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Inside Out

A coastal dream home built on instincts and ingenuity

by Noelle Lord Castle >>> Photography Trent Bell

When a couple designs their first home while also planning their upcoming nuptials, and they move in on their wedding day, why not set out next to build a custom-designed getaway halfway across the country?

Chuck and Anne Vose's roots to Maine take them back long before their time spent here together. Several of Chuck's family members call Maine home, and he spent many childhood vacations here escaping the Oklahoma heat and enjoying family trips throughout the state. Anne's education in Boston brought her to Maine regularly as a young woman. When they met and married later in life, a vacation retreat on the Maine coast seemed like a natural fit.

The Voses wanted more than a simple getaway—they wanted to create a home where family and friends could gather for clam-bakes and barbecues, and where everyone could indulge their personal passions and create lasting memories. In the fashion of many family compounds, their expansive property offers spectacular ocean views, a spacious picnic area on the water's edge complete with custom-made tables and benches, private patios for each guest suite, a bunkhouse for children to romp and rough-house in, and a kitchen designed to be large enough for sharing cooking efforts, with its own entry from the barbecue deck. From

the time your feet crunch across the crushed-shell driveway, you feel a sense of nostalgia permeating the property. Still, these qualities are the result of years of thoughtful research and planning, not just the experience of being at a remarkable seaside location.

After spending several years in Maine as vacationers, Chuck, who works in finance and real estate, and Anne, an interior designer, were both clear about what they wanted. After looking at literally hundreds of properties throughout the midcoast area and never finding the right structure, they made the choice to build. Since both were partial to the Boothbay Harbor area, they ideally wanted to find something on the peninsula. As luck or fate would have it, a perfect lot presented itself while they were on vacation and out for a morning walk with their dogs. After patient negotiations and lots of due diligence (to determine whether they would really be able to have what they desired in terms of property lines, boat docks, and building elevation), their ideal site became theirs.

As their hunt for locations was unfolding, so was their search for a contractor. Steve Malcom, owner of the Knickerbocker Group in Boothbay, had worked on several family properties in the area, and his reputation for excellent work and successful collaborations with clients indicated he was the fit they were looking for. They also selected the Knickerbocker Group because, in addition



Designed to have a traditional New England-style roofline with contemporary aspects blended in for comfortable living, the Vose home enjoys spectacular 270-degree views looking out from Spruce Point. Rugged granite footings support the cantilevered wraparound "master" deck—a favorite spot for afternoon relaxing.



The spectacular ocean views and natural flow of the lot inspired the concept of a “see-through” house.



The great room (above) provides ample seating for visiting with friends and family. Each piece of stone for the fireplace and chimney, quarried at J.C. Stone in Jefferson, was hand selected and arranged for a look that would be both aesthetically pleasing and pick up the natural textures of the rocky coast. Anne scoured the country for antique and nautical fixtures to provide the lighting throughout the house.

to general contracting, the company also provides architectural design, has its own on-site woodworking shop, and offers caretaking services that fit the couple's needs perfectly. Malcom had also accompanied the Voses on several of their property searches, helping them to assess their options and telling them when he felt they should continue looking. They all agreed that the lot, in addition to its nearly 270 degrees of ocean view, had enough real estate to accommodate outdoor living areas with ready access to the shoreline. The involvement of the contractor during the early exploration and concept stage set the tone for a relationship built on mutual understanding and respect.

Knickerbocker's senior architectural designer Sue Mendleson and construction manager Steve Berger worked closely with Malcom and the project's many subcontractors to ensure that the structure conformed to the Voses' vision and needs. With her interior-design expertise and many creative ideas for the home, Anne was heavily involved in the process, and she regularly arrived with fixtures and samples of features she wanted to incorporate. A team was born. In typical Malcom style, regular interactions with the clients and weekly meetings kept lines of communication open and headed off potential issues. "We push each other constantly to make things work. How can we make the desires of design work with the realities of construction?" says Malcom. "I think it makes for a practical and intelligent group, and a dynamic process."

In a daring move that revealed both their creative flexibility and their confidence in Malcom and his team, the Voses let the building design evolve over time, which gave Knickerbocker the opportunity to make in-process adaptations. The spectacular ocean views and natural flow of the lot inspired the concept of a "see-through" house: as soon as visitors walk through the front door, they see through the house, and out every set of windows, to the ocean beyond. The concept required lots of glass, lots of doors, and lots of white and whitewashed surfaces to create an atmosphere that is bright, open, and expansive. Finally, the floor plan needed to include casual entertaining spaces and grandchildren-friendly features.

So many details go into designing and building a house that it's obvious when a coherent vision has been realized. The Voses' love of boating clearly influenced the building's design. The high, arched ceilings, the triangular



Clockwise from top left: The home was designed to fit within the features and contours of the site, disturbing as little of the natural landscape as possible. One of the Voses' nine grandchildren enjoys a quiet moment in the bunkhouse, a converted outbuilding with built-in bunks, daybeds, and lots of storage. Taking themed rooms to new heights, the "lobster bathroom" is both fun and functional. No view is lost at this dining area, where you feel as if you are suspended out over the backyard, thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows.

Another custom granite fireplace (opposite) keeps the master suite warm and displays more of the couple's favorite artwork.

glass used on each gable end, and the constant presence of the ocean are reminiscent of the bridge on a cruise liner. Repurposed antique nautical lanterns provide much of the ambient lighting throughout the home, and a trip down to the guest quarters requires the use of a cherry spiral staircase with a bronze cable railing—a traditional feature in many yachts. The curved "master" exterior deck with dark plank flooring and a painstakingly developed curved wooden railing brings to mind the flutter of sailcloth and squeak of rubber-soled boat shoes.

Let's get back to the indulging of personal passions. If you are an avid fisherman like Chuck, and you are building your dream vacation home, you design your house to accommodate the kinds

of afternoons when you might bring in a 150-pound tuna. The home's "picnic room" has its own ground-level entrance just up a path leading to the dock. With full kitchen amenities and lots of storage for clambake equipment and accessories, this room has an easy-cleanup floor, a commercial ice maker for keeping "the big one" fresh, and a laundry, well, for obvious reasons.

Strolling from the main house, an outbuilding that has been transformed into a bunkhouse doubles as both playhouse and private getaway for the Voses' nine grandchildren. The building features pickle-stained knotty-pine paneling and built-in bunk beds—features that almost call out for carved initials or height markings on a door frame. Although daybeds, games, and videos will sat-





isfy rainy-day needs, the children will likely spend most of their days running around the unfussy, open property, making peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches to eat in the picnic area or boating with their grandparents “Yaya” and “Annie.” This is a home many children’s feet will patter through for generations.

Just inside the home’s entry, a bulletin board filled with photographs of family, friends, children, and dogs is one of the first things to attract attention. Everyone in the photographs, including the dogs, is smiling, happy, joyous. While the house is filled with details that would make anyone ooh and ahh—from the handpicked stones in the granite fireplace that perfectly showcases a dramatic osprey painting to the glass bathroom tiles that shimmer like water to an extraordinary lobster-themed bathroom—somehow it all says, Come on in and make yourself at home...and don’t worry about taking off your shoes. From stem to stern, this house fulfills its mission.

“We couldn’t be happier, really,” says Chuck of their special Maine place. “If we stand back now and ask what we would do differently, we really wouldn’t change a thing!” Who could ask for more? **MH+D**

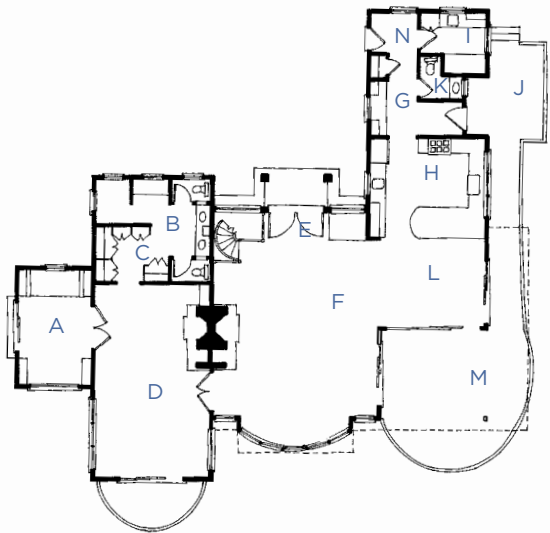
The galley-style kitchen (left) is anything but confining, with ample floor space and windows leaving you feeling almost like you are cooking outdoors. IceStone countertops from Meeting House Designs in South Portland further enhance the intention to work with natural materials and textures.

The custom-made picnic rock (above) is the perfect venue for a lobster bake or an impromptu family barbecue.

The Voses enjoy every inch of their home and want their guests to do the same. Each main living area and guest suite has its own entry door and deck or terrace for immediate access to the outdoors (opposite). Another goal was a low-maintenance exterior featuring a rubber “slate” roof, HardiPlank siding, and AZEK trim.

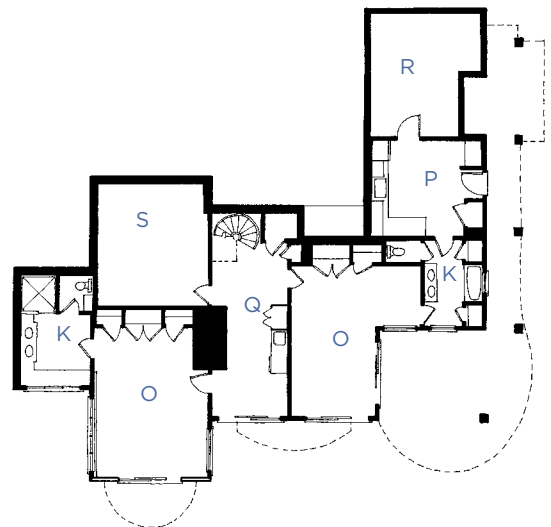


FIRST FLOOR



- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| A Library | I Laundry | Q Hall |
| B Master Bath | J Grill Deck | R Mechanical |
| C Dressing Room | K Bathrooms | S Storage |
| D Master Bedroom | L Dining | |
| E Entry | M Porch | |
| F Great Room | N Mudroom | |
| G Pantry | O Bedrooms | |
| H Kitchen | P Picnic Room | |

BASEMENT







The master suite (opposite) is kept uncluttered and continues the light and bright theme running throughout the house. Repurposed furniture and fixtures, cotton fabrics, and plenty of sitting areas make the room friendly and purposeful far beyond serving as sleeping quarters.

Sharing his grandparents' love of the ocean, one of the Voses' grandsons (above) hunts for mussels and other treasures down at their dock.

BRIGHT IDEAS



- Green products include IceStone countertops and bamboo flooring
- Rubber roof requires fewer structural support materials than real slate
- Rot-resistant HardiPlank siding
- Energy Star appliances
- Passive solar heating (lots of south-facing glass)
- Repurposing of old nautical elements into light fixtures

For more information, see Resources on page 116.

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