



February/March 2001

Crosscuts

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Oceanfront at Its Finest

Jim and Carolyn Brown's experience working with Rand Lumber goes far back. In fact, Jim's grandparents were Rand customers. The Brown's ancestors trace back to the 1600s in the Hampton area, and to 1866 on the site of the oceanfront home in Rye where their latest project is under construction.

The Browns are very familiar with their building site. They have lived in a house they owned right next door. This new house, on 120 feet of one of the most beautiful oceanfront settings in Rye, is a culmination of a dream that many years of hard work has finally brought to fruition.



Jim and Carolyn aren't novices to this type of project. They have built three homes and remodeled over half a dozen other structures through the years. They have worked with the best contractors, architects, and masons in the field, and this home is no exception.

The design is contemporary, with a touch of Scandinavian and Japanese flavor. The natural light from skylights

and large picture windows take full advantage of the extraordinary views. The footprint of the home is 2200 square feet affording them a living area of approximately 3500 square feet on three floors.

The home captures its incredible surroundings elegantly, combining Eel Pond views on the west side of the house with sweeping ocean views on the other side in the floor-to-ceiling brick-fireplaced living/dining room. The rest of the rooms are unique as well and extremely well thought out. Carolyn, an antique dealer, knows about design and efficiency. The modest-size kitchen with plentiful custom cabinetry promises to be a showpiece. A corner nook near the kitchen will have a small table tucked in with two chairs (formerly housed at The Wentworth By The Sea), offering a quaint ocean view while sipping a cup of favorite tea.

The quality of materials is first-rate and Jim says that Rand Lumber is to thank for that. He trusts Rand to deliver the best. He speaks highly of everyone at Rand, saying "no question about it, they are a delight to work with." The Browns love the quality of the wood. They are looking forward to installing the 1,000 board feet of select pine for the wood walls in the living/dining room along with the red oak flooring.

They recall a time in the hurricanes of the 40s and 50s when so many trees



had been taken down. Jim estimates that a quarter of a million board feet of wood was milled by Rand. "We built three houses with some of that wood," Carolyn says.

One can sense that these two have learned much about building and decorating over the years. They also know the ocean well and have built accordingly. The layout speaks to function and comfortability first, with unique office space, storage space, bedrooms, skylights and recessed lighting. It will showcase the art and antiques they have collected over the years. Art and nature will live harmoniously.

No matter how beautiful, this home will be extremely livable. It is designed for family, for friends, and for grandchildren to enjoy. The firm sand beach—just footsteps away—is a magnet for all ages. A "beach bath hall" allows entry directly from the front yard, not far from the water's edge. A shower or soak in the jacuzzi tub overlooking the ocean after a full day of outdoor activities is a perfect ending to an enjoyable day in this oceanfront dream home.

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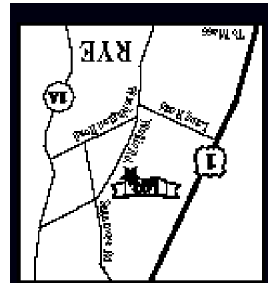
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