

JUNE/JULY 2009

at HOME

IN TOLEDO

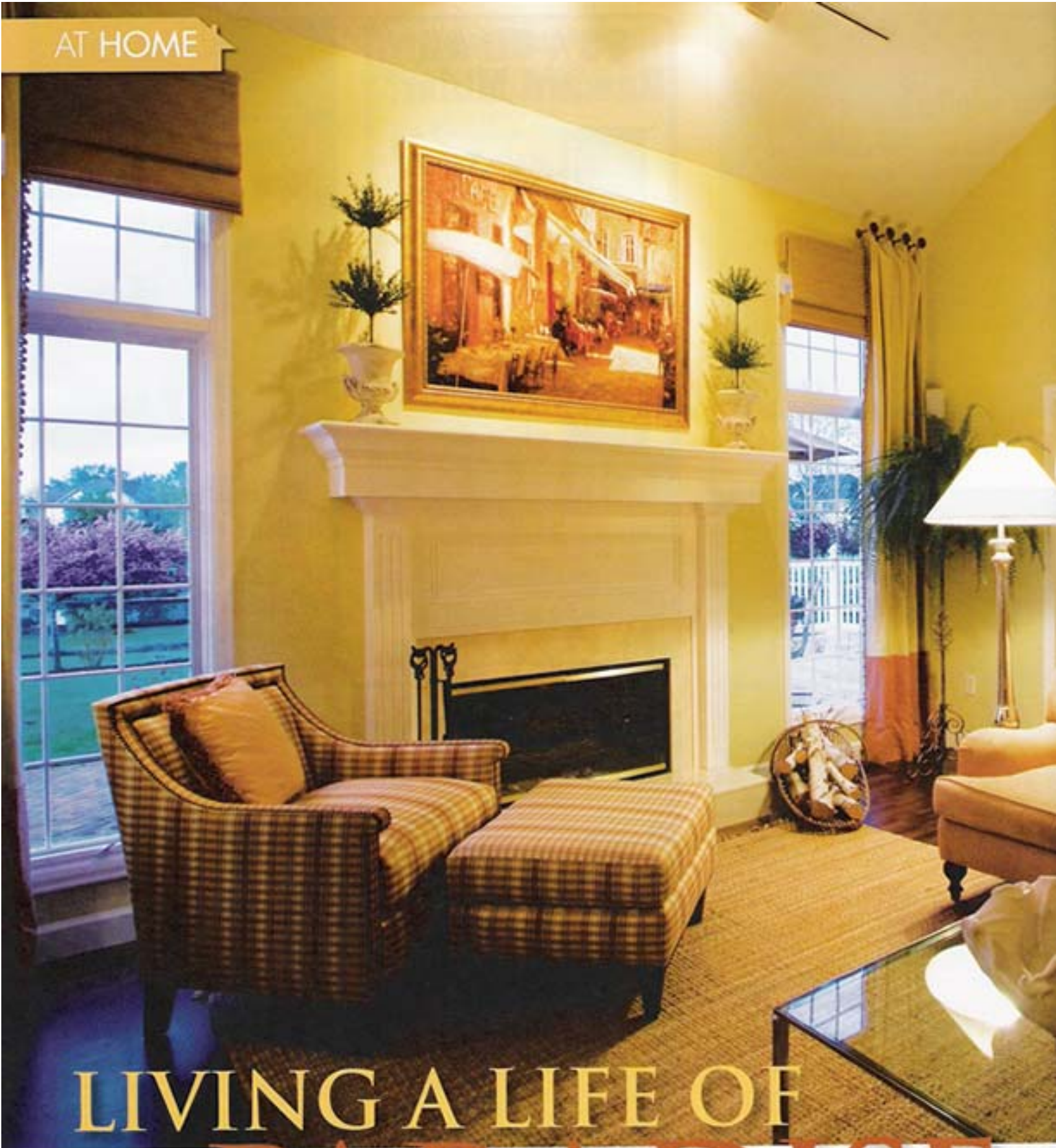
Living A Life Of
PARADISE
In Sylvania

Toledo's Backyard
TREASURE

2 Ways to Enjoy
**RIVERSIDE
DINING**
In The Toledo Area

What's
A GRILL
To Do?

THE HOME & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR THE TOLEDO AREA



LIVING A LIFE OF PARADISE



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Lisa and Robert McPherson always dreamed of living in a coastal cottage on the oceanfront. They envisioned a perfect lifestyle, spending six months a year in an oceanfront condo in Naples, Florida and six months at home in Toledo.

Yet it wasn't until the couple spent six months on the waterfront in Naples that the couple realized their paradise might actually be in their backyard.

"You work all of your life, and you think you know what you want," said Lisa McPherson, a certified life coach and president of Room for Persuasion, LLC, a home staging and redesign service. "Being away didn't prove to be as comfortable as we wanted. It was too hard. I had this desire to be near my lifelong friends."

Lisa and Robert, president of R & O Tool Service, decided they could have their dream home in Toledo — and the lifestyle they knew so well — so they sold the Naples condo. "We wanted to downsize to one residence and make it what we wanted," Lisa said.

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To create their own haven, the couple built a large, 5,000-square-foot home in Sylvania in a neighborhood with big porches and large picket fences. While building the home, Lisa discovered how much she loved the process of building, fixing up and decorating.

Lisa enjoyed the process so much that she launched her home staging and design business to help real estate agents and homeowners best prepare houses for sale. They lived there for about four years, but it was not destined to be their final address.

Next up was downsizing one more time.

The McPhersons renovated a 2,500-square-foot Cape Cod in the picturesque Parklands neighborhood with a pond in their backyard. They were awestruck by its South Carolina plantation look with taupe and white shaker siding and a red brick courtyard.

"Bigger is not necessarily better," Lisa said. "It had great bones. It had this white picket fence, a large pond

with a fountain, a small courtyard, and beautiful arbor. We did nothing structurally. It just needed a facelift."

One way or another, the McPhersons were determined to have their coastal home. From walls to draperies to tiles, the colors throughout this home resemble coastal shades of butter cream yellow, greens, sea foams, and blue.

Before they got started with this renovation project, the McPhersons had a plan. On their to do list was gutting the kitchen, doing away with dated cabinets, a linoleum floor and white walls; building up a mantel for the living room fireplace, installing walnut wood floors, and adding new carpet.

The new kitchen shows off a coastal theme with white cabinets, camel-colored granite countertops, stainless appliances, and a mosaic backsplash comprised of sea foam colored glass tiles.

They designed the home to entertain, cutting out a pass-through



between the kitchen and living room walls. They also opened the kitchen to the dining room so the backyard is visible from inside the kitchen.

"We took out a lot of walls, and now the home is more open and conducive to entertaining," Lisa said.

They replaced old carpet in the master bedroom with more updated fluffy shag and ordered custom raw silk sage, aqua and apricot draperies from C'est La Vie of Sylvania. They also fixed up the upstairs loft, creating a cozy recreation room with carpet, a computer desk and off-white chenille couches. On display in the loft are 40 of Robert's prized antique golf clubs from the 1900s.

There are two bedrooms upstairs and a master downstairs. Lisa's favorite room — her master suite bathroom — comes complete with a heated tumbled marble floor, custom cabinets and grass cloth wall paper.

The McPhersons purchased a good portion of materials for this renovation project from Lowe's, including kitchen cabinets, counters, appliances, master bath, exterior clapboard siding, pavers, and arbors. Brookwood Landscape of Toledo handled landscaping.

With Lowe's taking the lead vendor role, the McPhersons secured a dream team. "It was a smooth venture because of the professionalism

involved," Lisa said.

"We are there to stay," Lisa said. "Initially this was a compromise to be closer to our friends. We had no idea how much richer our lives would be. I feel like this is still a vacation. We have our dream. You can have paradise in your own backyard if you take the time to think about what matters most."

"It is so soothing here," Lisa added. "We now have our coastal cottage based in Ohio."

Your HOME FILE

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