

ON THE WATERFRONT

While their kids swim in the pool, these lucky parents have a shaded place to keep watch.

By Jaci Conry

The Problem

To accommodate a walk-out basement, the first floor of this lake-front new build in the 'burbs had to be elevated about half a flight of stairs from the ground. A challenge of this design decision was that the raised living spaces felt a bit disconnected from the backyard pool area. "The homeowners wanted a comfortable space that was more connected to the yard, where they could sit in the shade and still be close to their kids when they were in the pool," says architect Tobin Shulman, a principal of SV Design.

The Solution

The natural topography of the land allowed SV Design to create an indoor/outdoor sunroom directly adjacent to the pool. "We set the room three steps down from the living space, which makes it that much closer to the yard," Shulman says. Since the sunroom is at the end of the house, the team was able to install three walls of glass bi-fold doors. "It really feels like you are outside with all the doors open," he adds. A double-sided fireplace provides warmth during the chilly months, though the room, which boasts 17-foot-high cathedral ceilings, is insulated and heated to accommodate year-round use. "The homeowners spend a lot of time here when their kids are out in the yard," Shulman says. "It's also really neat to be in there during a rainstorm and even when there's snow. The space feels cozy no matter what the weather is."

ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER: SV DESIGN; BUILDER: ARCHWRIGHT; LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: HAWK DESIGN; LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION: R.P. MARZILLI & COMPANY

