

DESIGNER'S WALK

By MARGO LOCUST

PHOTOS BY RANDALL PERRY PHOTOGRAPHY

A truly "great room," this one features wood detail in the floor and custom panels and décor elements with a world influence.





A Wonder In Wood!

In places you might swear you were in the captain's quarters aboard the top ship of the line. Far from it.

This newly built (though it hardly looks it) 5,000-square-foot home on Saratoga Lake in Upstate New York is the private residence of builder Peter Belmonte, his wife and grown children. The house sits high on a hill overlooking the water and the ever changing landscape. Peter, his wife, Kathy, and Denise Palumbo, president of Plum & Crimson Fine Interior Design and a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), collaborated on and selected all the décor elements. (FABULOUS FLOORS is an ASID Industry Partner.) >>

The outdoor deck off the great room overlooks beautiful and historic Saratoga Lake.



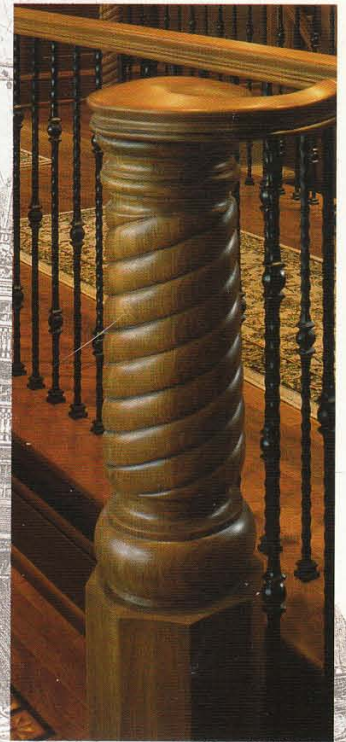


At left: A berber runner, a Robertex 100 percent New Zealand wool in a style called Maggie in a color called Habersham flows most of the way down the staircase, ending as the stairs widen at the bottom. Note how for the last few steps only the runners or treads are carpeted, leaving the inviting wood of the risers exposed. Near the foot is a Custom Compass "rose" from Oshkosh Floors with custom-selected wood species, largely repeating the woods used in the rope trim in the great room — American Cherry, Maple, Santos Mahogany, Walnut and Wenge. At the owner's option a metal inlay was eliminated from the design.

According to Denise, this home is about inspiration from the outdoors, largely in nautical themes, from the compass rose at the foot of the main staircase to the 10-inch rope-carved newel post to the mixed-stone used in the fireplace and to the pillars leading to a stunning breakfast nook most of us would covet as a main dining area.

The home was designed to be one that's all about family and one in which the couple could retire, with the main living space and master suite on the first floor. The two adult children's rooms are upstairs. On the lower level are guest quarters and a workout area.

Looking up from the great room, it's an interesting mix of textures in wood, carpet, a runner from 828 International and custom-turned wood reminiscent of the artistry of a talented shipwright. Floors are American Cherry with a custom 50/50 Minwax® stain mix in Early American and Fruit Wood which sets the floor off from the cherry paneling.



Detail abounds.

The floors are American Cherry, stained with custom-blended Minwax® products to stand out from the custom America Cherry wood paneling and trim in “Otti Brown” by Mohawk Finishes.

The great room, shown on the opening page of this article, is truly a “great room,” using a cherry floor framed with a dark and light-colored wood “rope” inlay from Oshkosh Floors set in about a foot from the walls. Called Estancia Border Inlay, it features American Cherry, Maple, Santos Mahogany, Walnut and African Wenge. At the opposite end of the room (not shown), the “rope” serves to accentuate a curved wall in an arc as the rope follows the geometry of the room. A large oriental completes the feeling that the master and commander and his family have traveled the world and brought their favorite influences home. The fireplace is framed in squares and rectangles of indigenous American granite quarried in Whitehall, New York. 🍷



In the kitchen, that's porcelain, Rex Echo Canyon Zion 18 in various sizes on the floor for an Old World, custom-fit look. Note the custom painted mural on tumbled classic travertine (by Sharon Karl Roberts) over the stove, the custom-fabricated granite countertop (Juperana Classico) and wood-faced refrigerator doors... all of which serve to bring Mother Nature's outside in.

This kitchen nook features five different-sized tiles in a Versace pattern, custom-made square table, rustic ceiling and stone columns. It's almost like dining out!



This study is a study in subtle differences. Somewhat relaxed, the floor remains cherry, but with some knots in them; less formal, but nonetheless striking in a high gloss, a counterpoint to the custom-fabricated Rustic Alder wall paneling. The oval window and a high-reach, cupola-style ceiling in cedar with fir timbers over the piano deliver spaciousness. The rest of the ceiling is covered in emu hides from Italy and a sense of architecture and strong, updated design reminiscent of another era.