

SUMMER 2007

# from house to HOME™

**BREATHING  
ROOM**  
IN PRINCETON

**HISTORY**  
IS ALIVE AND WELL  
IN PRINCETON

**Landscape  
LIGHTING**  
That WOWS

**TWICE AS NICE**  
VACATION HOMES ON THE RISE

CENTRAL JERSEY'S HOME MAGAZINE



⌚ Hearty board planking and Pennsylvania salt-and-pepper granite give the new house a timeless appeal and easy maintenance.

⌚ Wood details are Clark's calling card. The tiny room below the stairs used to be entirely reserved for games of hide and seek, but today it houses the "brains" of the home's entertainment system.



# Room To Grow

This Princeton home offers comfort and quality for years to come

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**B**uilder Stephen Clark of Clark Design & Build was putting the finishing touches on this Princeton, New Jersey, custom jewel when it caught the eye of a growing family who needed a new place to call home. While remaining anonymous, they want to honor the features that make Clark's finished project such a comfortable, livable home.

With an open, inviting floor plan and earthy textures, the home is well on its way to becoming a classic.

Despite its large scale, the 5,600-square-foot layout has a natural flow. Described as a giant letter "H," the entrance foyer and the family room form the center, while the kitchen and dining room combine opposite the living room and the downstairs guest room.

The homeowners wanted something fairly new on a quiet street with plenty of room for a family. They wanted a home that could continue to meet their needs as their children grew up. Since they discovered the home after most of the decorative elements had been determined,



⌚ A sideboard from Ethan Allen's Marquetry Collection is decorated with twin topiaries.



Small stools sit comfortably beneath the large kitchen island.



they are focused on furnishing the home so that it meets the needs of their young family.

Most of the day-to-day activity occurs in the kitchen, and the owners have come to appreciate the functional layout and Clark's attention to detail. The cabinetry is a contrast of light and dark woods. Random-width ash flooring anchors the palette, while blonde wood cabinets with black marble countertops contrast against a dark cherry island with a polished,

In addition, the palette complements the more tactile elements of stone and wood.

white marble work surface. Black-and-white toile window treatments repeat the pattern. Bright red serving dishes add a unique color. Glass-fronted upper cabinets allow changing seasonal displays, and the neutral shades from the cream-colored subway tile backsplash frame the entire area.

① The kitchen is a study in contrasts with white wood against dark surfaces and dark wood against light surfaces.

② Even without window treatments or wall color, the master suite is an obvious place to relax at the end of the day.

Clark's signature is his attention to the details. He relies on the dramatic contrast of rich hardwoods and likes to incorporate different tones whenever he can. The formal dining room, for example, is dominated by white oak and outlined with a maple and Santos mahogany inlay. The foyer features a perfectly balanced staircase built from Santos mahogany with ash.

Nagla Badr-Erdogan, who is an interior designer at Ethan Allen Furniture in Princeton, helped the homeowners develop the framework for their interiors. While plenty of work remains, the finished rooms offer a combination of strong lines and comfortable elegance. Earthy colors and soft fabrics help "kid proof" the interiors, according to the designer. In addition, the palette complements the more tac-



tile elements of stone and wood.

"It's a great house," says Badr-Erdogan. With an open, inviting floor plan and earthy textures, the home is well on its way to becoming a classic.

Some of the rooms call for a formal ap-



Ⓜ The family room builds upon the rich tapestry of color in the Karastan rug.

Ⓝ Dining outdoors is just one of the good, old-fashioned family pleasures.

Ⓞ This bench in front of the garage offers a comfortable place to watch the children play in the yard.

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 been transformed into a billiard room because a game room seemed more appropriate. It has plantation-style shutters to protect the win-

dows from flying billiard balls, but the room also still needs wall paint.

The master suite has a king-sized bed, but is awaiting window treatments and an overall color scheme. The homeowners are happy to let the new interiors come together slowly. They want to live in the home and make the changes gradually. And like many other things in life, they know that time will take care of all the details and the finished home will continue to speak to the quality of its original structure. ■



proach and the designer delivers here, as well. In the dining room, the homeowners wanted a more elaborate window treatment and “timeless” furnishings. They chose a walnut dining table from Ethan Allen’s Tuscany Collection and matched it with a Marquetry sideboard. “The home has great windows with lots of molding and she was craving formality in the dining room,” explains the designer of her client. “She entertains a lot and hosts family functions. They wanted a ‘wow’ factor.”

The family room is also furnished in Ethan Allen, but this time with an eye toward comfort and easy living. A pit group squares up one corner, while the fireplace anchors the opposing wall. Throughout the interiors, Clark’s attention to detail allows each room to speak for itself.

As the family grows, the home will also continue to mature. There are future plans for a backyard pool as well as additions to be made to the interiors. The living room has already