

NEW JERSEY'S HOME & DESIGN MAGAZINE

design NJ

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008

Welcome Fall!

Warming up a Morris County home

dining room ideas
you can use

decorative
painting options

how to plan
window treatments

\$4.95 US



under

ONE ROOF



COURTESY OF MONETTI CUSTOM BUILDERS

Three generations share seawater in their blood

WRITER: IYNA BORT CARUSO

PHOTOGRAPHER: PATRICIA BURKE

DESIGNER: TOM VINGES


BUILDER: ROBERT MONETTI

"In our hearts, we always knew we'd have a home by the water," Karen Kacani says. "It's not summer if we're not on the beach."

But the recently constructed Seaside Park home that's become a multigenerational sanctuary for the Kacani family almost didn't happen. Karen and her husband, Tim, live in Metuchen and had been looking for a summer home at the shore when they spotted a small bungalow in a perfect location — across from the Fifth Avenue Pier on Barnegat Bay. While they were thinking about it, however, someone else bought it. Fate somehow stepped in, and a year later the bungalow was back on the market. "We scooped it up."

Above: The Kacani/Mark home in Seaside Park. Builder Robert Monetti chose materials that reduce sound transmissions through the floors of the three-generation home.



A second-story living room with ocean-themed decor. The walls are painted in shades of blue and aqua. A large window on the left has a woven blind. A glass door in the center provides a view of a balcony. A blue sofa with patterned pillows and a fringed blanket is on the right. A round wooden side table holds a vase of greenery. A round porthole window is on the right wall. A wicker chair with a striped cushion is on the left. A coffee table in the foreground holds a blue vase with greenery and a dark ceramic object.

The Kacanis painted their Seaside Park home in ocean hues of blue and aqua. The family congregates in this second-story living room.





Tim Kacani recalls. "We didn't want to miss it twice."

The couple both summered at their parents' homes in the area while growing up, and they wanted to give their own three children those same magical memories. Their second-home plans wound up becoming a more-the-merrier adventure. Karen Kacani's parents, Matt and Terry Mark, dreamed of retiring in Seaside Park, and so the

idea of a mother-daughter home was born.

From the start, the bungalow was a temporary stop en route to the real goal of a residence that could comfortably accommodate the two families, two dogs, and countless visitors. "We always looked for the right location. It was more important than the house — we knew we could always change the house," Karen Kacani says. After spend-

Opposite page: "Every breakfast, lunch, and dinner is cooked in this kitchen," Karen Kacani says. And occasionally it's fresh fish, crabs, or oysters one of the Kacanis' three kids caught off the Fifth Avenue Pier on Barnegat Bay. Off-white cabinetry and light blonde wood floors create the light aesthetic the Kacanis wanted for their vacation home. **Above:** The front porch that overlooks the bay is the most coveted space in the house. "There's always a breeze, it's always comfortable," Kacani says. "We start with coffee in morning and end with coffee at night."

The master bedroom suite is located on the third floor of the home. The idea for incorporating exposed beams came from builder Robert L. Monetti. "It makes the room feel cozy and inviting, less like a new house," Tim Kacani says.



Daughters Kate, 16, and Kelly, 8, share this bedroom at their summer home. They helped pick out the furniture and paint color. A Jack-and-Jill bathroom connects to brother Brendan's bedroom.



ing just one summer in the bungalow, the Kacanis had it torn down and then started over.

Robert Monetti, whose firm is Monetti Custom Builders in Brielle, was brought onto the project. He describes the new house as classic Eastern Shore architecture, marked by cedar-shake siding, copper accents, and lots of covered porches. "The screened-in porches are incredible assets to the house. They're bonus living areas," he says.

The Kacanis were adamant that the home appear as a one-family structure. That was an architectural challenge, Monetti says. "In a two-family home, there's an obvious dual entry. This design alleviated that obviousness."

Yet once you're inside, the two areas exude very different feels. The entire first floor is given over to the Marks, who have two bedrooms and two full bathrooms and who live in the home year-round. "My mother's place is very warm and inviting," Karen Kacani says. "Earthy with greens, rusts, and warm ivories. It feels like you're at home."

The Kacanis occupy the two upper levels, which include four bedrooms and three full baths. The colors of sea and sand were the inspirations in their space. Off-white kitchen cabinetry and blonde wood floors punctuate the cool, beachy aesthetic.

Two Visions Together

Interior designer Tom Vingos of Vingos Design Group in Brick worked with the Kacanis and the Marks to carry out their complementary visions. "It was an exciting challenge," Vingos says. "Both families had different requirements. The downstairs goal was to make it feel like a year-round residence." It's elegant but relaxed and welcoming. "Karen's space feels completely different: light colors, lots of rattan and wicker, uncluttered. Her artwork is lighter. It's like you're on vacation."

Vingos kept the common entry

Stone & Tile Emporium

By
Antonella Romano



THE BRICK HOUSE, WYCKOFF, NJ

Complimentary In-Home Consultation
and Drawings for your project!

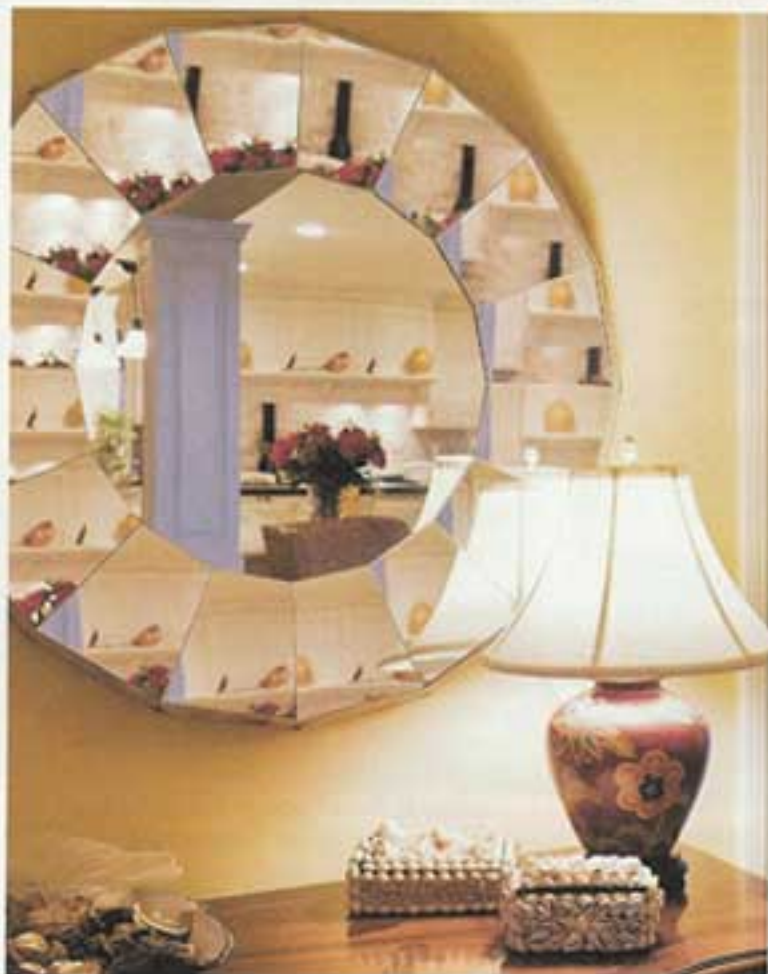
*The secret of our success is simple....
we have a passion for what we do, and we
believe in providing exceptionally personalized
service for every one of our customers!*

248 Everett Avenue, Wyckoff NJ 07481

201 891 2777

www.stoneandtilenj.com





hall neutral with white bead-board paneling topped with a dark slate wall color. The slate married the Marks' earthy jewel tones with the Kacanis' soft blues and greens. Karen Kacani credits Vinges with helping her to look outside her comfort zone. The result, she admits, is a unified one. "It looks like one family."

For his part, Vinges says he encourages clients to take risks. "Be spontaneous. There are no rules in decorating," he says. "If you like it and it makes you happy, do it."

The ocean views and breathtaking sunsets are central to the home's appeal. "We start and end the day on

Opposite: Terry and Matt Mark live in the home year-round and occupy the entire first floor. The sitting area of the open floor plan features comfortable chairs and a built-in bookcase. **Above:** Terry Mark, whose passion is cooking, designed her kitchen around her long-coveted, cast-iron Aga range. **Left:** Karen Kacani says she and her mother went on buying trips together: "We held each other's hands, in a sense, along the way." A mirror above a chest in the Mark home reflects the kitchen.