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ONO

"PROVIDES US WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE DREAMED OF"

by Sabe Fink



“We built the house as a family gathering place, with space for everyone, and we look forward to having grandchildren to fill it up.”

Birmingham residents Jim and Barbara Nevins have always loved the Alabama Gulf Coast, and for years they kept a vacation condo for their frequent visits to the area. “Jim loves the water, and all the guys in the family like to fish, so eventually we began to look for a place where we could keep a boat and take advantage of all the area has to offer. Because of the quick access to the gulf, Ono Island was the perfect location, and it provides us with everything we’ve dreamed of.” Barbara and Jim have two grown children, both married and both expecting their first child. “We built the house as a family gathering place, with space for everyone, and we look forward to having grandchildren to fill it up,” says Barbara.

The focal point of the great room and kitchen is the dramatic stacked, stone fireplace with its rough-hewn timber mantel and stone hearth.



When the Nevins were ready to build, they chose Vlahos & Tuck Construction, LLC of Orange Beach. Phillip Vlahos and Scottie Tuck brought decades of design-build experience and extensive knowledge of the challenges of waterfront construction to the project. "This home is one of my very favorites," says Scottie Tuck, who was involved in every aspect of the Nevins' project. "I love the Mediterranean style and the floor plan is extremely well thought out. Jim Nevins is a builder himself, and although his focus is in the commercial market, his knowledge of materials and techniques made the process go very smoothly."



The Nevins home has four bedrooms and four and a half baths. "The master bedroom and one other bedroom are on the upper level, along with the kitchen and open living area and a study," says Barbara. "We all enjoy being able to cook, eat, and be together, so the open kitchen and the outdoor dining area work well for us."



Kitchen by: Brocks Cabinets South

The kitchen features sleek stainless appliances, custom white cabinetry, and is separated from the great room by a curved granite island.

The focal point of the great room and kitchen is the dramatic stacked, stone fireplace with its rough-hewn timber mantel and stone hearth. "We just love the cozy feel of a fire, and it's really special when we can look out the windows on either side and see the water and the sky," she says. "We planned the house with lots of windows, so we can look out and see water all around us – the Gulf, Ole River, St. Johns Bay, and the Pass."



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The color scheme throughout the home is light and serene, with predominantly white upholstered furniture, wood floors, natural materials, and subdued metallic accents. The bedrooms follow the same theme, with pops of color coming from luxurious pillows and throws and softness provided by floor to ceiling draperies.

The lower level contains two bedrooms and two baths, plus a large, comfortable den and a very convenient kitchenette. "This is a great area for our grown children, and eventually for their children," Barbara says. "It gives them privacy and space, and yet we're all still together."



The boathouse is accessed across a wide green lawn dotted with palm trees, which the Nevins chose for their beachy feel. "The boathouse and dock give us another place to sit and bask in the beauty around us," says Barbara. "We were even able to create a little sand beach – mostly for our future grandchildren – with the sand that resulted from dredging a bit to accommodate our boat. I really can't wait to use it with them! This home truly is the fulfillment of a dream."

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