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FEBRUARY 2006

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A Family Home

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BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI



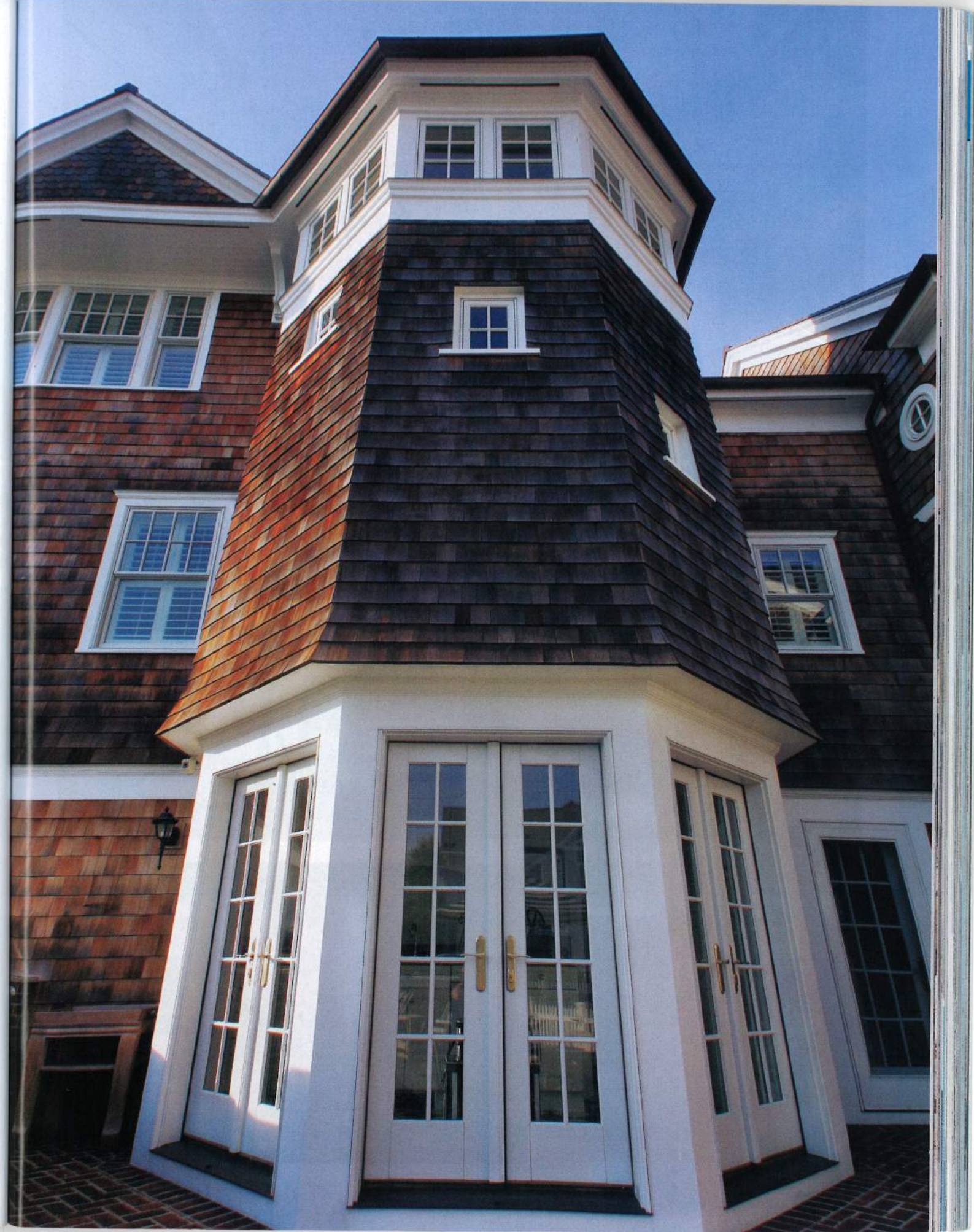
A FAMILY HOME

Family comes first for these doting grandparents whose old-fashioned home on the Atlantic Coast is a favorite gathering place year-round

WRITTEN BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI

As the two Mantoloking, New Jersey, owners of this gorgeous home approached their retirement years, they turned the empty-nest syndrome completely on its ear. Instead of scaling down, they scaled up. It was a carefully planned move designed to create a getaway home for their adult children, their spouses, and their five active grandkids. "Our old house was getting too small for all the kids," says the wife. "We wanted a place where the family could gather comfortably in the summers and during holidays." The couple called on old friends and people who had worked with them on a past renovation to design and build their new ocean-front home. They started from scratch, selling their former home completely furnished so they could concentrate on their new vision, which would be a year in the planning and two in the building. Then they put their dream squarely in the capable hands of old friends, architect John Lederer, AIA, of Lederer & Wright Partnership in Bay Head, and interior designer Vicki McLoughlin, IIDA, who came out of retirement to lend a hand.

Porches and decks line the side of the home that faces the ocean. The staircase leads to the screened porch adjoining the dining room; the master bedroom is upstairs on the right. (opposite) The tower dominates the garage wing of the home. On the ground level, a cabana kitchen opens to a brick patio. Windows above let natural light into the two-story circular stairway.





(above) An 1840s French billiards chandelier with its original glass domes hangs above the 11-foot-long island. Child-friendly barstools are heavy to withstand the antics of antsy youngsters. (opposite, top left) The six-burner stove is recessed into a tiled alcove. (opposite, top right) An antique cabinet displays collectibles. (opposite bottom) Cabinets are a soft butter yellow; glass-front cabinets flank the sink.





In addition to their focus on a family-friendly environment, "We told John we wanted the house to look like it had been here for 100 years," the wife recalls of her early conversations with the architect. For John, that meant a rambling, Shingle-style dwelling with intriguing roofline variations, typical of the coastal area. Inside, multiple levels, seven bedrooms, five fireplaces, and lots of areas to play and relax in would dominate the plan. Since the street level is about 10 feet below dune level, "We put main rooms on upper floors so you can see the ocean views," says John.

Furnishing the house was a two-year process as well. The homeowner and Vicki, friends from college days, traveled from "Connecticut to California and every place in between," says Vicki, searching for furnishings and accessories that would look like they'd been gathered over many years. Says Vicki, "I had a plan in place, so we'd go looking for specific things."

The dining room was a first priority. Because the couple decided against a formal living room—"Everyone gathers in the kitchen and family room anyway," says the wife—the dining room became the most formal room in the house.



(opposite) Along with ocean views, the family room features plush, oversized furniture, a fireplace, soothing colors, and an antique rosewood birdcage with a slightly Victorian air. Plantation shutters are set into the casings. (this page) A refrigerated wine cellar was built into the narrow space beneath the stairs.