



A Travel-inspired Mediterranean Home

text | Anne Surniak
images | Jonathan Harper

Some people bring home souvenirs from their travels; others keep a journal or take a lot of photographs to preserve the memories. Gary and Sue Weller built a house that reminds them of all the fantastic places they've been.

When outside of the Wellers' home one can almost envision the home as being somewhere else entirely, maybe Tuscany or the French Mediterranean. But that's all the better. The unique home fits right into a West Shore neighborhood that features an inviting mix architectural styles.

"I need room to think and move around."

—Sue Weller

The home opens into a beautiful foyer with stone floor tiles, a 22-foot vaulted ceiling and a beautiful copper chandelier. It feels as though you've entered an outdoor courtyard with tall doorways, outdoor-style lighting, and an exposed second-floor disguised by balconies, arched windows, and iron railing.

Directly in front of the foyer is a formal living area. To the left is an iron gate with a beautiful copper wall fountain behind it. It separates a powder room and the master bedroom suite. To the right of the foyer is one of the most impressive dining rooms imaginable. With faux stucco walls, a tall ceiling, and subtle





ambient lighting that changes color. The room feels as though you are dining al fresco. Outside of the large dining room window is a vine-covered pergola. To create the illusion of the outside coming in, the Wellers continued the pergola inside of the room, vines and all.

This is the perspective from the formal entry. But the Wellers and their friends and family are a little more casual. They use the driveway and garage behind the house and come in the back door. This puts you in the mudroom, where shoes and jackets are pulled off, and into the kitchen and more informal part of the home.

To the left is an iron gate with a beautiful copper wall fountain behind it.

The informal area consists of the kitchen, family room, and office, all of which occupy one large open space, as well as a large game room. "I like things to be open," says Sue. "I need room to think and move around."

The Wellers have plenty of space, but it's just not quantity, it's quality. "I can't stand clutter," she says. A closer look at some of the house's features demonstrates the careful planning that went into keeping things clutter-free. In the kitchen, custom cupboards have built-in nooks with electrical outlets to conceal appliances. One of the cabinets rolls right out from under the counter and is actually a restaurant-inspired bus cart to hide dirty utensils, dishes, and food scraps until they can be dealt with properly. When not in use, a television in the breakfast nook is hidden behind a painting.

The charm of the house continues in the bedrooms; each named and decorated after a place that they've traveled.

The master bedroom suite, or the Jamaica room, is painted in island-



inspired blues and yellows and has an awning painted over the bed and a mural of the ocean behind it. The bath has a barrel-vaulted ceiling designed to look like an arbor, a whirlpool bath, walk-in limestone shower, and walk-in closet.

The African suite, also upstairs, features murals of animals, including an elephant mural behind the glass shower, African tapestries, drums, and art.

Upstairs is the Moroccan suite, which includes a bedroom, whirlpool and shower, and a full kitchen, and dining area. The African suite, also upstairs, features murals of animals, including an elephant mural behind the glass shower, African tapestries, drums, and art.

Throughout the house there are over 1,000 hand-painted tiles (by Sue), faux painted walls, whimsical floor tiles, and paintings by noted artists such as Malcolm Lipke and R. Kenton Nelson. The basement includes a weight room, lap pool, and a craft area. |



Architect:	Kurt M. Oravec
Builder:	Heritage Builders
Kitchen Design:	Colonial Craft Kitchens
Interior Design:	Classic Interiors
Faux Painting:	Julie Riker