



A WATERFRONT *Adventure*

Visiting Here Makes You Want to Stay Forever

WRITER KAREN VANDER WERP • PHOTOGRAPHER W. PATRICK CHAMBERS

The grandchildren compare the wave runners, jet skis, unlimited pizza, campfires, late nights and private living to a trip to Walt Disney World in Florida. For Pixie and Dick that's a gratifying description—they built their waterfront home with children and grandchildren in mind.

A long scenic drive raises the anticipation of the good times ahead. As the piers and nautical detailing of the home's exterior comes into view, the doors to the moving vehicle can't spring open fast enough.

The home was fashioned after a town house Pixie had seen in New Buffalo. A cheerful color palette of yellow, blue and white sets the mood, and the boat collection displayed throughout the house leaves no question to passion and purpose.

Each of the home's five bedrooms has their own bath. The bedroom closets are compartmentalized for beachside attire and paraphernalia—including a luggage rack. Clothes go from suitcase to its proper place in one easy sweep and then it's on with the fun.

The house has a garage under garage—totaling four—connected

to the house. There is also a two-stall detached garage along with a pole barn. The garages not only house the family cars but "grandpa's navy" as well as fishing poles, toys and games.

The property and original cottage had been part of Pixie's heritage. It was a vessel of family memories, but the cost to update just about everything from septic to wiring was unreasonably expensive. With her Mother's blessing, the old cottage that housed so many years of memories was torn down. A new cottage with current styling and low maintenance materials took its place. Hardie board was used on the exterior. Decks and railings are constructed of a poly resin material. The lower deck under deck has a metal ceiling with a gutter system that collects

water and recycles it back into the lake.

The primary living spaces have a spectacular view. Purposefully, the master suite was situated in the rear of the house. "We only sleep there and spend our waking hours in scenic areas of the house," shares Pixie.





Having the master suite on the street side of the house allowed room for a screened porch facing the water. Dick and Pixie give the Visser team credit for the ingenuity that went into the home. "Steve, Jeff and Kelli were able to put down our thoughts and translate them into exactly what we wanted," share the homeowners. "The process went smoothly and was a pleasure from start to finish."

If you ask the grandkids, the only part of the house that's important is the walk-out level. It was designed with the girls dorm, appropriately titled, on one side and the boys on the other, both with double bunk beds. The oversized living area has its own kitchen but it is the amenities that are most important: ping-pong table, foosball, pizza and popcorn machines and the list goes on and on.

There is no question that Pixie and Dick's goal of building a home that their children and grandchildren would love to visit has been achieved. Subsequently, so has a new vessel for memories that will be shared and cherished for generations to come. □

PREVIOUS PAGE:

ABOVE: The home's architecture was inspired by homes found on the Outer Banks and Hilton Head Island in South Carolina.

INSET: Nautical detailing coupled with low maintenance materials to withstand high humidity are a perfect combination.

THIS PAGE: The island was designed for ease of conversation and entertaining large groups. A lighted niche showcases Dick's model boat collection.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Timber detailing accentuates the nautical styling and defines the great room as exceptional.





Infused with color, the home features cheerful, dedicated living space for the grandchildren, and relaxing retreats for the adults.

ABOVE: Double bunk beds are crowd pleasers.

BOTTOM: Baths are smartly decorated, providing a cohesive look between the bedroom and bath.

OPPOSITE PAGE

ABOVE: Chenille bedding adds luxury to an oversized master suite complete with sitting area.

BOTTOM: Pinklicious is the perfect color palette for the granddaughter's bath.





Exceptional views abound in every direction.



ABOVE: This favored room provides endless enjoyment no matter what Mother Nature has on the agenda.

BELOW: The patio and fire pit offer endless hours of late night fun for kids of all ages.



Visser

PRINCIPAL OWNERS:

Family business operated by Steve, Dan and Chad Visser, and Jeff and Kelli Scheffers

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

40 Years

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

Visser began with Sam Visser (father and grandfather to current owners) in 1950.

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Being successful is about doing a lot of little things right.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

Visser homes are designed with the perfect blend of design, technology and performance. We make a conscious effort to collaborate with local vendors and suppliers to achieve these objectives within the budget of each client. We understand meaningful design and know that it takes an evolutionary process from the design development to selections to project management. We are always looking for ways to enrich the building experience for our clients.

HOBBIES:

Visser partners find it rewarding to give back to the community they love to live in. We are active in area schools and churches, and are members of community boards and organizations. Some hobbies that are enjoyed by one another are skiing, traveling, attending youth sporting events, reading and spending time outdoors. Family time is a top priority to everyone at Visser.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER/WEB ADDRESS:

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