

Spilling Out on Cotuit Bay

BY CAITLYN FITZPATRICK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL BLACKMORE

With the addition of numerous outdoor room elements, a former pool house accommodates a large family and entertains even more.



When one of the original homes in the elite Oyster Harbors neighborhood burned down decades ago, the owners eventually sold in lieu of a major rebuilding effort. The current owners have now transformed the relatively small pool house into the ultimate family-friendly space by renovating it to include a modern "outdoor room," which markedly expands the square footage (albeit unofficially) and embraces the gorgeous views of the pool, the expansive landscaping, and a serene Cotuit Bay.

The enormous outdoor patio allows room for the rather large extended family of more than 50 to vacation together in the summer and enjoy occasional unseasonably warm Thanksgivings (if it's chilly, they will rearrange furniture to dine in the family room then cuddle up around the outdoor fireplace enjoying s'mores afterward). The main house? It's all but forgotten as the family lives comfortably here.

As I walk around the infinity-edge salt water pool on a beautiful August afternoon, Trixie, the family dog, hurries

Just outside a retractable "nano wall," a large woven vinyl sectional with navy blue cushions faces the harbor. A retractable awning provides additional shade when the sun sinks lower in the evening sky.





Even during the fall, residents can cuddle up around the outdoor fireplace enjoying s'mores. Designer Cheryl McCracken chose a medallion print in navy and white for the cushions of the wrought-iron chairs.

past and makes a huge splash. "Don't worry," the owner assures me. "She's a Portuguese water dog." The pool includes a diving stone platform and is protected at one corner from winds off the bay by a short glass wall.

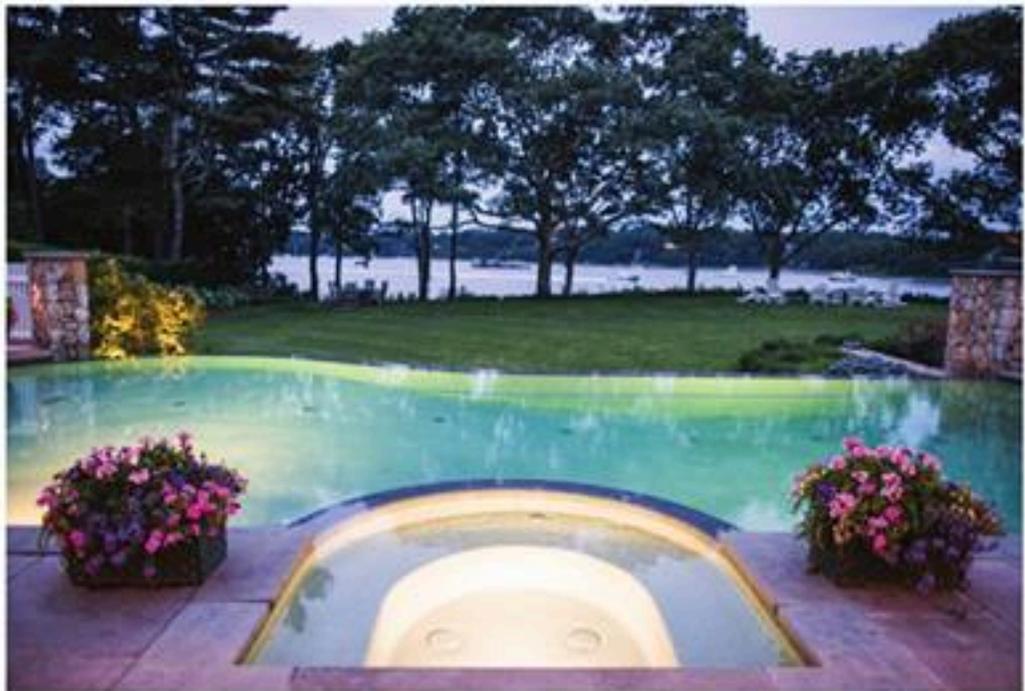
The family room once had French doors leading out to the pool and patio and a small balcony off the master bedroom overhead. The owners worked with interior designer Cheryl McCracken and builder Steve Bishop to blow out the second-floor deck and install an even larger retractable glass wall (called a nano wall) so they could open the home to the elements during the day.

The patio surrounding the pool is now separated into a few discernable sections.

The first landing space you encounter is covered by the master bedroom's extended balcony. Although this

(Right) An array of annuals sit in the flower bed that runs the entire length of the balcony. In the middle of summer, the flora start to cascade over the edges, giving the entire outdoor area a softer, more natural touch. (Below) The outdoor kitchen has granite countertops, teak chairs, and a Lynx grill.





(Above) The infinity edge pool lights up at night for after-hours dips. (Below) Adirondack chairs and wooden rockers sit atop large pavers far away from the house and patio.



Designer Cheryl McCracken selected a green and white geometric pattern for the outdoor lounge chair pillows.

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portion of the outdoor patio was designed to hide from the sun and be cool, light still filters through four tubular skylights above.

A Lloyd Flanders woven vinyl couch with navy blue cushions faces the harbor. The matching chairs turned toward it make this area an ideal spot for either watching the sunset, overseeing children in the pool, or chatting with family and friends.

To one side is an intimate dining setting surrounded by sheer curtains, which may be drawn back to open up the space when bugs are not a problem. A small dining table there seats six. On the other side is a full bar made of stone with granite countertops (it seats 12 on teak high tops). Two flatscreens are perched above for viewing.

The one tending bar can also be the grill master, as a sleek Lynx grill sits between sturdy cabinets against the back wall. The Oyster Harbors logo, modeled

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