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Handcrafted from stone, wood and glass,
a luxurious custom home on the water near Annapolis
plays up nature's drama

BY SHARON JAEFF DAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BURROUGHS



The home (opposite) conveys a Rocky Mountain vibe with its stone, mahogany and glass façade and copper and slate roofs. Built into the great room's stone wall (this page), a work of art the owners acquired in Aspen slides apart to reveal a TV. The triple fireplace is capped with three massive mantel stones quarried in New York.

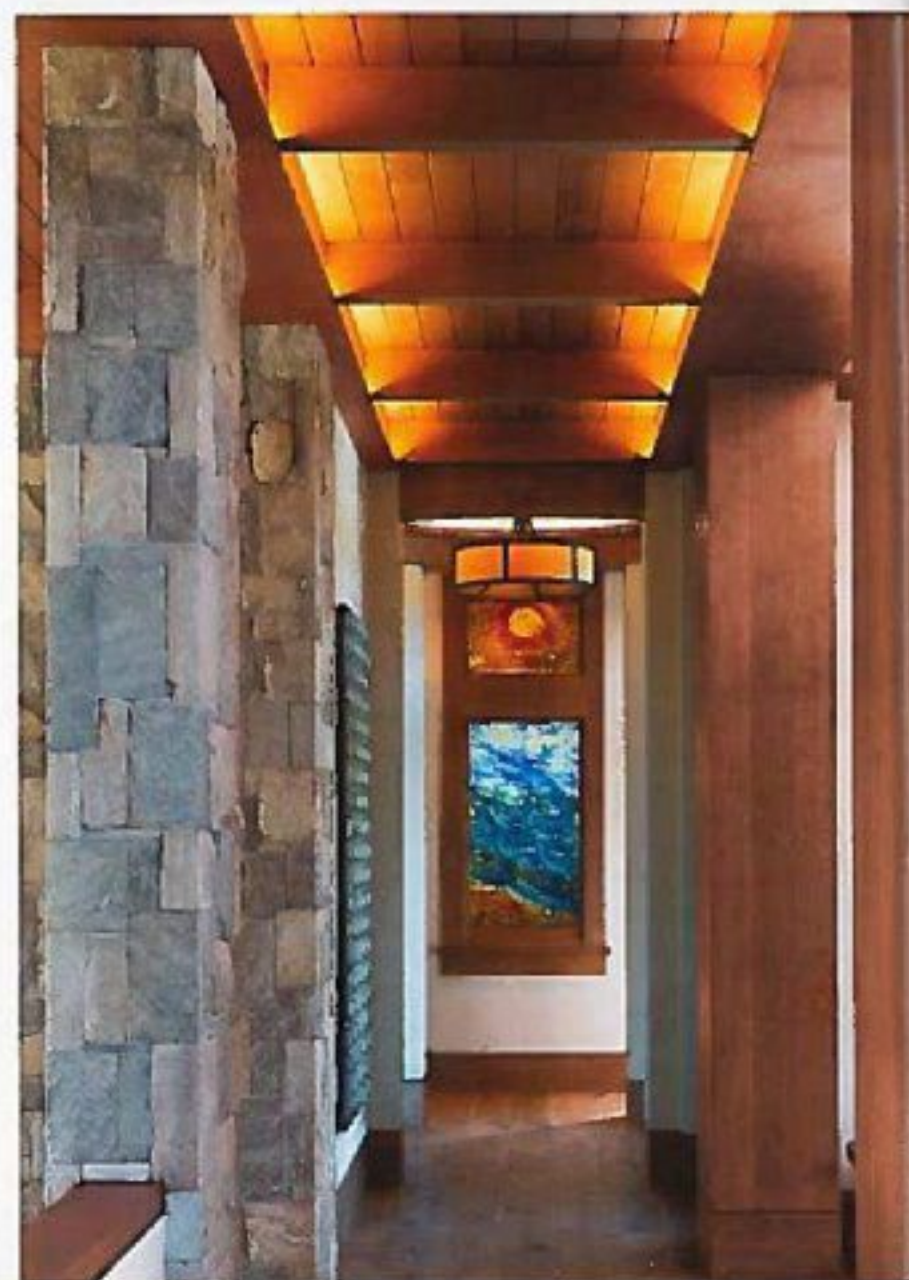


Wayne Andersen has long been an architecture buff and admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright. So it should come as no surprise that the physician, author and co-founder of Take Shape For Life, a healthy living program, had a few ideas of his own when he set out to build a new home near Annapolis to share with wife Lori and their two teenage daughters. "We love the water and are avid sailors," says Andersen, who owns a 54-foot yacht. "It was my dream to keep the boat at my house."

After a long search, the Andersens finally came across a three-and-a-half-acre parcel located next to a working winery on Harness Creek, a Chesapeake Bay tributary. "The lot was perfect; it's on a protected creek and looks across to a nature preserve," says architect Cathy Purple Cherry, who showed the property to the couple with a mutual friend in real estate. "What Wayne was most excited about was that he could see the water and the vineyard at the same time."

The Andersens hired Purple Cherry—an expert in critical area building—to design a residence that could host company events as well as be a magnet where their daughters' friends "would want to come over and be with us rather than going out," explains

ARCHITECTURE: CATHY PURPLE CHERRY, AIA, LEED AP, Purple Cherry Architects, Annapolis, Maryland. INTERIOR DESIGN: ARLENE CRITZOS, principal, CATHERINE BELKOV, Interior Concepts, Annapolis, Maryland. BUILDER: BRET ANDERSON, principal; HERB SEVERN and JAMES GUERCIO, project managers, Pyramid Builders, Annapolis, Maryland. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: KEVIN CAMPION, ASLA, Campion Hruby Landscape Architects, Annapolis, Maryland.



An inviting entry hall (opposite, bottom) connects spaces on the main level. The open great room/dining/kitchen area offers views of the landscape and creek beyond (opposite, top). In the kitchen (this page), kitchen designer Jani Zimmerman collaborated with the team to select stacked-stone backsplash tile and a custom hood made of cast stone with pewter trim. Foot-worn walnut floors pave the interiors.

"Wayne hoped that ... the 'wow' views of the water and land would be more powerful than the structure itself." —CATHY PURPLE CHERRY



A Nanawall seamlessly opens a 16-foot expanse from the kitchen out to a large screened porch. Architect Cathy Purple Cherry ensured the space would have ample room for both dining and relaxing with guests. Infrared heaters built into the transoms extend use of the porch into the cooler months.



A seating area on the stone terrace (above) beckons family and friends; an abstract metal sculpture is set within the firepit. Steps lead to the lawn over a bank planted with Green Mountain boxwood, little spires and Rose Creek Abelia (opposite, top). Opening to the small terrace on the far right of the home, Wayne Andersen's office (far right) features a conference area with custom Douglas fir built-ins and full video-conferencing capabilities. Cathy Purple Cherry angled the study's masonry wall (right)—crafted from handpicked stones—so that Andersen can view the fireplace and the water vista from his desk.



Andersen. To realize the vision, he and Purple Cherry assembled an experienced team that included Bret Anderson of Pyramid Builders, interior designer Arlene Critzos of Interior Concepts and Kevin Campion of Campion Hruby Landscape Architects.

Andersen wanted the residence to embrace Frank Lloyd Wright's tenet that a structure should be in harmony with its surroundings. "Wayne hoped that when you approached the house, it would seem as though it grew out of the ground, and when you walked into it, that the 'wow' views of the water and land would be more powerful than the structure itself," Purple Cherry explains. This concept drove everything from the architectural plans to the organic material palette to the interior design.

Christened "Aqua Terra" by Andersen, the completed three-level, 10,000-square-foot house salutes the outdoors with a seamless marriage of interior and exterior spaces. Like Mother Nature, it also displays dramatic wonders of its own. Consider the floating, three-story staircase engineered from glass, steel and wood. Or the mahogany wine cellar and indoor resistance pool on the lower level. Or the three-part fireplace topped with mantel stones that weigh as much as a small car. Artwork and fossils collected by the Andersens on their travels were built into walls, niches and custom furniture.

With such a high level of detail and craftsmanship, the project mobilized scores of tradespeople. "The talent organized for this job was incredible," says Pyramid's Bret Anderson. "Even though we employ 50 of our own full-time craftsmen, we had to draw on additional resources. There were days when we had 30 carpenters here along with 20 masons."

With construction underway, the design team planned the



Designer Arlene Critzos drew inspiration for the main-level guest suite from a slab of granite hung like a work of art above the bed (left). "It is a very vivid and alive stone that almost looked like tree bark and greenery," she marvels. In the guest bath, exotic Rain Forest granite frames the entry into the dual bath-shower (below) and a floating vanity (bottom) reinforces the room's sense of luxury.



A dramatic floating staircase with vineyard views (below) leads to three second-floor bedrooms, plus a study for the girls. In the master suite (clockwise from right), a sitting area with a fireplace beckons; the master bath features a barrel-vaulted ceiling with cove lighting centered on a custom vanity; the tub enjoys vineyard views; the shower is tiled in Crema Marfil marble; and the bedroom, with its own tiled fireplace, overlooks the dock below. All operable windows in the home are equipped with recessed automated shades and pull-down screens.



interiors. "This house is an example of how interior design should be the background to strong architecture," designer Arlene Critzos observes. "The wood, the stone and all of the interior finishes told the story, and we filled in with pieces that would salute those selections but not take over. When we brought in color, it was the color of water, wind or earth—all the elements around us."

Kevin Campion's landscape program divides the property into four alluring gardens. There are meadows and rain gardens, a pool garden with a pavilion and a waterfront garden that brims with native grasses.

Since moving into the home in August, the Andersens have hosted two successful company summits with 150 attendees (Lori, a registered nurse, also works for Take Shape for Life). They find the house to be an ideal workplace. "It immediately puts people in a fluid, flexible, creative environment with the water and the sunlight coming through," Andersen marvels.

The Andersens have also enjoyed family time indoors and out—and as they'd hoped, their daughters' friends love to visit. Though the house boasts every luxury imaginable, it's the surroundings that Wayne Andersen seems to appreciate most. "We wake up and can see mist coming off the water or bald eagles fishing," he says. "Then we walk down the hall and see the vineyards. You're caught in awe of how incredibly gorgeous it is, and I feel so blessed." ♦

Photographer David Burroughs is based in Annapolis.

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