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ONO

islanddream
Orange Beach, Alabama

by SABE FINK

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hen Auburn residents Laura and Tim Kirkpatrick decided to build their dream home on Ono Island, first they found Laura Bixler with Bellator Realty and enlisted her expertise in finding the perfect lot. "She knew what we were looking for, and we worked with her for over a year, and when she brought us this lot, we knew we had found our dream property," Laura Kirkpatrick says. Then they went to custom home designer Bob Chatham of Daphne for his years of experience and his way of working with clients to determine exactly what they want and make it happen. The Kirkpatricks had chosen Ono Island

for the privacy it provides, and for the easy access to the water. "We now split our time between this house on Ono and our home in Auburn," says Laura.

"We love **Ono Island** because of the warm and friendly community on the island, the close proximity to the beach, and the high level of comfort and security provided by being on an island."

photography by **RANDY HAMILTON**





The Kirkpatricks worked closely with Chatham and with homebuilder Vlahos Homes to maximize the amazing views of Bayou St. John, Perdido Bay, and the Intracoastal Waterway. "The very best thing we did," says Laura, "was to design and build a tower off the master bedroom that provides a cozy, private reading and sitting area on the main level, with expansive windows that provide a 270-degree view of Perdido Bay and Ono Harbor. Above that, accessible by a spiral staircase, we have built-in window seating with amazing 360-degree views. This is the most amazing place to view the incomparable sunsets of Orange Beach!"

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The Kirkpatrick home contains about 5,000 square feet of interior living space and an additional 1,000 square feet of covered porches. There are four bedrooms with four full baths and two half baths. The main floor is an open concept, with water views from every corner.

"The kitchen was set up as a true chef's kitchen, and centers on an over-size island that allows for plenty of participation in meal preparation. There is ample seating, plenty of storage, and a great layout for enjoying cooking. "We love to entertain in the kitchen," says Laura, "and this layout and design gives us the ability to cook and entertain with our friends and family."





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he upper level living area features tongue and groove ceilings and shiplap siding that add to the casual and inviting feel, and oversized windows that take full advantage of the expansive water views. The master bath is a spacious, open room, with separate his-and-hers vanities, a freestanding tub, and a hidden shower with a dual entry.

"The master bedroom and bath are our private domain," says Laura. "We really love the calm, serene feel of the space, and we spend a lot of time here or in the adjacent tower." The Kirkpatricks did their own interior design. "I enjoyed doing my own design work," says Laura, "but I relied a great deal on Merrill Miller Interiors of Orange Beach for furniture advice and assistance."



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The guest bedrooms and living space on the lower level feature a kitchenette for the guests' convenience, luxurious oversized baths with freestanding tubs and separate showers, and an emphasis on comfort and casual luxury, all with great views.

"I like that our guests can enjoy socializing, but can also find peace and privacy in their own space," says Laura.

The Kirkpatricks keep their boat at a dock just across from the home at Ono Harbor, and they spend a lot of their time in or on the water. Their outdoor space features simple but elegant landscaping designed and installed by Southern Exposure Landscaping to complement the home without overpowering it.

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