

# Many ROOMS With A View

Ho-Hum Becomes Top Notch With Expert Planning  
and Orchestration by Kane Construction

WRITER ELIZABETH BOOTH O'TOOLE • PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID SPECKMAN



**W**ith sunrises and sunsets the color of apricots, and blue water sparkling like Kate Middleton's sapphire ring, these owners say the view from their Harbor Springs home is "shockingly beautiful."

The couple, from a Chicago suburb, bought the vacation home on East Bluff Drive last year as a place to escape and unwind. They say they love the area's quaint charm and unspoiled beauty. "It has a Rockwell vibe, a feeling of historical importance in a cultural community."

The almost 6,000-square-foot spec home was built in 2007 by John Kane of Kane Construction and designed by Frederick Ball. Sitting on the highest point of East Bluff, the home has a stunning view of Little Traverse Bay. "The view is phenomenal and sold me on the property," says Kane. "It's not uncommon to see 200-foot yachts sail by."

The couple bought their first residence in Harbor Springs 10 years ago—a condo that sat directly below the Bluff home. Coincidentally, that condo was also built by Kane. A few years later,

they were looking for a larger home for their growing family. At first, the Bluff home wasn't on their radar. "I walked by the home many times, but didn't get the brown house on the Bluff," reflects the lady of the house. However, after touring the home, the couple "realized what a unique property it was."

One thing that makes the home so unique is its grandeur, both inside and out. "The house is traditional, yet very stately," says Kane. When you pull up to the stucco and cedar home, you're greeted by six large stone columns and an outdoor balcony. Through the double front doors, the entrance showcases a circular staircase and a crystal chandelier.

The family's favorite room is the great room, and they describe it as the hub of the home. Distressed floors are made of wide walnut planks. The fireplace, which is surrounded by limestone, has an old world European presence and the trusses and detailed moldings on the ceiling provide a rustic, yet elegant feel. The home was decorated by interior designer Lori Arnold and features more than a dozen Oriental rugs from Cassim Gallery in Illinois.



On one side of the great room is a gourmet kitchen, complete with white granite tops, completed with master carpentry and state-of-the-art appliances, including a built-in TV above the cappuccino maker, which creates a café feeling for those sitting around the island enjoying a cup of coffee. The butler's pantry also features a full freezer and dishwasher, along with several wine racks. The other side of the great room hosts a master bedroom and luxury bath. The leaded glass around the tub has accents of color that reflect the sunlight. This attention to detail by the builder is what attracted this couple to the home. "It seems like every time we visit, we find a new detail we overlooked."

The owners agree that the open floor plan helps them entertain easily. With five bedrooms and six full baths, along with a guest's quarters, there's plenty of room for visitors. Large windows and oversized French doors overlook the lake, giving their well-traveled guests what they say is "a world class view." □



ABOVE: This formal eating area, nestled between the gourmet kitchen and the great room, is where the family enjoys its meals.

BELOW: A sitting area off the kitchen faces the front of the house and features gallery recessed doors.





After a long day at the beach, a spacious retreat is most welcome.

**ABOVE:** Along with plenty of large windows to let in the sunlight, the master bedroom also has a tray ceiling and accent lighting.

**MIDDLE LEFT:** After a long day, the master bathroom is the perfect place to relax with a large Jacuzzi tub and built-in TV.

**BELOW:** Guests enjoy the well-appointed guest room.



Grab a book and cozy up in front of the fire place. The den is a quiet sanctuary from the rest of the house, and even has a secret passageway into the master bedroom.



ABOVE: Why go to the movies when you have this impressive theatre room, which includes a 3D TV.

BELOW: The owners love to entertain and guests enjoy playing a game of pool or trying their luck at slot machines that can be found in the lower level of the house.

ABOVE: Ample space to kick back and relax.

BELOW: Crowd pleasing accommodations abound in this spacious and comfortable home.



**ABOVE:** Located on the highest point of East Bluff, the home has this amazing view of Little Traverse Bay.

**MIDDLE:** A front porch area, where the family sits and enjoys summers in northern Michigan.

**BELOW:** Plenty of seating to enjoy a sunny afternoon.

Countertops: **CAPITAL GRANITE**  
Interior Designer: **INTERIORS INC.**  
Landscape: **LITZENBERGER LANDSCAPE**  
Windows & Doors: **OLD MISSION WINDOW**



## Kane Construction

### PRINCIPAL OWNER (S):

John Kane

### NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

21

### YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

1990

### EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Michigan Technological University, 1983

### BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Our philosophy is to work hard, use high quality materials and craftsman, and do things right the first time. We are fair with our customers, suppliers and contractors; building a house is a team effort and the best results happen when everyone takes pride in the finished product.

### WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

I've built a 2,000-square-foot home and a 30,000 square-foot church addition / Parrish Hall and everything in between. Being a general contractor allows me to grow to meet the needs of any job, and be just the right size for that job. I've been in the business for more than 25 years and I've developed a group of dependable and high quality subcontractors. This ability to expand and contract means we can deliver great value on any size project and it has enabled our business to remain solid through ups and downs in the local market.

### HOBBIES:

Having grown up in Canada I have always loved playing hockey and still play several times a week. When I first moved to the area, we had to drive to Traverse City or Cheboygan to play. Seeing a need for an arena in Emmet County, I was involved with a group of individuals who put together financing to get it done. I now own the Griffin Arena with a partner, and although it has not been a good "investment" I love seeing a building full of 10-year-old future Olympians and NHL players on a Saturday morning.

### CONTACT PHONE NUMBER AND WEB ADDRESS:

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