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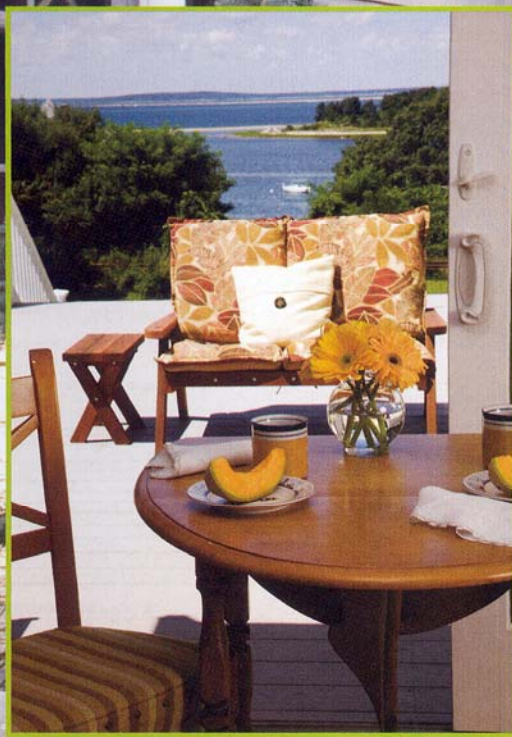
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A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE ALL AROUND
ALLOWS FOR A PERFECT ENDING.

A Waterfront Gambrel Grows Up



DESIGN: SPB DESIGN | GENERAL CONTRACTOR: SULLIVAN BUILDERS, LLC

TEXT: JENNIFER KAIN DEFOE | PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY: JENNIFER ELDRIDGE STELLO

When Vic and Miriam Gilbert purchased their waterfront home in 2005, they knew they would be doing extensive renovations, so their real estate agent, Cheryl Torme, presented them with a copy of *Home Remodeling Cape Cod, the Islands & the South Coast*. Lucky for us, Miriam noticed our request to readers to contact us if planning a remodel and they decided to share their adventure.

GETTING A QUALIFIED TEAM IN PLACE

After a lengthy search, the Gilberts found a small 1940s Gambrel perched on a hilltop acre-plus lot overlooking Buzzards Bay. Their remodel started with Shawn and Peter

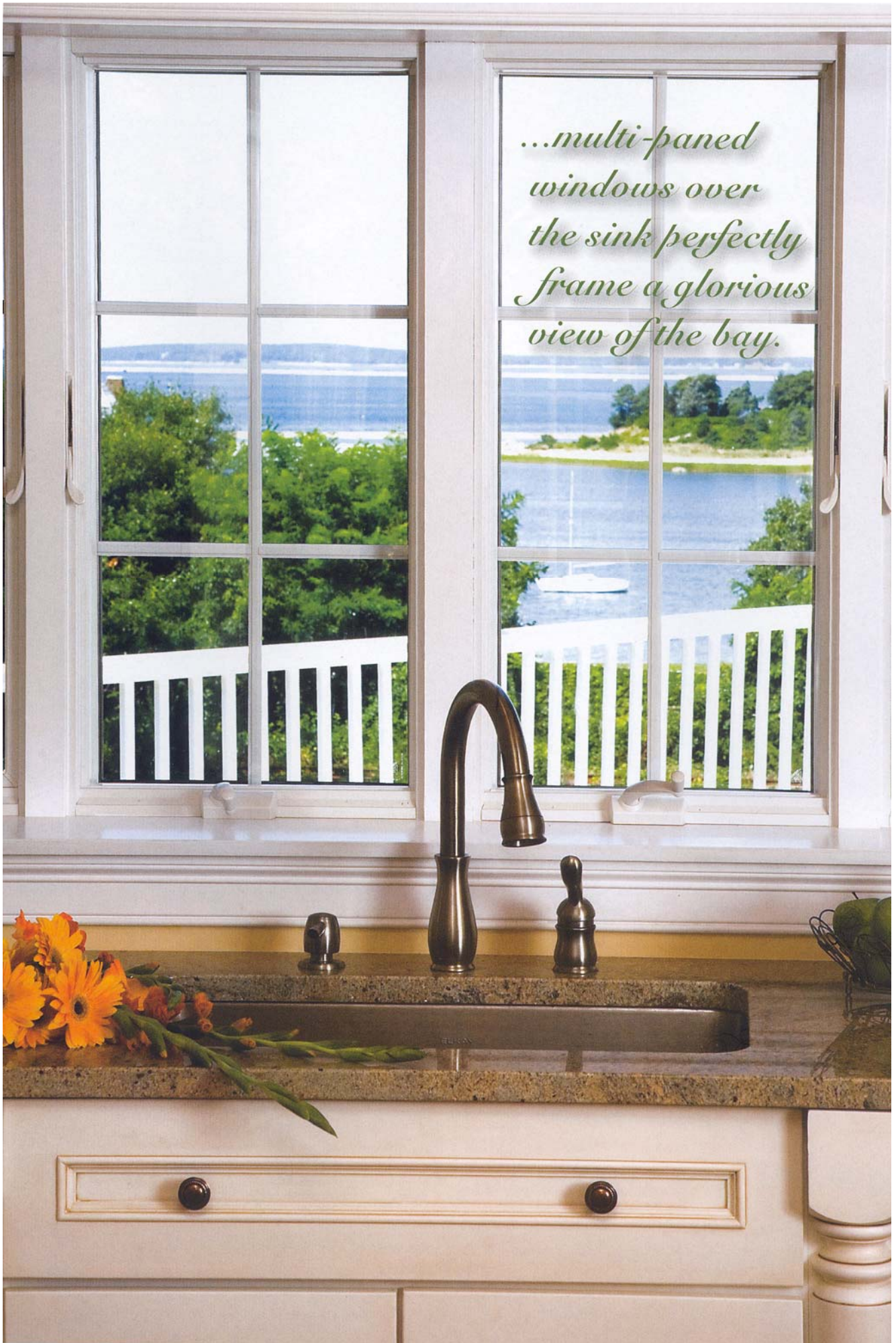
Bissonette, brothers and owners of SPB Design in East Falmouth, who came up with plans to raze a 1970s family room addition that had been tacked onto the side of the house where new construction became the open kitchen Miriam was looking for. Additional changes involved reworking the first floor layout and then adding a second floor to the one-story back of the house, creating space for a master suite with water views.

"We suggested adding on the second floor for the master suite because the only way to add (a master suite) to the first floor was by going across the back, taking up all those water views," said Shawn.

Plans for exterior alterations to the front of the home were



*...multi-paned
windows over
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view of the bay.*





kept to a minimum. “The front roofline was unchanged,” said Vic, “but we did add a small portico with columns to the front door.”

Shawn led the Gilberts to builder Walter ‘Sully’ Sullivan, the founder of Sullivan Builders, LLC based in Bourne. “Shawn gave us three names, Walter’s and two others, and I liked Walter from the moment I shook his hand,” said Vic.

Sullivan has a lot of remodels under his belt, estimating eighty percent of his business is remodeling, and this wasn’t the

The Gilberts stayed flexible not only with construction changes, but when it came to finances too.

Gilberts first attempt at renovating a home, so all were open to making up the rules as they went along, so to speak, creating a flexible environment when construction began in 2006.

The Gilberts stayed flexible not only with construction changes, but when it came to finances too. “We didn’t really have a budget in mind,” said Miriam, so when changes were suggested they were considered for aesthetics rather than dollar signs.

CHANGES ALONG THE WAY MAKE THE REMODEL

One of several mid-renovation tweaks is just inside the new main entrance that opens into the kitchen. The original plans had called for the island Miriam requested. But the Gilbert’s

kitchen designer, Barbara Spaulding of Cataumet Kitchen & Designs, suggested curving the front of it, really opening up this primary entry space. Just beyond the island, multi-paned windows over the sink perfectly frame a glorious view of the bay.

Miriam took a very active roll in planning ‘her’ kitchen, working closely with Spaulding. “We worked that winter, from ’06 to ’07,” she said. She initially had reservations about having granite counters, deeming them “too noisy”, but here too she remained flexible and ended up compromising. The counters along the walls are a warm tone of granite called ‘Kashmir Gold’. On the top tier of the island, richly stained wood creates the feeling of a table.

A newly installed steel support beam has opened up the kitchen to the adjacent great room and, although neither room is especially large, by using the same paint color on the walls in both, it feels like one expansive space. Paint colors throughout the house are Benjamin Moore in the tones of “sea and sand”, as Miriam put it, with ‘Mohave Desert’ on the walls in these rooms.

In the great room, it’s Vic who put his talents to work. “My father taught me woodworking,” he said, and he put that long-ago learned skill to good use by refinishing the original mantle

Preceding pages: The home in full flower. Inset: Breakfast is served in the great room’s nook. At left: A well placed window over the kitchen sink offers brilliant views. This page: A gentle curve to the island’s top makes for comfortable dining.