



CAREFREE & COASTAL



Jim and Laura Engel wanted their Cornelius home to have a laid back, sophisticated style.

Laura and Jim Engel captured the magic of Cape Cod in their custom retreat

by Lori K. Tate
photography by Ken Noblezada

When Laura and Jim Engel decided to build a lakeside home in Cornelius, they quickly gravitated toward the traditional quaintness of Cape Cod architecture. That comes as no surprise, as Laura is from Connecticut, and Jim was born in Cape Cod and returned there every summer after his family moved to Florida.

"Cape Cod is a beautiful place," says Laura. "It reminds us of being young and carefree."

With the help of Harry Schrader of Schrader Design Custom Architecture



Jim and Laura Engel



Left, the casual dining area features a window seat overlooking the lake.

The Nosy Neighbor Kitchen Tour

The Nosy Neighbor Kitchen Tour takes place on Saturday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Peninsula. All proceeds benefit The Peninsula Community Foundation, a nonprofit that gives seed money and continuous funding to local Mecklenburg County charities, such as The Lake Norman Free Clinic, Safe Alliance and Ada Jenkins Community Center.

This year's tour features the grand opening of a new 10,000-square-foot lakefront custom home, as well as an English cottage kitchen in a separate lakeside guest cottage. Sponsors for the tour include Ivester Jackson Distinctive Properties, an exclusive affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate, and Grainda Builders.

This one-day tour also features samples of gourmet food from area chefs, kitchen demonstrations, a gift boutique, raffle drawings and supplier information regarding all aspects of the featured kitchens.

Tickets for the tour are \$35. For more information regarding the tour, e-mail Jayne Coffing at jaynecoffing@gmail.com. For more information regarding The Peninsula Community Foundation, visit www.thepeninsulacommunityfoundation.org.

Below, a large island makes entertaining family and friends easy





A farm table from Pottery Barn welcomes guests with ease.



The ceiling detail further adds to the Cape Cod feel of the home.

and Grainda Builders, the Engels were able to encapsulate the laid-back coastal feeling of Cape Cod in their home, which is featured in The Nosy Neighbor Kitchen Tour on May 14.

Benefitting The Peninsula Community Foundation, a non-profit that donates

seed money and continuous funding to various Mecklenburg County charities, the tour showcases a variety of kitchens and homes in The Peninsula. Though awards are not given during the event, the Engel's kitchen would surely vie for first place with its breathtaking views of Lake Norman.



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When asked about the panoramic view, Laura is quick to credit Schrader for it. "I love the view and the openness," she says while walking me to the front door so I can see the expanse of the view. The lake greets me on almost all fronts, but the pinnacle of the view takes place above the kitchen's farm sink, where vast corner windows make me feel like I'm almost walking on water. No doubt that any of the Engel's five children would not mind washing dishes in this house. I almost grabbed a Brillo Pad myself so I could enjoy the view a little longer.

With white custom

Top, the view from the kitchen sink is the most spectacular in the home. **Above**, the entrance to the wine cellar.

cabinets by Rowan Custom Cabinets crowned with quartzite, the kitchen exudes a clean and fresh feeling. A rectangular island topped with a granite named Blue Tides subtly echoes the colors and the motion of the lake.

"That's [the granite] the first thing we picked out for our house," says Laura, who enjoys cooking. "We wanted a

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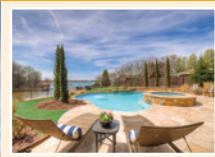
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With the capacity for 900 bottles, the wine cellar is located underneath the staircase near the kitchen.

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large island for when we have parties and have family over.”

Shiplap board detailing, rustic pendaliers from Lee Lighting, as well as rich Brazilian teak floors continue the understated nautical ambiance of the space. The kitchen is open to the living room and is only partitioned by a slight wave in the ceiling’s architecture. Cleverly hidden under the staircase you’ll find the Engel’s wine cellar, which has the capacity for 900 bottles and a humorous sign that reads “Love the Wine You’re With.”

The kitchen is also open to

a casual dining area, complete with a window seat overlooking the lake. “We didn’t want a formal dining room,” explains Laura. Punctuated with a farm table from Pottery Barn and beadboard detailing on the ceiling, the dining space offers a casual place to share meals with friends and family. Paintings of hummingbirds flank the window seat and perfectly echo the light blue tones from the walls painted in Sherwin Williams’ Reflection.

“This is the space we live in,” says Laura of her home’s kitchen area. “We wanted our home to have a laid back, sophisticated style.” ■



A slight wave in the ceiling partitions the kitchen and dining area from the living room.



Featured at
Nosy Neighbor Kitchen Tour
Saturday May 14, 2016
at the Peninsula.



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