

# Architect's Brag Book

ARCHER & BUCHANAN ARCHITECTURE



Richard Buchanan

## STYLE FOR LIFE in a home both simple and rich

BY BRIDGET MCQUATE

**Above:** The shingle-style exterior was a nostalgic choice.

**Right:** Whimsical detail: a "Mother Goose" door to the garage.



Bridget McQuate

The Scholls were ready to try something different. Donald and Margaret "Peggy" Scholl had lived in 18th century farmhouses in Chester County and "had done the old house thing to death," as their architect Richard Buchanan puts it. In deciding to build a new house outside of West Chester, they settled on an Adirondack-inspired, shingle-style exterior — a nostalgic choice recalling summers spent in upstate New York. Buchanan and his team at Archer & Buchanan Architecture, Ltd., used the design principles of the shingle style but reinterpreted them for the way the couple really lives.

With four grown children and seven grandchildren who all live in the area, the Scholls' priority was to make the house accommodating and fun for all. They also wanted a house in which to "grow old together." Beyond those functional requirements, the pair encouraged Buchanan to make the new house simpler and richer than their previous homes.



Terry Scholl Photography

**The library focal point is a fireplace framed in blue tiles.**

“For the Scholls, who have a deep appreciation for art and craft, ‘simple’ does not mean dull, and ‘rich’ does not mean complex - rather, full of whimsy, play and reinterpretations of the obvious,” Buchanan says.

Simplicity was achieved in part through the choice and use of materials. On the exterior, Wissahickon schist stone forms a base below sturdy, dark brown shingles. Windows are set off in deep red and green. Heartier grey shingles cover the roof. The separate building housing Donald’s office, above a garage, is faced with board and batten.

Simplicity on the interior includes traditionally shaped rooms, a screened-in porch, mostly wood floors and white trim around doorways and windows. Some adjoining rooms share colors, but in slightly lighter or darker shades. Wall colors range from yellow to deep salmon to “diced carrot” and serve as backdrops for richness: the art, crafts, ceramics, antique furniture and rugs that have been collected over the years. Built-in shelves and cupboards display books, dinner and kitchen ware, a hat box collection and travel mementos.

More richness is seen in the craft of the details. A Tiffany-style, stained-glass window welcomes visitors above the front door. In a nook beside the front entrance, multi-colored glass squares allow light into an interior stairwell during the day, and serve as a colored lantern to the outside at night. A sculpted metal sunflower gate leads to the pool area. A red wooden “Mother Goose” door to the garage has moon and star shapes in stained glass. In the library, a Jon Redmond farmhouse painting is placed above gorgeous blue tiles that frame the fireplace and contrast nicely with the brick herringbone pattern of the fireplace interior. Buchanan credits Griffiths Construction, Inc., with translating the intentions, craft and details into a structure that sings.



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**A sculpted metal gate leads to the pool area.**

The tailored aspects of the house are abundant inside and out. Donald Scholl, who works as a management consultant, wanted his home office to be separate from the house so he could “go to work each day.” From his office, he enjoys views of the rolling hills beyond the pool while watching the grand-kids swim. Scholl also wanted a basement big enough for his hobby of antique car restoration. The architect created an arched inset in the stone basement façade, with a wooden door, to allow finished cars to be driven out by way of the front lawn. One of Peggy Scholl’s directives was to have her office accessible to the rest of the house but not visible to guests (in case it became less than tidy). The architect placed her office on the second floor with a balcony over the entry hall so she could “see but not be seen.”

Adaptability features were added for “aging in place.” The office space is equipped with a bathroom so it could be converted into an apartment for live-in help. The master bedroom was placed on the first floor with “his” and “hers” bathrooms nearby. The “his” bathroom adjoins the library, which could be turned into a separate bedroom if one of them should ever need more individualized space.

In designing their house, the Scholls thought long and hard about their current and future lifestyles. The result: a house full of beauty and charm that will serve them in style for life.

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**Left Above: Appreciation for art and craft is evident in the living room.**

**Left Below: A separate building houses an office above a garage.**



Terry Scholl Photography



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