



LIVING LARGE
 Wanting a bona fide “wow element,” the couple opted for a nearly three-story great room, which is accented by a dazzling lighted cupola and a wall of windows that takes advantage of the beautiful view.

The Avon Lake Residence

SCHILL ARCHITECTURE BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH A TRANSITIONAL RESIDENCE ON LAKE ERIE

by Amy Meadows

When a successful young couple came to see Steve Schill, owner of Schill Architecture, they didn’t really know how to describe the high-end, custom home they wanted him to design. “They needed guidance,” Schill recalls, “and as a residential architect with a lot of experience in building homes for high-net-worth clients, I was able to provide that for them.”

After asking a lot of questions and showing the couple examples of his firm’s impressive work, including a vast array of breathtaking estate homes, luxury residences, and waterfront properties throughout northeast Ohio, Schill helped them decide on the various elements that would comprise their dream home—a magnificent four-story, 16,000-square-foot residence that sits on a picturesque two-acre site on Lake Erie in the city of Avon Lake, Ohio.

“We were in sync right away, and it ended up being a very smooth process,” Schill says of working with his clients, who wanted a transitional and trendy home design with a clean, almost minimalist feel that also featured a warm and homey atmosphere. With four levels and six bedrooms to conceive, Schill had his work cut out for him, particularly since his specialty tends toward a traditional-style home. He found a way to create a nice sequence of spaces throughout the home, blending wide-open areas with smaller, more intimate rooms.


In addition, Schill designed a number of spaces that are unique to the needs of his clients. With two master bedrooms (one upper and one lower), a large children’s playroom, an elaborate fitness center, a hair salon, a dedicated room that allows for the care of foster dogs, a third-level sky bar, a

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

1. HEART OF THE HOME

Because everyone gathers in the kitchen, the homeowners wanted an open space flanked by an informal dining area. To keep with their transitional design theme, they chose edgy materials like stainless steel on the island and concrete for the countertops.

2. POOL PERFECTION

Designed to be a sculptural piece of art, the resort-style infinity pool overlooking Lake Erie features a swim-up bar and a charming grotto.

3. DIM THE LIGHTS

The home theater offers a superb setting for movie night or weekend game viewing, with three television screens, an outstanding audio system, birch wood floors, a stone fireplace and luxurious seating.

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STEVE SCHILL, OWNER

lower-level Moroccan-themed bar, a spectacular infinity pool, and more, the residence, decorated by interior designer Mary Ann Minnich, gives the couple everything they need not only to entertain large groups of family and friends, but also to live comfortably and conveniently when they are alone at home.

What’s truly amazing about the residence is that, although it took two years to build the home through Schill’s separately held construction firm, Charles Morgan and Company, LLC, the re-

nowned architect spent only three weeks drawing up the plans. Of course, he worked day and night to complete the blueprints for his clients, who were very eager to get started. And by putting as much effort as possible into the design process, Schill was able to deliver a home that truly surpassed the couple’s expectations. “It’s everything they wanted it to be,” he says. “We go back and follow up often, and we know that they are very happy in the home. We put ourselves behind every home we do, and I’m very pleased with how this project turned out in the end.” ■