

Chesapeake Bay Residence

Earleville, Maryland

Residential Architecture



The client requested a classic shingle design style, with a gambrel roof and a comfortable and informal feel. They wanted to keep the footprint compact without feeling cramped and to maximize panoramic water views from every space.

The design team created a playground on the water, designed not with opulence or luxury in mind, but with nature, entertainment, and family. The final positioning of the four-bedroom home is so sensitive to its surroundings that it gives the impression of seclusion and quietude, despite being near several other residences. Every room, with the exception of the first floor den, the second floor playroom, and hall bath has a view of the Bay.



The client set out to build a custom home on the idyllic shores of the Chesapeake Bay. They sought a design team who would work with them to achieve a singular goal: to build a home that would take full advantage of the beautiful natural features of their site while minimizing the environmental impact and disturbance to those features. The home had to be carefully positioned to capture all of the natural beauty of the waterfront and the surrounding wooded areas from every room.



Inside, the elegant, efficient open floor plan allows every space to interact in an engaging way. As soon as someone enters the home they encounter panoramic views of the water framed by stately undisturbed woodland. Design features on the first floor include stained hardwood floors, elegant white coffered ceilings, and square paneled columns.

The north facing window wall spans the entire great room and opens the view immediately upon entry. A switch-back stair blocks the view of the kitchen from the entry foyer, and allows south light into both levels via a second-floor dormer window above the landing.

The home was creatively designed to provide many custom comforts without significantly increasing cost or environmental impact. The three-car, two-story garage is a detached structure to preserve water views on the approach, and has a livable recreation space on the second floor. In the main house, sliding French doors open to a screened porch, which has a gas fireplace to extend the use to four seasons.



The exterior features stone accents including a stone base and two stone chimneys. A side patio can be accessed from the walk-out basement, where an outdoor shower has also been installed for convenience, while an expansive, columned front porch graces the stained, craftsman-style front door.

The walk-out basement, in addition to a walk-up third floor lookout, allows for future expansion, and stacking closets on the first and second floors can be converted to a future elevator for aging in place.





Fire Pit

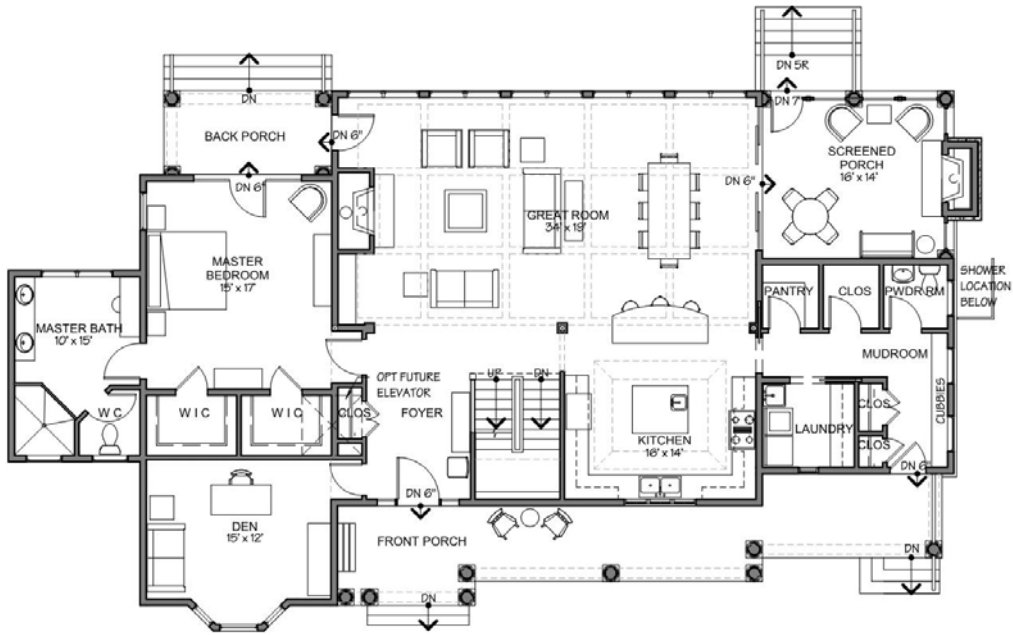
Grilling Station

Water Feature

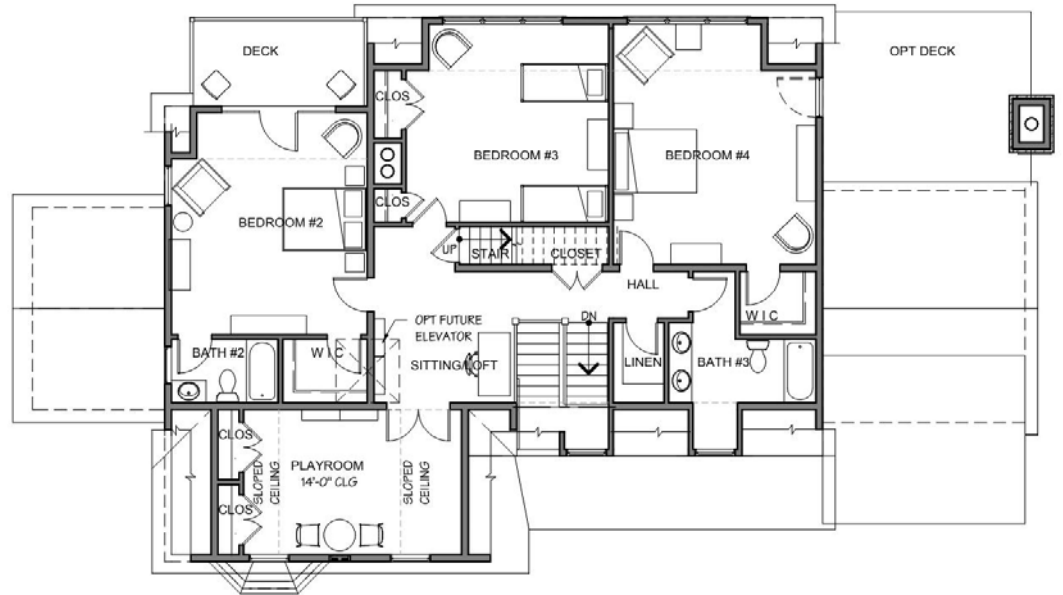
Path to Dock

Landscape Master Plan

Scale: 1" = 20'-0"



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN





Chesapeake Bay Residence Front View

The expansive, columned front porch with a craftsman style front door sits opposite an entry courtyard from the detached three-car garage, which has a fully finished second floor for guest lodging or recreation.



Chesapeake Bay Residence Rear View

The waterside rear of the house is slightly elevated and takes full advantage of the resulting views, with design features such as an expansive window wall, a screened porch, multiple second floor balconies, and an attic-level eyebrow dormer.



Chesapeake Bay Residence Side Patio

A side patio gives the best view of the multiple stone accents used – including a stone base and chimney. The walk-out basement opens to a stone patio that provides easy access to both the front and rear of the house, with an outdoor shower for added convenience.



Chesapeake Bay Residence Entry Foyer and Great Room

The open floor plan utilized on the first floor maintains water views and access to public areas such as the Great Room, the switchback central stair, and four-season screened porch, while still providing visual partitions to more private areas.



Chesapeake Bay Residence Great Room

The expansive window wall is the chief design feature of the Great Room, which also includes a wall-mounted TV over a fireplace, built-in casework, and a beautiful coffered ceiling.



Chesapeake Bay Residence Kitchen

A U-shaped double island kitchen sits adjacent to the Great Room with special design features to add a modern elegance to the functional space, including a tray ceiling, interior lit glass front cabinets, recessed panel cabinets, and dark stained islands.