

# GREAT LAKE STORY

## CHAPTER THREE: MAKING SPACES

### FROM THE JOURNAL OF SUSAN BUDA SPRING 2010

Jim and I love being with family and friends.

Almost every summer weekend our girls, Jenna and Jayme, have come with their husbands, Matt and John, to our New Buffalo home. There really hasn't been enough space for us all in that kitchen though, not to mention a big yellow lab (and soon, Jayme's first baby, our first grandchild!).

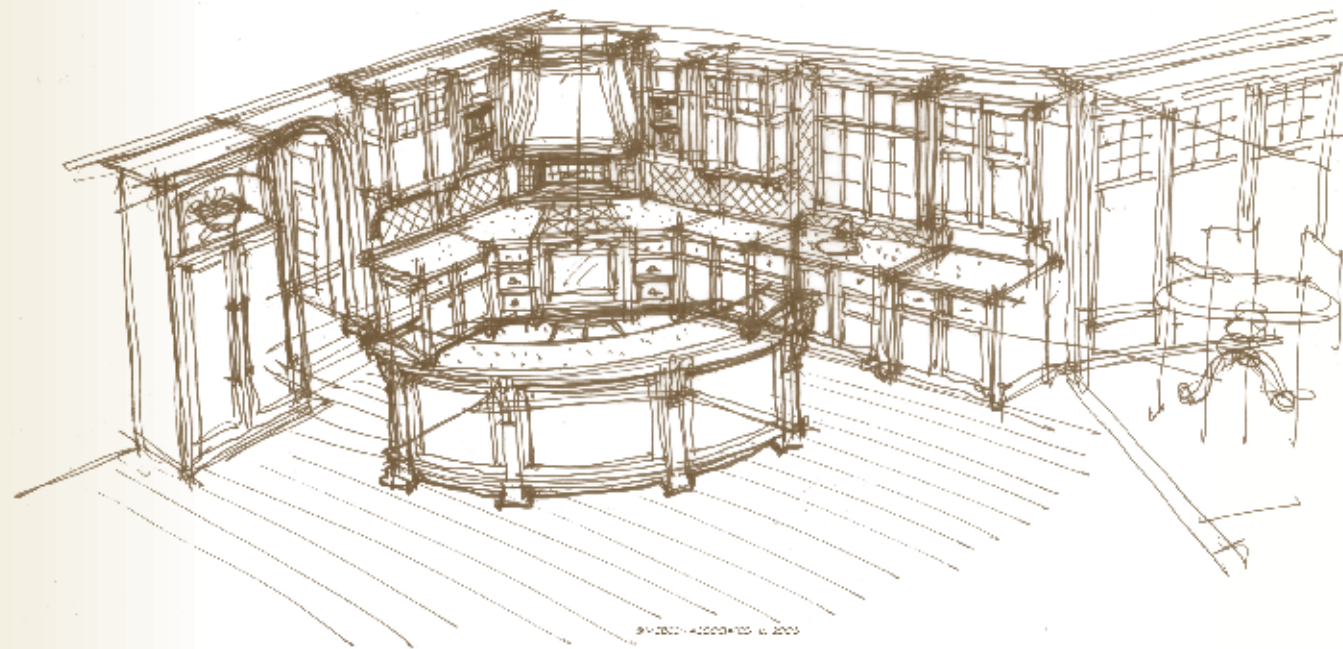
Because of Jim's professional ties, too — at least once a month — we entertain another couple or two from different parts of the country for long weekends. Sunday mornings, he's preparing brunch for anywhere between two or 12.

But while Jim makes an incredible frittata, we both love experimenting with new recipes and cooking together, along with the kids and friends.

So we can't wait to get started in our new kitchen at The Boardwalk! Architect Wayne Visbeen designed for us the spacious, two-level island we needed, with plenty of seating. But he also angled it 45 degrees, so while we're preparing meals, we can enjoy open views into our dining room, family room and Lake Michigan beyond, as well as our guests.

This kitchen will be fully equipped, too — from the big six-burner range and beautiful hood we wanted to a unique steam oven, butler's pantry with prep sink and cabinetry for barware and holiday dishes.

"If you don't have accessibility to and use things like Grandma's dishes, they won't mean anything to your kids later," said Melissa de Alvare, our interior designer through builder David C. Bos Homes. She's been so creative suiting such details to us!



Melissa climbed right on board, too, when Jenna suggested we turn the huge bonus space over our three-car garage into a theatre room. While we'll have a big screen and fireplace on the lower level, this will really be pretty different — a fun spot for us all to gather with theatre-style seating, curtains that draw back, a game table and even a little stage the grandkids (I love saying that!) can play and perform on down the road. Because it has an adjoining bathroom, we can fit this room with extra beds later, too.

Meanwhile, the girls, Matt and John can't wait to try out our new guest suites. Placed with full bathrooms on either end of the lower level, separated by the billiards room and a kitchenette with built-in coffee center, they'll offer complete privacy.

That will be nice for other guests, too, as well as for Jim and me. But all I can think about now is just heralding everyone in to our new home.

The fourth chapter of Jim and Susan Buda's Great Lake Story continues in Michigan BLUE Magazine's 2010 Summer Issue. To learn more about the businesses making this dream home a reality, visit [www.miblueomag.com](http://www.miblueomag.com). To see more sketches of the Budas' home or to see progress pictures of the home visit [www.visbeen.biz](http://www.visbeen.biz) and [www.boshomes.com](http://www.boshomes.com).

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