

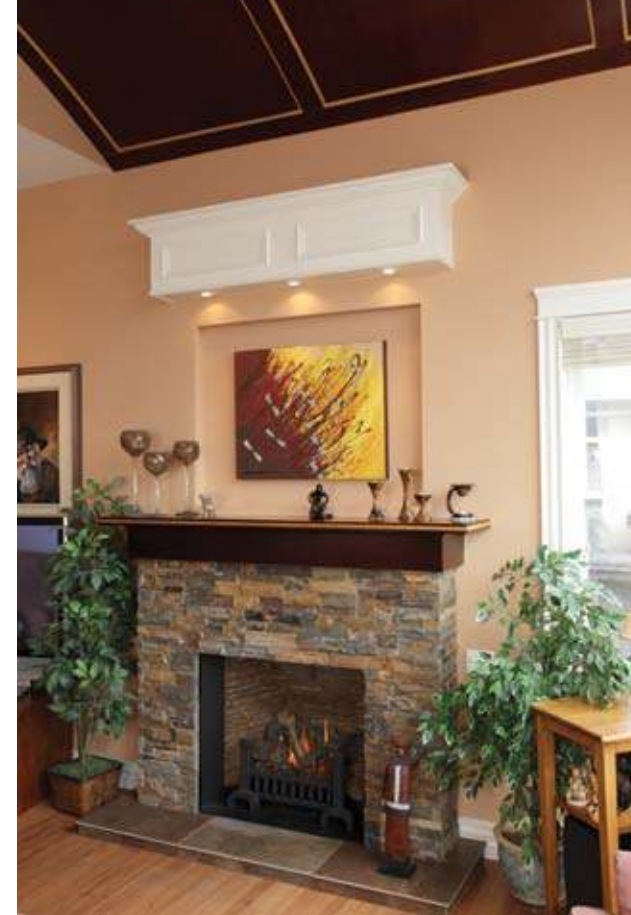


paradise FOUND

BY GWEN ZWICKER // PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID CORKUM

“It looked just like a movie set,” Pierre Martin says of the first time he spied what would become his new neighbourhood. Thanks to architectural technologist and building designer **Greg Cormier** of **Superstructures Inc.**, the houses on this small, private lane tucked in behind Cocagne’s main street have a distinct and nautical New England feel.

Originally built to serve as rental properties for the hordes of summer visitors who come to this idyllic piece of southern New Brunswick, the houses on this street provide their occupants with the feeling of sand, sea and relaxation. So much so that Pierre and his wife Kate decided they wanted to own one, thus beginning their relationship with Cormier and a host of other local trades people who they have nothing but praise for. From the pressure tank for their water system (**Eastern Well Drillers Ltd.**), to their hot tub (**Fun Time Pools Inc.** and **Noel Electric Ltd.**), water softener (**Shediac Water Conditioning Ltd.**), lighting, blinds, paint colour design (**Brunswick Decorating Centre Ltd.**) and paint (**Kent**), “Everyone came when they said they would and did what we expected them to do,” says Kate. Cormier and **Lee Kennedy** of **Vista Interiors and Construction**, who often work together, became the craftsmen the Martins relied upon to redesign and customize their new home. *Continued on page 30*



OPPOSITE TOP: With the turret, decks, large windows and beach right behind, it’s easy to see why Pierre and Kate were attracted to this unique beach home. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The main entrance is sunny, casual and practical. Come in and kick off your flip flops here! **TOP LEFT:** The gas fireplace keeps the home cosy on cold nights. **TOP RIGHT:** The bathtub in the dramatic master suite looks out at the beach and ocean beyond. **ABOVE:** A recessed compass rose is positioned in the ceiling above the staircase. **RIGHT:** The living room offers huge windows and a striking panelled ceiling.



The round ceiling detail in the kitchen echoes the many round walls in the home. A door leads out to the sundeck with expansive ocean views. The house is steps to the beach. **RIGHT:** The dining area features a handy, custom built-in pantry.



Pierre and Kate, retired from busy lives in Montreal, Vancouver and most recently, Ottawa, had no specific location they wanted to settle in as they turned east in search of their new home. Pierre happened to be travelling in the Cocagne area and noticed the “movie set” neighbourhood and fell in love with it on sight. Luckily, Kate did too. They have lived in the house now for two years.

Cormier, meanwhile, has done more than just design houses. In addition to the nautical feel and the elements that tie all the houses together into a cohesive neighbourhood, he has taken extra time and effort to ensure the development minimizes its carbon footprint and respects the natural environment surrounding it. The street lights are constructed from recycled materials and give a rustic feel to the area. Lawns maintain the natural setting, showcasing tall beach grasses, local stone and non-intrusive fences created from logs and rope. The homes themselves have been created to fit into the landscape with their unique curved roofs and walls. When Pierre and Kate bought their house, they signed an agreement to preserve the natural landscape.

Pierre and Kate’s house is constructed on two floors. Upon entering, the staircase is open to the height of both floors and surrounded by large windows set into the curved wall. In the ceiling, a compass rose catches your eye, further enhancing the nautical feel. The main living area, consisting of living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom and bathroom, is on the second floor. Large windows in the living

room provide generous views and help supply heat to the house. Other strategically placed windows give a feeling of openness and spectacular views on all sides. Curved walls are an integral part of the interior design and help the open floor plan feel comfortable, warm and part of the landscape. The house is wrapped with decks on the front, back and side. With the help of their designer, Lee Kennedy, the back and side decks were enlarged, incorporating a storage area under the deck as well as a hot tub. Pierre is now in the process of converting the hot tub so that it no longer uses chemicals.

Along with the curved walls, the living room features a high ceiling curved with wood panelling, part of Cormier’s original design. This is one of the main reasons why Kate loves the house. The Martins replaced the fireplace in their living room with the help of Kennedy. It is now a high efficiency unit surrounded by local stone. A mantel above the fireplace provides the setting for a painting of dragonflies done by local artist **Madeleine Raiche**.

Kennedy also worked with the Martins to enlarge their kitchen, converting a small island to a breakfast bar, and adding more cupboard space plus a wine rack. The design of the kitchen flows through the furniture, colours and dining area, in which Lee constructed a built-in pantry. The kitchen ceiling has a round, dropped design that nicely separates it from the dining room and gives it character. Kate purchased a round track lighting system for the kitchen to match the structure. *Continued on page 32*

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“Everything that has been added or redesigned in this house looks like it has always been here,” says Pierre. “We took advice from Lee (Kennedy) and Greg (Cormier) to ensure that the design of the house was maintained with the result that the house is comfortable and everything flows. **Les Armoires SS Inc.** even took one of the kitchen cabinet doors to their shop to make sure they had the design and colour exactly right.” Sico paints, selected with help from Brunswick Decorating Centre Ltd. in Moncton and purchased at Kent in shades of Suede, Royal Meringue and Medium Tan tie the upper floor together and lend to the warmth.

The lower level of the house consists of four bedrooms and a large bathroom. Pierre and Kate particularly love this plan because it means guests can have their private space. One of the downstairs bedrooms has been decorated for their granddaughter in shades of light lavender. Madeleine Raiche provided paintings for this room as well.

The house has been constructed with many local materials. For example, **Goguen Lumber** in Cocagne supplied additional materials for the enlarged deck and storage area as well as the cedar shingles for the

exterior. While the house has electric heat, the Martins rarely use it. The open design of the house allows the fireplace to provide whatever heat is required, although the sun provides most of the home’s heat with the strategically placed windows. As for air conditioning, Pierre says, “Open any doors or windows and the wind looks after that.”

The Martins are here to stay. Along with other partners, they now own two of the rental properties across the street and love to hear the sound of children playing during the summer. To them, this is the ideal spot. They thoroughly enjoy the Maritimes with the slower, more relaxing and friendly atmosphere. They have become good friends with Cormier and Kennedy and admire the visionary way in which Cormier designs his houses. His coastal theme, using local materials, recycling, and minimizing the carbon footprint are ideals they uphold.

“We love this neighbourhood and the whole area,” says Pierre. “There’s no pollution, no other smells except the great smell of the salt water, and it’s quiet.” Adds Kate, “We are centrally located so that we can travel anywhere and it’s a great place to retire.” **OH**



LEFT: All of the guest rooms are on the ground floor. This one has double patio doors that lead to the front deck. **BELOW LEFT:** This light and airy guest room looks out below the back deck toward the beach. **BELOW RIGHT:** This sweet room is decorated for Pierre and Kate’s granddaughter.



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Karen Carrier - BSc(Agr); BEd; Landscape Horticulturist Journeyperson & Instructor

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