



That's Entertainment

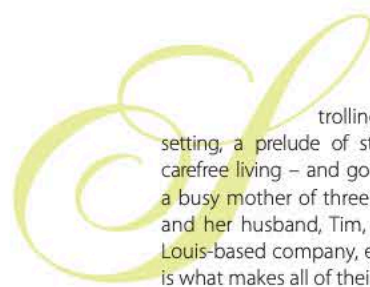
SUMMER, FALL, WINTER, SPRING . . .
THIS FRONTENAC HOME HAS EVERYTHING

BY JUDY UELK PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL JACOB



Directly off the kitchen and surrounded by stately black pillars, a cozy seating area easily transforms into an "outdoor office" for Tim, a busy executive. The family's golden retriever enjoys spending time outdoors, as well. "We made sure to keep enough 'green space' for Coach," says Richard Poynter, CEO and owner of Poynter Landscape Architecture and Construction. Opposite page: The natural ambience of the pool house is accentuated with a whimsical, hanging driftwood window treatment. Soft melon-hued walls and cushions add a bright punch to dark Palace™ woven furniture. A glass-topped table with a natural tree trunk base, atop a richly colored flagstone floor, adds organic flair.

Suburban



trolling up to the dynamic home and outdoor setting, a prelude of style and presentation set the stage for carefree living – and good times are just a step away. For Diane, a busy mother of three and partner in a new business venture, and her husband, Tim, the CEO and owner of a successful St. Louis-based company, enjoying life with their family and friends is what makes all of their hard work so worthwhile.

"We love to entertain and spend time with our family and friends," says Diane. "We wanted our home to be a warm and inviting place to share with them." Interior designer Pamela Calvert, Allied ASID, was brought on board to create such a space. Having worked with Tim and Diane on previous homes, Pamela knew what her clients had in mind. "Tim and Diane are warm, gracious people," says Pamela. "They wanted a home that was all about gathering together, inside and out."

From the moment you enter this impressive home, you get the feeling that you just might want to stay awhile. And if you're lucky, you'll end up spending a good deal of that time in the masterfully composed lower level. Outfitted for fun, this extraordinary space speaks to the kid in everyone and still leaves a lot

of room for the party sophisticate. Basically a blank canvas at the outset, the space was literally reborn. Pamela was challenged to think outside the box to create a partyscape like no other. "I couldn't have done this without architect Jane Ann Forney and engineer/builder Pete Gass of The Lawrence Group," beams Pamela. "They truly brought my design ideas to life."

An ensemble collaboration, the talented team from The Lawrence Group produced a spectacular setting, where having fun is second nature. Natural stone walls wrap the space in organic warmth, while a semicircular bar with a stunning underlit gold onyx counter glows beneath an intricate tin ceiling. Nearby, a pool table with a convertible ping-pong top awaits competitors who just might be practicing shots in the golf simulation room, watching the latest flick in the home theater, pumping some iron in the gym or tapping their feet to the tunes filling the air from the nostalgic jukebox. Separated from the bar area by two substantial stone archways that hug a large two-sided gas fireplace is yet another cozy spot for gathering together, playing games, watching TV and just relaxing. Fabulous furnishings from Niche enhance the overall coziness of the fun-filled, lower-level space.



Since her clients are voracious readers, Pamela thought it only fitting to tuck library walls into the hallway that leads to a lower-level theater room. But the biggest surprise is a 12-inch-thick "secret" door that opens to a hidden powder room. "It's definitely a conversation starter," says Diane. A textured mosaic, scenic forest wallcovering from Belgium makes a bold statement.

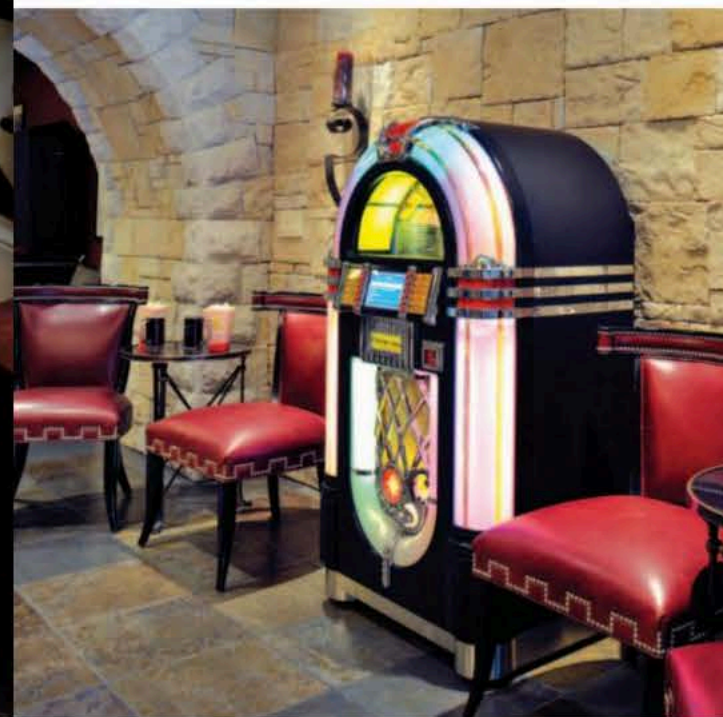
Opposite: A spectacular semicircular bar with an underlit gold onyx top is surrounded by ample swivel stools from Niche that are covered in a red-dyed alligator hide. A sleek space-saving drink ledge is also topped with underlit gold onyx. Behind the main bar, a SubZero wine cooler and beverage center keeps cold drinks on hand, and a butler's pantry gives caterers room to maneuver. Two large archways hugging a see-through gas fireplace highlight natural stone walls. With two flat screen TVs from The Screening Room, a jukebox, pool table with a convertible ping-pong top, and a dining area leading out to a private courtyard, this is truly a happy haven for the family.

A glossy black baby grand piano welcomes guests into the gracious foyer. Opposite, top: A custom water sculpture by Poynter Landscape adds yet another Zen-like feel to the outdoor space. The contemporary design allows a soft flow of water to continuously spill from a long urn into a rock garden and can operate nearly year-round. Opposite, bottom: A nostalgic jukebox, loaded with the family's favorite tunes, and four red leather chairs offer guests a place to unwind with a cold drink and a box of popcorn.



"We love how our home flows easily to the pool deck, lower patio and gardens."

—DIANE, HOMEOWNER



Entertaining Élan

Pamela Calvert, Allied ASID, shares tips for party panache. She and homeowner Diane will open Savvy Surroundings, a furniture, gifts, accessories and design firm, this fall.



- When designing a large entertaining area, it's important to make sure that the space can comfortably accommodate many guests, yet maintain a cozy intimacy for just a few. Creating multiple conversation and gathering areas is key.
- A daybed is a great alternative to a sofa. Open on both sides, it helps to keep the conversation area versatile.
- A drink ledge with stools, such as the one in Tim and Diane's billiard room, adds seating for players or spectators without taking up a lot of space.
- Pub tables are the perfect size for mingling with guests.



A pergola provides a handsome architectural canopy for alfresco dining, while a 12-foot custom river rock granite table is the centerpiece of this large gathering area. Chosen for color, texture and balance, plant materials include Liriope, palms, petunias, coleus, geraniums, pansies (in the fall), sweet potato vine and Vinca minor. Plants are changed seasonally to provide continuous color and interest throughout the year. Opposite: A capacious semicircular sofa begs guests to sit down and stay awhile. Overflowing with pillows in rich yet mellow shades of apple green, melon and chocolate brown, this is a wonderful gathering spot for the family.

Indeed, it couldn't get any better than this. And then you walk outside. "Wow" is really the only word that comes to mind as you suddenly realize that the party has only just begun. The finale could not be more expressive. A breathtaking complement to their home, the resort-like paradise that unfolds exquisitely melds the indoor and outdoor spaces. "We wanted to be able to take full advantage of every part of our home, inside and out," says Diane. "We love how our home flows easily to the pool deck, lower patio and gardens."

Richard Poynter, CEO and owner of Poynter Landscape Architecture and Construction, along with his talented team of landscape architects, including Bob Wilhelm, ASLA, and Ross Richardson, RLA, ASLA, took this very large, open area and fashioned a multi-conversational, dining and lounging environment. "Breaking up the space using different elevations, flooring and color choices was key," Richard says. Pamela agrees. "Space planning was extremely important when designing this luxury outdoor living area," she says. "The grounds are large, but Tim and Diane wanted intimate conversation areas for everyday living, as well as accommodations for larger gatherings."

Directly off the kitchen and adjacent to a sparkling blue rectangular swimming pool, large black columns frame a delightful seating area Diane fondly refers to as "Tim's outdoor office." Lounge chairs line the far

side of the pool for sunning. Several steps down, a round table is ideal for lunch or a game of cards, while nearby, a dining table beneath an architecturally beautiful pergola awaits larger alfresco meals. A semicircular sofa, with creamy cushions overflowing with a tumble of comfy pillows in rich yet mellow shades of apple green, melon and chocolate, is a welcoming spot to curl up with a good book in front of a roaring fire in the fall. Two rocking chairs nestled in the corner of the deck offer yet another quiet spot to check e-mails or enjoy a glass of wine.

And surrounding it all is a lush landscape bursting with a plethora of vibrant flowers, planters abundant with color that house tropical palms, and sun-kissed greenery that adds texture and saturated hues. "Diane likes as much color as possible throughout the year," explains Richard, "so we balanced the landscape with a low-maintenance selection of perennials, annuals and evergreens that will be rich-looking, whatever the season." Dotted with contemporary sculpture, including a magnificent fountain and custom water wall, the setting is reminiscent of a coveted getaway. As an encore, Diane explains, "Tim and I love sitting outside in the evening. The tranquility makes it feel like we're on vacation all year long!" ■

See page 66 for design resources.