

built into a hill overlooking keuka lake

NEW CONSTRUCTION ON A NARROW LOT

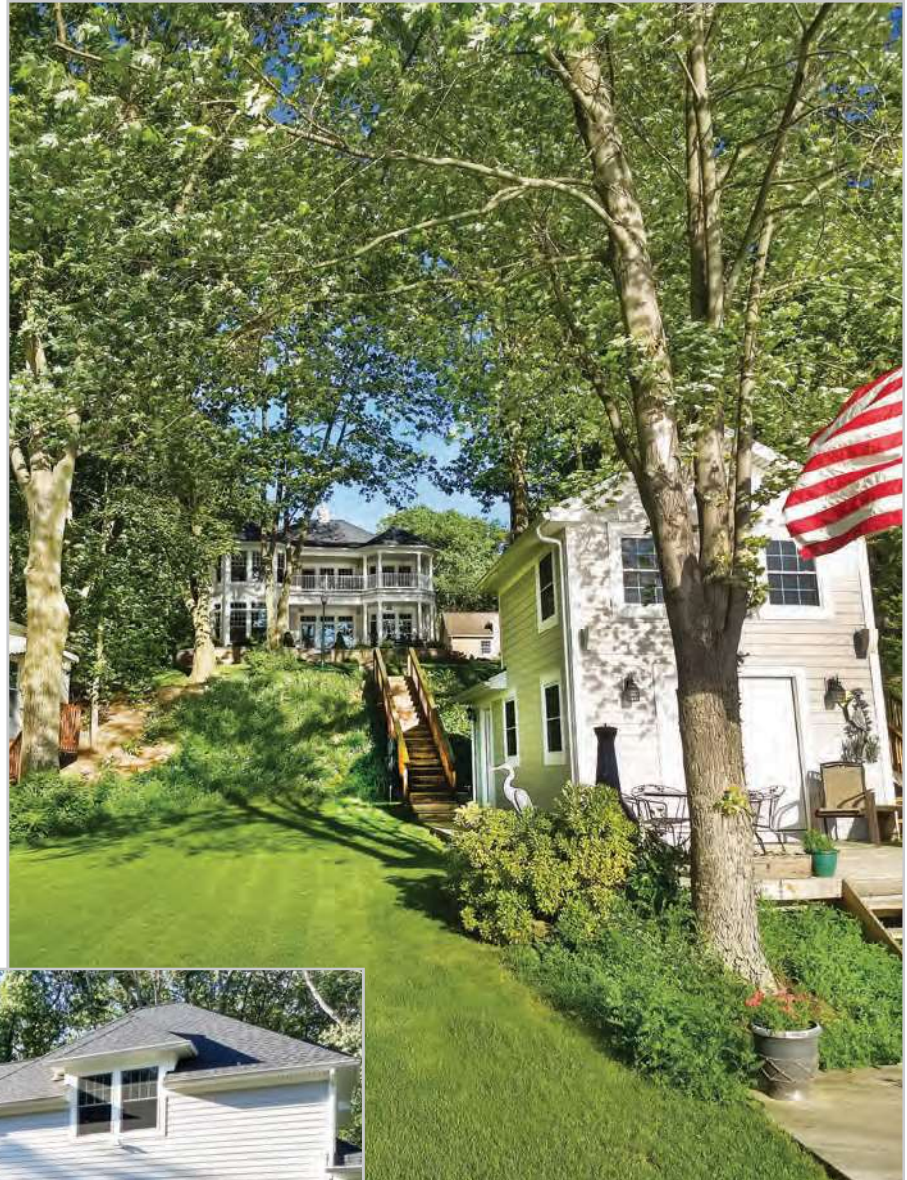
BY DONNA DE PALMA | FREELANCE WRITER
PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CUTRI CONSTRUCTION

Built into a hill overlooking Keuka Lake, is a 3,400 square foot home with a layout that accommodates a lot so narrow most would be surprised at what's inside.

Chuck and Heidi Vail's dream home is 54-feet wide and 460-feet deep. Thanks to the creativity and ingenuity of architect, David Pierce, and the skill of builder, Lin Hough of Hough Homes, their three bedroom, three and one half bath home uses every inch of space beautifully and economically. The couple tore down a cottage they had owned on the property since 1984 to build a year-round retirement home.

Their home is on a lot that was the site of the historic Grove Springs Hotel which burned to the ground in the early 1900s. "We spent 30 years fixing up our cottage only to tear it down to build the house we live in now," jokes Heidi Vail.

The couple who lived in Big Flats and summered on Keuka Lake asked a neighbor for a recommendation when it was time to build. Vail said their experience with Lin Hough couldn't have been better.



The Vails traditional gray and white home, six and a half miles north of Hammondsport, is anything but cramped. The main level of the three-story home includes an open floor plan with 10-foot ceilings, living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom and bath, powder room and laundry. Floor-to-ceiling windows and French doors look out onto the lake. Heidi said her favorite part of the house is the built-in cabinets, bookcases and drawers constructed by Tim Horning.



"I have a wall of built-in cabinets that serve as a pantry, bookshelves on either side of the fireplace in the living room, in the master bath and other rooms of the house. Great for storage and also beautiful. We were so pleased with the custom craftsmanship Tim provided."

The Vails first floor living room features six windows that create an octagonal shaped-room. Wall color is Shoreline Hay, a muted gray-green. Walls are finished with white crown and base molding. Oak hardwoods plus emerald green and tan furnishings add old world warmth and charm. The fireplace, set in granite, has a recessed built-in flat screen TV above and custom bookcases on either side.

Arched entryways leading to the dining room and kitchen table flank a bank of built-in cabinets and display cases in the living room. A vintage brass light fixture over the kitchen table dates back to the original cottage.

From the kitchen table, a quick right takes you into the kitchen. Layout is modified galley-style with sink and cabinets on one side and opposite: A two-tier island with built-in cooktop and oven plus bar seating.



Heidi selected the same granite for all countertops throughout the house and the same wall color for all the main rooms of the house except the master bedrooms. Yes, there are two. The primary master bedroom and bath is located on the first floor. A stunning tray ceiling and uniquely-shaped room with four large windows featuring transoms make the master bedroom memorable. Blues and browns are offset by gray-green walls and warm oak floors. The master bath, with sunken tub and a fully enclosed glass shower, has

built-in drawers and paned glass cabinets for storing linens.

On the second floor, a mirror copy of the master bedroom has the same spacious layout as the first floor master. “We wanted our guests to enjoy separate quarters that could accommodate all their needs,” said Heidi.

Also on the second floor, a second living room, den, second guest bedroom and a Jack and Jill bath. Take steps upstairs to a finished workshop above the garage.



The lakeside of the Vails home has walk-out decks on both the first and second floors. Steps and hardscaping on the side of the house accommodate the sloping landscape and are lined with roses and peonies in the summer. The property has two garages, one on Rt. 54 which is behind the house, and another just below. The house sits on over a half acre of land. A boathouse at the foot of the property faces the lake and looks out to a 30- by 30-foot grass square with a seawall. A 47-foot L-shaped dock on the side and front

of the grassy area encloses the property's peninsula.

The height of this home makes for spectacular views of the lake combining the comfort of year-round living with the pleasures of summer fun.

"We're very happy here. It really feels like home," said Heidi, a retired nurse, and Chuck, a retired executive for Corning Inc. They have a son who lives in Seattle.

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