Interiors, who had a hand in much of the cohesive design of the second floor's easy charm. "Lori and Paul made this

job so special, not because of how effortlessly we all worked together, but because they are just really nice and really fun," Kert explains. "They are the kind of couple you want in your friend circle."

Furman also repeats the prevailing sentiment about the special bond every member of this project experienced. "It was just one of those projects where everyone liked each other, communicated well, and collaborated even better, and I think it is reflected in how well the home has turned out." Furman says he can instantly see in his mind's eye how a design can take shape in almost any environment. But communicating what he sees internally can be difficult for many homeowners or even other professionals to envision. "But with a just about a half hour of effort, I can create a fully accessible three-dimensional design that allows you to virtually enter the space, look around and





*Sweet days of summer,
the jasmine's in bloom
July is dressed up and
playing her tune
And I come home
from a hard day's work
And you're
waiting there
Not a care in
the world*



feel how things will look and perform,” he explains.

That is exactly what he did when it came to the uniquely designed fireplace and tile-wrapped firebox and chimney. “Paul mentioned that he wanted a linear gas fireplace, but I looked at the design and it was pretty traditional, and would not have accommodated the width of the gas insert he wanted,” Furman recalls. “So, I adjusted the design, which required slightly changing the ceiling beams, and I am a fairly symmetrical person, so it has to be just right. And when I presented the newly mocked-up computer design to Paul and Lori, we were able to work through any questions or concerns.” The result is a captivating focal point in the living room, as it shares the stage with the never-ending water view this special perch affords.

In the living room, Kert chose a comfortable sectional and swivel chairs from Fresh Interiors in

Dennis, so guests can gather around a spacious coffee table, and punctuated the space with pops of muted color in pillows and a rug, all from her CKI line of products. A long bank of built-in cabinetry (also from Kitchen Port) is made festive and inviting due to an iridescent, fish tile, thus creating an alluring bar space when friends and family gather together. A jewel box of a guest bath with an ethereal wallpaper chosen by Kert draws people in if only to wash their hands or check their visage.

Off the living area, the primary ensuite features a sumptuous Modern History Maui bed crowned with fine linens, flanked by two bedside chests and a gold-flecked cowhide on the floor. A fresh blue and white wallpaper from Kert’s CKI collection keeps the room fresh and bright. Morning moments, as sleepy eyes struggle to focus, the sun dancing just beyond the windows can be glimpsed as



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*See the smile awaitin'
in the kitchen*

*Through cookin' and
the plates for two*

*Feel the arms that
reach out to hold me*

*In the evening when
the day is through*

*Summer breeze makes
me feel fine*

thousands of diamonds reflect off the bay. A bold master bath with Moroccan influences in tones of black and white sets the stage for serious spa indulgence. Also off the suite, a narrow walk-in closet, designed and installed by Expert Closets in Yarmouth, serves as a pass through to Paul's hidden office that was a last minute inspiration on the project.

"That area was really just dead space," Furman explains. "And Paul asked if there was any way to carve out a place for a small office so he could still get some work done while he was on the Cape. We added skylights to make it feel less like an attic eave space, and to open it up just a bit more, we installed a porthole window that opens in the stairwell. Especially when it is open, it allows him to be



part of what is happening in the living room as well as glimpse the beach beyond. But when it isn't open, the one-way mirror we put in it, allows him to see out, but no one can see into his office."

Furman kept to a tight timeline and was able to get the family in the home in just under 10 months. After enduring the construction phase through the end of 2020 and

into 2021, Paul and Lori finally moved in last fall—really moved in. "We ended up selling our house in Connecticut, so while this was ultimately intended to be our retirement home, we are here now," Lori explains. Lori, who works as a dental hygienist, was able to find a position easily on the Cape, and Paul still travels regularly. Now home has a water view, a floor plan they were completely involved in creating, and is just around the corner from Lori's sister's family. And for those days in retirement down the road, McDonald's plan, and Cape Dreams' construction has reserved a space off the entry for a future elevator. The future is only up from here! 🏠

Julie Craven Wagner is the editor of Cape Cod HOME.

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