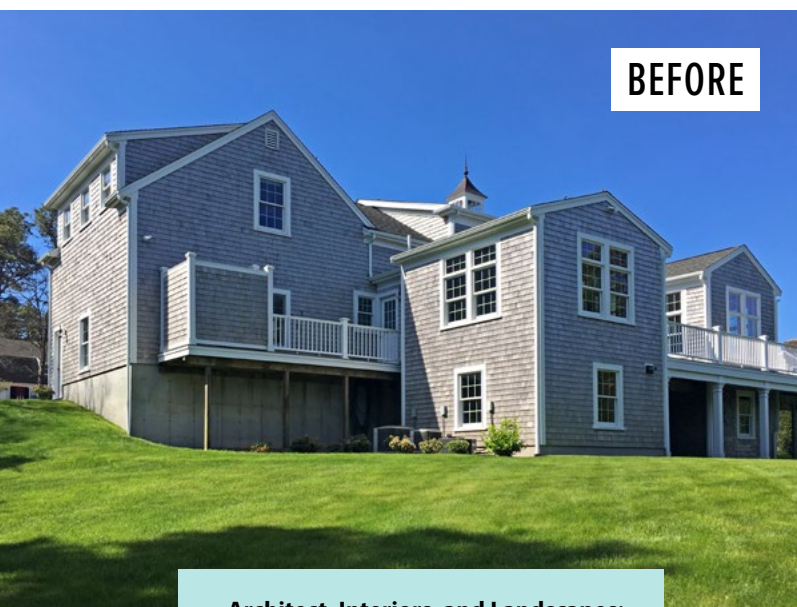


Chatham homeowners renovated portions of an existing beautiful home to take advantage of extensive decks and an unfinished walkout basement

Oriented to the Outdoors

BY SCOTT LAJOIE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ABIGAYLE GRATTAN,
GRATTAN IMAGING



BEFORE

Architect, Interiors, and Landscapes:
SV Design

Contractor:
AP Kimball Construction LLC

When Georgianna Oliver and husband Todd Trehubenko bought a lovely house on Chatham’s Stage Neck, they saw incredible potential to transform it into a place that would one day accommodate their family’s dream to entertain guests in an outdoor setting around a pool. The home already boasted an extensive deck off the back and a walkout basement below, which they thought could conveniently service a future pool area.

But it would take work. Utilizing the small backyard was hampered by conservation wetlands. And it had to be graded given its existing slope. What’s more, there existed a single door out of the walkout basement. It sat underneath the deck, so it was often dark and wet, thus not very inviting. And while the decks were spacious, they did not access the backyard. In fact, if you came back from the beach, you had to walk through the house to get to the outdoor shower situated on that back deck.

In 2017, Oliver and Trehubenko hired SV Design for renovation and master planning to the house and surrounding yard. After a few design iterations, they decided on a phased strategy. Phase One included constructing the pool, modifying the decks, and building the cabana within a portion of the basement.



(Opposite Page) Previously, this nook was covered by a much larger deck. Renovations called for it to be minimized to a Juliet balcony to enjoy more sun. (This page) The L-shaped pool is surrounded by patio that extends to the fencing at the shrubbery. (Inset) The final landscape design by SV Design.

Earlier plans proposed a 14’ X 25’ rectangular pool and then a 10’ X 40’ lap pool with a circular spa closer to the side of the house. They settled on an L-shaped Pebble-Tec pool that jags along the corner of the cabana with a square spa abutting it on the other side. Both would be built by Viola Associates. “We love going from the spa to the pool, back to the spa again,” says Oliver. “It is so quiet out here in Chatham, you can really appreciate the stars while you are in the spa at night.”

The floorplan of the existing home consisted of a bumped-out office on the first floor. They knew that the area under this room was perfect for the cabana.

They installed sliders on all three sides—singles that faced the sides and a double at the back—that would make for easy flow from the pool deck into the cabana. This room was outfitted with concrete countertops and a sink from Elements Concrete, cabinets, and furniture in which to lounge when you wanted to escape the sun. With all the sliders, “you



The cabana boasts a wet bar with slick cement countertops and a double slider that leads to the pool. (Top Right) Outermost Tile installed the mosaic fish tile between the custom cabinetry. (Right) “We love going from the spa to the pool, back to the spa again,” says homeowner Georgianna Oliver.



don't even realize that you are inside,” says Senior Project Manager Katelyn Manfredo of SV Design.

With older, college-aged children, the homeowners knew the basement was going to be frequently used, so SV Design worked with the existing slab and with the help of Topcoat Services in Hyannis ground down the floor to give it a more natural less-polished texture. A crack in the slab? They kept it. It added character. “Everything we did was meant to last a lifetime,” says Oliver.

SV Design also made design changes to the decks, pulling back the one between the office and dining room bump-outs to be essentially a Juliet balcony. This would allow the double sliders where the single door to the basement once was so much more

light to what in Phase 2 would become a game room. Now that the decks were no longer connected, SV Design planned for two staircases to come down from the outside decks. Now one can access the outdoor shower from the backyard and the pool could be accessed from the first floor of the home.

The design of these staircases called for a little flair to help invite use of this new design feature. They widened as they approached the ground, which looked great but required some extra effort from builder Peter Kimball of AP Kimball. “They did a phenomenal job aesthetically,” says Oliver. “From the corner of the pool, you can really appreciate not only the workmanship of the construction, but the perfect balance of the design.”



(Above) Bunk beds in the basement fit perfectly into the built space. (Right) A hanging bamboo chair, provided by Chatham Home, fits perfectly in a corner and reflects the whimsical design sense of the homeowner.

An earlier schematic design called for an extended deck off the dining room that would include a stone chimney for an outdoor fireplace. It would provide space for a dining table, couches and chairs by the fire, and some lounge chairs. But this was scrapped in favor of keeping guests situated around the pool deck.

Oliver and Trehubenko were able to enjoy all of these outdoor features the following year while they built out more areas of the basement, including sleeping quarters, a changing room, and a game room. “The upstairs is traditional,” says Manfredo. “The downstairs is fun and playful.” There is some great contemporary artwork by Chatham artist Steve Lyons and the steel light sconces in the shape of schools of fish are by Harwich artist Steve Swain (Swain’s Frying Pan Gallery is based in Wellfleet).

While there is plenty of bedrooms throughout the house including a huge guestroom above the garage, the sleeping quarters with bunk beds provide an overflow catch-all.

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Improvements to the great room included woodwork details above the fireplace by Dolan Custom Woodworking.



The island in the kitchen (inset) was replaced with an L-shaped peninsula to improve the flow of activity there.



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The final phase was a full renovation of the kitchen and minor updates to the great room. The previous owners had a well-placed island, but Oliver preferred to be facing the windows while she was in the kitchen. The flow was redesigned to remove the island and extend the counter around in a L-shape, while the range was relocated to this portion of the counter.

The previous owner had a lot of intricate trim work throughout the kitchen and first floor. Modifying the kitchen required Kimball to make new and old trim match seamlessly. The renovation

prompted the team to consider removing the coffered ceiling. “I thought it could be removed to provide a better functioning light layout in the ceiling, but Georgianna really liked the details and wanted to keep it, so as a team we worked around it,” says Manfredo.

“The house had such great energy,” says Oliver. “The previous owners had planned this great space, but never ended up using it.” SV Design and AP Kimball found efficient ways to update the home and backyard space. Oliver, Trehubenko, and their family—sons Alex and Teddy and beagle Tyler—can now enjoy their home for many years to come. 🐕

Concrete Countertops/Sink/Thresholds: Elements Concrete

Custom Sconces: Frying Pan Gallery

Concrete Floor: TopCoat Services

Landscape: Schumacher Companies

Pool: Viola Associates

Cabinetry and Quartz Countertops: Classic Kitchens & Interiors

Appliances: KAM

Artwork: Steve Lyons

Site Engineering: Coastal Engineering Co.

Structural Engineering: McKenzie Engineering Consultants

Ecological: Wilkinson Ecological

Audio Visual: WOW Media, ACT Associates

Fence: Colonial Fence