

BY MARK KREUZWIESER PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROB KAUFMAN

THEN KEN CRAST MOVED TO HILTON HEAD ISLAND ON HIS BOAT FROM NEW YORK STATE IN 1978, HE DIDN'T THINK HE COULD HAVE USED THE VESSEL TO DESIGN AND BUILD CUSTOM HOMES ON DAUFUSKIE ISLAND.

Crast lived for a while on his boat on Hilton Head, met his future wife Susan, and they began designing and building singular homes throughout the Lowcountry, and as far south as the Ford Plantation near Richmond Hill, Ga.

In March, the Crasts completed a home on Daufuskie Island's Haig Point for Tammy and Kris Kelley, a couple that moved down from Connecticut. Naturally, the locale created a few logistical demands.

"Building on Daufuskie Island provides all kinds of challenges," Ken said. "You've got to ferry over all the workers and supplies."

And while there were challenges, the Kelleys say the experience could not have gone smoother.

"Ken was just fantastic to work with," said Tammy. "It's just great to look back after two years and to say, 'I worked so well with this man."

But the spot they chose for the 12,500-square-foot (7,800 heated) home for the Kelleys would lead anyone to take on any and all challenges.

"The views are absolutely breathtaking," Ken said. "From panoramic views of Calibogue Sound and

















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Harbour Town to the ocean. We designed the screen porch to capture all of the views. The porches are terraced so that you don't lose a view as you're walking around. It's stunning."

"When you walk into a space, you don't see broken views, you get a landscape view from everywhere," said Tammy, describing a seamless panorama of six live oaks, the Calibogue and the famous Harbour Town lighthouse. "As I go to bed, the lighthouse guides me to the master bedroom. It's pretty unique. You don't get that in too many places."

The Crasts worked closely with the Kelleys — as they do with all their clients — in the design of the home, from custom cabinets and millwork to inch-by-inch layout of each room. "I went up to their home in Connecticut and measured their furniture so that we would know exactly how everything would fit," Ken said.

The two-story home's interiors were also the result of collaboration between builder and client. "We take a lot of pride in our being as skilled craftsmen as you'll find around. We have subcontractors we've worked with for 22 years, and we really work well together. We're not super high-tech yet on the marketing end, so all of our work comes through word of mouth. Thankfully, we have a lot of happy customers."

The Kelley's home features four bedrooms and five baths, an elevator, custom antique flooring, iron railings, and stone countertops.

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