



A CAPE CORAL HOME THAT FLOATS THEIR BOAT

After finding the ideal place to park their vessels, Tim and Fran Maguire couldn't wait to build there ike many snowbirds, Tim and
Fran Maguire came to Southwest
Florida not only to escape the
long, harsh winters up North, but
to live life differently than they
do at home in Ithaca, N.Y. There, they own a
lakefront home and six car dealerships. Here,
they wanted a place where they could get
away from it all.

They found it in southwest Cape Coral. With 155 feet of Gulf-access frontage, the

Maguires' recently completed custom home contains 3,400 square feet of air-conditioned space and an additional 1,200 square feet of outdoor living area. There are four bedrooms (including two master suites), 31/2 bathrooms, an office, indoor and outdoor kitchens, and a sizable pool with a built-in spa.

There's also dockage with lifts for their two boats (a 45-foot Tiara and a 24-foot Regal), and plenty of room for their Jet Ski, kayak and more.

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hat's pretty impressive considering the owners didn't purchase the property for immediate development.

"We liked the lot because it was at the end of a cul-de-sac and it had a dock, so we could move the boat down (from New York) and keep it here," says Fran. "The original plan was not to build a house right away."

Then Tim got the itch to build.

"I've always loved boating," says Tim, who has traveled the waterways "from Ithaca to West Palm Beach" with Fran, his wife of 44 years. The couple grew up in a small town near Ithaca and attended the same school, where they were in the same class.

"It was the largest class they ever had — 55 students. So we got to know each other," says Tim with a chuckle.

With four grown children, eight grandchildren and thoughts of retiring in a few years, 67-year-old Tim and 66-year-old Fran wanted a second home that the entire family could enjoy. Even though they weren't looking for anything especially elaborate or large, they felt compelled to build when they couldn't find what they wanted.

"We wanted it to be very nice — like going to a resort," says Tim. "First and foremost, we wanted someplace where we could put the kids. We could potentially have 16 people here at the same time, so we wanted the space to flow, with the doors opening to the outside and the water. Typical Florida."

They hired Hayden Volz of Cape Coral-based Cinnamon Design to draw up plans for their home and Mike Gargiula of Fort Myers—based Gargiula Construction to build it. Interior designers Joan Lamb and Karen Benson completed the team.

Lamb is Tim's cousin and the owner of Joan Lamb Design on Park Avenue in New York City. Benson owns Benson & Associates Interior Design in Fort Myers.

An exercise in precision

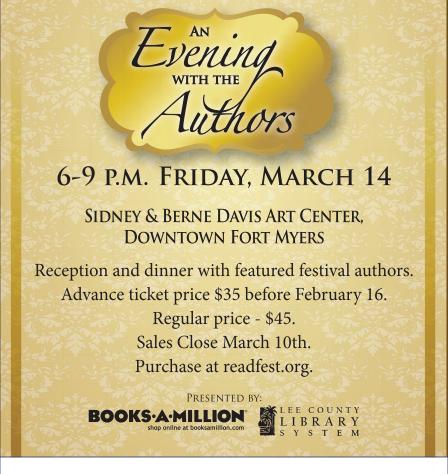
Hayden designed the first floor of the home with a central, somewhat linear living room/kitchen/dining space flanked by two master suites. Both suites open to a private patio and the pool beyond, and provide easy access to the dock. However, each is uniquely designed to maximize the interior angles and unconventional spaces associated with the odd-shaped lot.

Top: Sculptural glass plates by local artist Tim Miller provide a striking backdrop for homeowners Tim and Fran Maguire. Interior designer Karen Benson searched extensively to find the plates and wood benches below specifically to suit that spot. • Bottom: A metallic silver finish on the living room's coffered, cypress beadboard ceiling was designer Joan Lamb's way to add overhead pizazz. • Facing page: With the home's neutral palette, the use of various textures and finishes in the living room turns sterile square footage into stunning space. Tongue-and groove walls, Henredon seating and a fireplace with a white glass surround combine to create a contemporary coastal cottage look.









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here are two smaller guest rooms on the second floor, one of which has bunk beds for visiting youngsters. A Jack-and-Jill bathroom connects the two rooms, which also share a waterfront balcony. At night, the view of Tarpon Point is stunning.

Building the home, which the Maguires admit "fills up the lot," was an exercise in precision for contractor Gargiula. "The most significant challenge was working within the specific setbacks, which we had to be very aware of during the design and construction," says Mike. "There was no margin for error."

He also had to ensure that the mechanical and decorative elements worked in harmony. "The more intricate (the project) is, the more challenging it is to tie it all together," he adds. "This home features many of the finer details we include in much larger homes," as well as specialty materials such as Shell Lock seashell pavers around the pool. "But the trim work and finishes are what make it exceptional."

For example, because of the walls' rounded corners, Mike used transitional blocking at the bottom to accommodate the baseboard. "It's a more detailed approach vs. using a rounded baseboard," he savs.

Above: The master suite is a peaceful retreat in shades of blue. An oversized botanical

lounge. Panel moldings with grass cloth inserts frame the Kravet king-sized bed, fully

upholstered in royal blue velvet. • Top right: The lanai is stylishly designed for fun and

family, with an outdoor kitchen and white glass-topped table with seating for six. The

repelling misting system in the yard. • Bottom right: The Maguire home was designed

by Architect Hayden Volz of Cinnamon Design to maximize the site's pie-shaped

configuration. Builder Mike Gargiula says the timeless style is unique and that the

homeowners "are both fabulous. Having them on site was always constructive."

outdoor living areas stay bug-free, thanks to a retractable lanai screen and a mosquito-

print and upholstered chair and ottoman help define the perfect place to read or

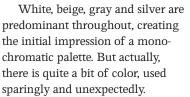
Mike and Karen collaborated on other finishing touches, including the use of tongue-and-groove paneling in the living room and wood beams in the kitchen. Karen says that while the paneling gives the living room a "coastal cottage" look, the beams add character and texture to the long, deep kitchen's expansive ceiling. It was Joan's idea to apply a silver finish to the decorative columns and numerous beadboard tray ceilings throughout, giving each room a subtle sparkle.

Loving the beach look

Early on, the Maguires were clear in expressing their preferences. "We wanted it to look like a beach house," says Tim. That meant avoiding any and all elements that looked heavy, dark or traditional, including a formal dining room and travertine floors.

"When we were looking at homes initially, every house seemed to have travertine floors," says Fran. "We wanted something different; something light and very simple that would blend with our outdoor furnishings." Ultimately, they used polished porcelain white tile floors with buff and gray veining in the main living space, and 8-inch, wood plank flooring with a gray glaze in the bedrooms, hallways and staircase.





"I think that neutral palette makes the color pop," says Karen, who employed various shades of blue, green, yellow and turquoise, mainly in artwork and other decorative accents, to reflect the waterfront setting. Stronger colors, such as persimmon, were used with restraint.

In designing the interior, Karen and Joan worked together without ever meeting, which Karen says was a first for her.

"Joan had already picked out some of the fabrics, floor and accent tiles and finishes. I loved them all and didn't want to change the feel that she had started," says

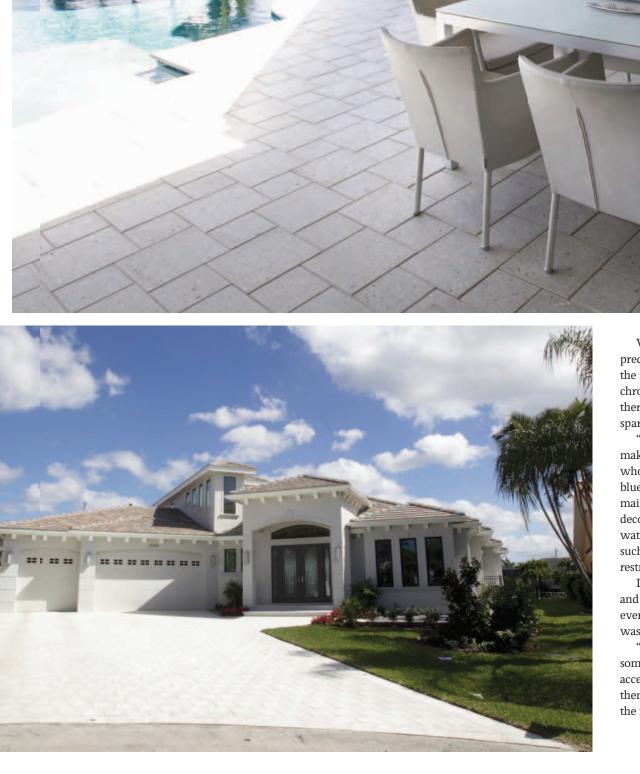
Karen. "So I'd add my samples to hers, with fabrics and materials. She was a joy to work with."

Typically, Fran let the designers work out many of the design details with Tim, who was often on site. In the year it took to build the home, he spent about 10 days a month living on his boat so that he could monitor the progress. Only a few tweaks were made along the way, mostly architectural and decorative additions to enhance the home.

Because the Maguires only moved in in January, they're still refining the space to make it their own. But they have nothing but praise for the team that brought their ideas to life.

"I'm very happy with what they did for us," says Tim.

"It was a fun project," adds Mike. "We built the perfect house for them."



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