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Douglas Dream Home

Vacation residence offers charming marriage of beauty and functionality.

By Kristy Gillinder

Photography by W. Patrick Chambers Photography

The Douglas, MI home of Jon and Jill Winston is a charming marriage of beauty and functionality. It is full of convenient and interesting features, and it is also a home full of laughter and love, built for the comfort and enjoyment of the Winston family and all of their friends.

Jon and Jill both grew up in Michigan, not too far from each other, and they both moved to California. It wasn't until relocating to California that they finally met. After marrying, they began returning to Michigan during the summer to visit family and friends.

During their visits back to Michigan, Jill would get together with a friend and have a "Girl's Week." During these visits, Jill kept thinking about how gorgeous the Douglas area was, and how nice it would be to have a place for her family. First, she thought about a condo, then a cottage, and finally, she realized a home on the water would be ideal.

She luckily found 50 acres of land and fell in love with the property, which featured an old farmhouse – one of the oldest in the area. Jill talked it over with Jon, and made an offer the next day.

Since their primary residence is in California, the Winstons knew they would need a solid plan and a builder they could trust. Jill said they couldn't have done any better by finding the architectural firm of Thatcher and Thompson in California to make the

plans, and then Mike Schaap of Mike Schaap Builders, Inc., in Michigan. During the whole process, Jill said she was able to "relax during the building process, even from several states away."

Jill says that if she could give advice to future a homeowner, she would tell them to "plan everything on paper before you break ground." She believes it is a lot like doing the prep work before painting a room. In both cases, if you are prepared, the whole process will go smoothly and you will have very few surprises.

The old farmhouse was demolished, and the new Winston home was constructed. The goal was to fit several families at once and have everyone feel comfortable in their own space. Since there are lots of kids in the family, the Winstons also wanted to have a fun place for kids with lots of room for different activities.

As this is a vacation home, Jill and Jon also wanted their place to be serene, a place for easy relaxation. It features a main house, with a main level, upper level, finished lower level, a bunk house, and an apartment over the garage, along with a pool and a courtyard.

The Winston home is approximately 8,810 square feet, with seven bedrooms, seven full baths, and a half bath. The home also boasts a three-bay garage with a studio apartment. There is even a delightful bicycle garage to house the family's bicycles. The different areas of the home are on separate controls for heating, cooling,



etc., so folks can visit at any time. It has high ceilings, which adds to the airy, open feeling of the home.

The exterior of the home is made of cedar shingles and features a stained metal roof. The home is stately and elegant and offers a warm welcome to everyone who visits. The main front door is made of Jarrah wood.

The Winston home has two master suites. One is on the first floor and faces the lake, and the other is on the second. Jill said this was planned for convenience in years to come. The master baths have lovely marble countertops.

The color scheme of the home is monochromatic, with subtle changes here and there. Jill said this was done because she didn't want to overwhelm anyone with loads of color. She wanted it to feel soft and warm and relaxing. The walls are painted a color called Old Ivory, and the trim and baseboards are an Eggshell enamel. The ceilings are white. Some of the walls feature wallpaper, which adds just the right splash of color.

The generous living room has a wonderful fireplace. This area is perfect for entertaining and making warm memories. Nearby, a small library features a push-button fireplace and provides a perfect setting for reflection and quiet conversation.

The kitchen is sleek and open and loaded with all of today's modern conveniences, included a desk area and a large center



home showcase: DOUGLAS



island with a cook top and prep area. This makes entertaining easy and pleasurable, whether it's a large crowd or a small gathering.

There is a bunk house which serves as the kids' area. It has a screened porch (with a sofa bed) which opens onto a stately courtyard and offers an easy walk to the pool. The screened porch, just like the one in the main portion of the home, has screens which can be switched out for glass during cold weather.

Jill said her loved ones once teased her a bit about her laundry areas, but now they "understand perfectly" why she did what she did. There is a washer and dryer in the apartment above the garage, another washer and dryer on the second floor of the home, and two washers and two dryers on the main floor of the home, near the kitchen. This way, no matter how many visitors they have, everyone can have fresh laundry anytime. Again, Jill credits this to good planning and working with an "incredible team" during the

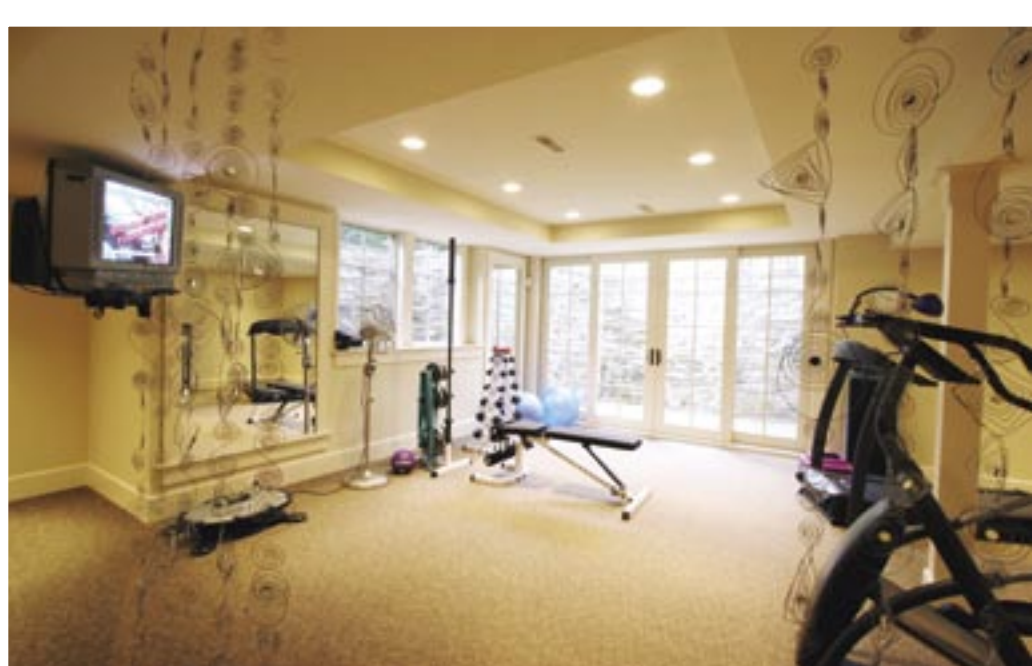
planning and building process.

The second floor includes a master suite, and the children's bedrooms. Two of the children have their own porch and the other child has a loft area, which looks like a fort, and is accessible by a ladder.

The finished lower level features a pool table, an air hockey table, and a workout area. The workout area has loads of glass, so it doesn't feel "closed in." Jill says this makes working out a real pleasure.

According to Jill, Douglas is a lovely resort area that is far away from traffic, yet close enough to ride their bicycles to lots of fun activities and events. It is exactly what she and Jon wanted for their family.

Jill and Jon Winston love coming to Michigan. Their home is charming and fun and the perfect place to enjoy being with family and friends. It is open and inviting and provides the ideal retreat from today's pressures. The Winstons' home in Douglas is a cozy place for making treasured memories with their loved ones. □



Mike Schaap Builders, Inc.

Mike Schaap Builders, Inc., located in Holland, Michigan, constructs high-end custom homes.

With over 30 years of experience, a team of over fifty experienced craftsmen and designers and access to the most highly-respected specialty contractors in West Michigan, Mike Schaap Builders, Inc. has been able to reach an incredible level of success.

Mike Schaap believes in developing a partnership with his clients through the entire building process. He is delighted to work with clients who are at the very beginning stages of plan development, or with those who already have their plans in-hand.

Mike insists on being a “hands-on” builder. According to Mike, in order to understand what a client needs and expects, he needs to really know his clients. To achieve this, he spends time with clients, getting to know them, and asking questions. The result for clients is peace of mind that is second to none.

Jill Winston had so much confidence in MSB that she “didn’t worry during the building of her home, even though it was done long distance.”

That kind of confidence, for Jill, was both comforting and priceless. Mike’s relationship with the Winston Family continues today, on a strong and positive note.

Mike also has a passion for great wood-working. This challenged his team to expand their capabilities in making available the finest millwork, furniture, and cabinetry to clients. Jill Winston believes that her millwork pieces are “among the finest” she has ever seen, and they really pull her home together. In fact, when Jill entertains, her guests are always impressed with their creations in wood.

At any one time, MSB has an average of four to eight projects in process. They specialize in estate-type homes, vacation, and second homes. MSB has completed numerous homes on the waterfront, where a difficult permit process is usually involved. He also has ample experience with extensive renovations and remodeling projects.

Additionally, Mike Schaap Builders, Inc. realizes that homes need year-round maintenance, whether it is a primary residence or a second home. MSB offers property management with an all-embracing, forty-point checklist for homeowners. Clients can select the level of care they wish to have for their property.

For more information, please contact MikeSchaapat(616)399-9925, or send him an e-mail at mike@mikeschaapbuilders.com, or visit them online at www.mikeschaapbuilders.com. □

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