

The History of Your Home

Address: 2 Libbey Lane, Rye, NH 03870

Tell us your stories...

Who designed your home?

Ivan Bereznicki Associates, Cambridge MA. (Bereznicki Architects)

What is the history of your home?

Having grown up in Connecticut, and lived in Colorado and California, we moved to the NH Seacoast in 1989 and knew that we wanted to make this our family home. After 5 years, we decided to build a home and Rye was the town we desired. As this property was coming available we began interviewing architects. Our desire was to have a home that would fit the Cape Cod/Nantucket style, while being comfortable on the NH Seacoast. Ivan Bereznicki, out of Cambridge, MA offered to drive to NH to meet with us to discuss our desires, the property, the type of structure, and our lifestyle. He arrived in an old Saab, and we began a three year process of design and build. Ivan has since passed.

What do you love about it?

This home, Sea Orchid, provides a private, open concept Seacoast lifestyle, both inside and out. Tucked behind a 250ft Arborvitae hedge, roughly 3/4 mile from the beach; it sits in a friendly, quiet cul du sac neighborhood which is ideal for walking the dogs, and kids riding their bikes in safety. The inside living areas are spacious but not too large, and can be combined to provide for wonderful entertainment opportunities. The central chefs kitchen allows for the creation of spectacular meals while including the chef in all the activities. The outdoor patio comes alive at night, with music, landscape lighting, a fire table, and a water feature that allows for a true Shangri-La experience.

Why did you buy/build it?

Traditional New England homes generally feature low ceilings and short doors. To provide the open concept with fine architectural details and the spacious feeling we were looking for in our home, we opted to engage Ivan Bereznicki Architects to design in the high ceilings, tall doors, pocket doors and oversize garage doors, not seen in traditional homes. We wanted privacy, a southern exposure, lots of windows, and an attached greenhouse for the nurturing of orchids and other greenery, year round. The patio and landscaping was designed by Alan Eves, of Greenland, NH to round out the full experience at Sea Orchid.

What will you miss about it?

We will miss the openness, privacy and lifestyle that this home has provided for 28 years. It has seen our kids grow up and excel in their lives, through the Rye school system. We will miss the comfort and privacy that has been provided here. We will miss the many gatherings of family and friends that are so easy at Sea Orchid. The house flows from room to room and people are so comfortable here.

What will you remember?

We will remember the fun: family trips with friends and their families, parties, holidays, movies, pets, the gardens, the flowers, opening up our home to our family and friends when they needed a place to stay. (The guest suite is perfect for visitors, as it closes off for privacy, perfectly.). We will remember surfing in the winter snow, and changing out of the wetsuit in the nice warm greenhouse. We will remember washing the dog in the greenhouse, leaving the sand there!

Where is the best window?

There is no best window. From the office, you view lilacs and hydrangeas. From the Sun Room, with its 3 sides of glass, you are immersed in the gardens and patio. From the kitchen and Great Room, you view the patio, the water feature and the back yard and gardens. From the Primary Suite, you view the landscape and back yard and woods beyond. Truly, there is no "Best Window" in this house.

What is the most beautiful thing about your home?

The architectural details throughout the home catch your eye each time you turn around. Its feel of Cape Cod and the islands, paired with the elegance of its attention to detail make it a truly beautiful experience to behold.

Which room is your favorite?

The "Favorite" room is defined by the event and its use. The mahogany front door opens to a two story entrance hall that lifts your eyes to appreciate the columns, beams and crown mouldings and wrap around staircase. Beyond the entrance hall, you are drawn into a central living area with marble fireplace and columned mantel, and beyond that is the inviting step down sunroom. Imagine the 9ft holiday tree with ample decorations throughout this area of the home. This is just one example. but for sanctuary, the Primary Suite with its sitting area with fireplace, the tray ceiling with cove lighting offers a quiet respite from a busy day.

What little details do you treasure?

The quality of the design, the attention to detail. From the columns and crown mouldings, to the inset lighting, the thoughtfulness of the design is obvious. So many homes are common, this home is very special. The wrap around landscape, with its bird feeders to draw in all bird species, and the outdoor lighting has made this home so comfortable for our family to live in and enjoy for many years.

What quirks?

Quirks? Any quirks that may have existed at one time, such as improper insulation, and a rather inadequate heating/cooling system have all been resolved, replaced or upgraded to the latest technology. The opportunity to expand over the garage exists for the imagination of the new owners.

What momentous things have happened to you under this roof?

We have had many graduations, birthdays, and milestone anniversaries for family and also friends. We have had tented parties in the back yard with live music on the patio. We have had a milestone anniversary party for friends , inside with live music to celebrate. This house is a celebration of life.

Why is this a good place to live?

Sea Orchid offers the peace and tranquility not found in most homes, with all of the needed modern amenities and comforts. Whether you work from home, enjoy music throughout the house, mature gardens, enjoy the unique heated and ventilated 4 season greenhouse for growing orchids, flowers or other greens, washing the dog, removing winter surf wetsuits, create gourmet meals in the chefs kitchen, or like the thunderous home theater capability of the Great Room, you are a short walk to the beach and a short bike ride to the wonderful Rye schools. Truly, this is a real sanctuary hidden behind Arborvitae.