



BRICK NAME - VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY - PETER MONTANTI

the
COUSINS
RESIDENCE

NORTH CAROLINA



RIGHT ON POINT

After the United Kingdom and Colorado, this brick house on the lake just felt like home.

When John and Patricia Cousins began their nationwide search for a lot on which to build a maintenance-free home, there was no question what building material would be used – brick.

Virginia Highlands brick and Old Baltimore clay pavers from General Shale completed the picture-perfect waterfront home built in 2011 that the couple had envisioned for their retirement years. Other features such as powder-coated aluminum doors and leaf-free gutters help keep the home maintenance-free.

They chose the location, The Point Lake & Golf Club on Lake Norman, North Carolina, after an extensive review of possible retirement locations throughout the U.S., including Virginia and California.

“We liked The Point because it’s a planned community with an infrastructure in place: a golf course, a little village center with a bakery and a store, tennis courts, a swimming pool,” John says.

After living everywhere from John’s native U.K. to Denver and several points in between while John worked for Mobil Oil and Exxon, he said it was ironic that they retired to a place where they had never lived before.

“We like it so much here,” John adds. “The house is on the water, which is phenomenal, and the climate here has four distinct seasons, none of which is too harsh.” John explained that he enjoys doing yard work, and the heat and humidity in some of the places he had lived in the past, such as Houston most recently, could be “unbearable.”

The Cousins were moving into their new home “in record time,” as the house was built in eight and a half months, coming in ahead of schedule.

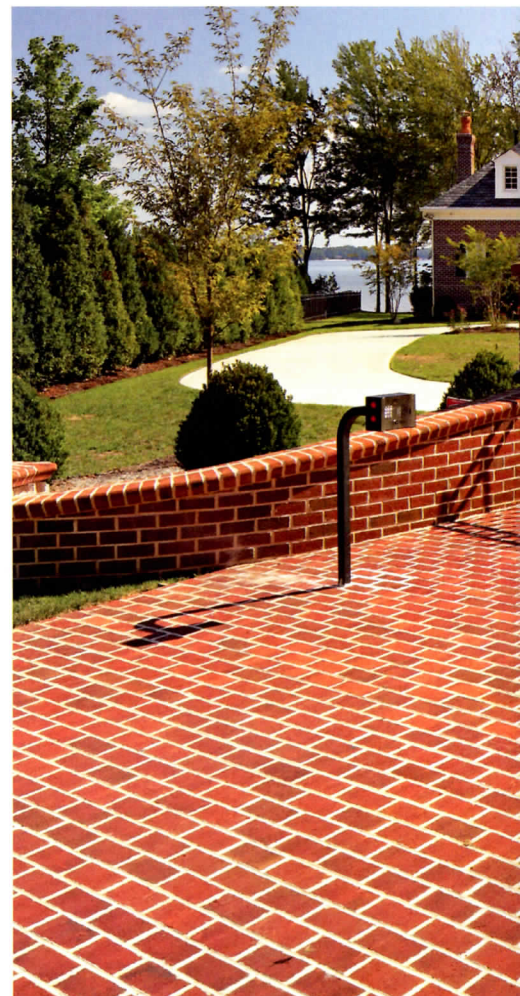
The builder, Kingswood Custom Homes, “did a phenomenal job,” John says. The contractors and designer worked hard to incorporate the features that the couple wanted, and the process went smoothly.

One of the couple’s favorite things about the house is that it was designed based on their former home in Houston. “The floor plan is very similar to the home we had before. We modified it slightly, but basically the house is the house we wanted to build,” John says.

The couple’s second-favorite feature of the home is its “absolutely fantastic location,” John added. “The views out of the back of the house are across the lake, and it’s open water. The yacht club is visible, so you can watch the sailboats on the lake.”

Visitors appreciate the natural materials used inside the home. “All the stone is either marble or granite, and there are solid hardwood floors throughout the house except where there is marble tile,” John says. The open, spacious feel of the home is complemented by the sunlight that reflects off the surface of the lake and into the back side of the Cousins’ home.

“The whole experience we had with Kingswood as the builder and with General Shale providing the brick was first-class,” John concludes.





The main reasons for choosing brick are that it doesn't require painting, it's substantial, and it's going to last as long as we need it to last.

-JOHN COUSINS
HOME OWNER



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