

# Libertyville couple customizes creativity in their new home

It's no secret to friends and family that Jackie Pyter has "the designer's eye," and can visualize the customizing features that she and husband Rick want in their new home at Victoria Park. With the collaboration of builder Jeff Samuels who is offering the luxury townhomes, the Pyters are creating a one-of-a-kind environment that reflects their tastes and personalities.

Libertyville residents for 38 years, Jackie and Rick began planning for a downsizing move about three years ago.

"We were sure that we wanted a ranch plan so we could have a first-floor master bedroom, bath and laundry room," Jackie says. "We began to look around the Libertyville area, and we had read some news reports about Jeff Samuels and his excellent reputation as a custom builder. When we met him, he didn't yet have a model home at Victoria Park but he did tell us that he could extensively customize our home. This was a key factor in our decision to move to Victoria Park. By the time we viewed the model, we had looked around a great deal and we agreed that we had not seem any other home of the quality of the



Jackie and Rick Pyter are working with Samuels Homes to customize creativity in their new home at Victoria Park in Libertyville.

Victoria Park homes. We thought Samuels' Homes were very unique."

The Pyters concentrated much attention on their kitchen and dining area.

"I love to cook and we do a lot of entertaining, so we wanted this area to be thoughtfully planned and skillfully crafted," Jackie says. "We extended the already large kitchen island, and Jeff added a table at the end of it for our casual dining. He also was able to add a taller cabinet to the island facing the dining room so that food

preparation clutter could be hidden from our guests. The top of this cabinet acts as a buffet with a granite top, ideal for entertaining with a buffet-style dinner.

"Because the kitchen is my happy place, I enjoy having a television nearby while I work, but initially we weren't sure just where to put it for unobstructed viewing. Jeff solved the problem by creating a space to recess it into a wall near the work area, and my grandson is crafting a barn door, sized to cover the television when it is not in use. This is a unique and practical solution that perfectly meets our needs," Jackie says.

Samuels and the Pyters also chose to harness their creativity in finishing the basement with its 9-foot ceiling.

"We used this space to finish a family room, a work room where I can do carpentry and an office/music room where I keep my collection of guitars," Rick says. "We also added a third bedroom and full bath and a large built-in storage closet. We also included a gas burning stove, and Jeff was able to create a small landing and turn the bottom two steps to add a design element and eliminate the typical basement stairs

look. This is a completely customized and inviting living space."

Other custom features in the home include a stone fireplace in the great room with a black walnut wood mantle accented by a "live edge," a process whereby the tree bark is removed around the edge and the edge is sanded and finished for a beautiful natural look. The Pyters also redirected the traffic flow around the foyer, made changes in the master bath to include a claw-foot tub and walk-in shower.

"Whether we shared an idea or a photo of a feature we wanted, Jeff could interpret the element for the correct balance and look for our home," Jackie says. Victoria Park is five minutes from historic Libertyville and is on the north side of Ill. Route 137 (Peterson Road), just west of Milwaukee Avenue.

Samuels Homes, a well-respected custom home builder in the northern suburbs for 40 years, is known for its meticulous craftsmanship, attention to detail and personalized service. The model home is open weekends 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekdays by appointment. For more information, call 847-417-3170 or visit samuelshomes.com.

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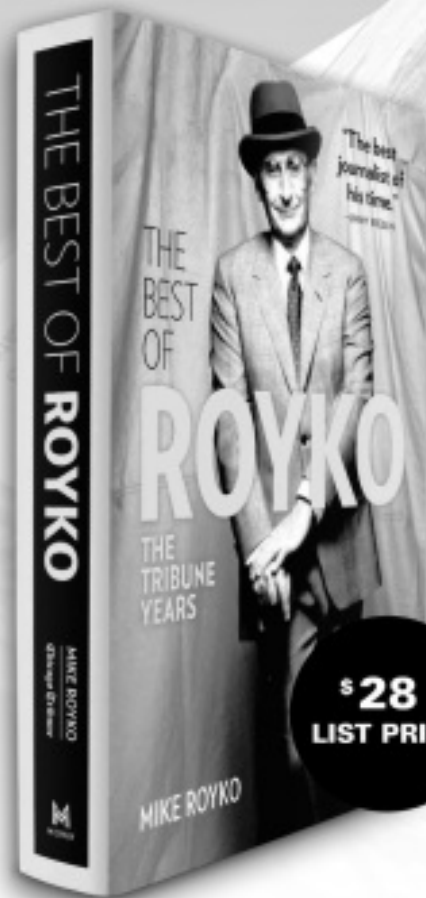
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