

HOME FURNISHINGS AND
INTERIOR DESIGN SPECIALISTS

Harbor Town Interiors

Stephanie Grill, Mary Kay Hylton
and Kerry Cressler, Partners

If it weren't for Harbor Town Interiors, Kathleen Wirtz and her husband, Jack Slubowski, might still be staying in a hotel and thinking about building in Benton Harbor. That's what the Chicago couple had been doing when they happened upon Harbor Town Interiors in downtown St. Joseph. A bed in the window caught their eyes and they went inside.

"The window displays just kind of drew us right in," Wirtz said. "We had been betwixt and between whether we were ever going to build or not. We saw the bed and thought, we've got to have it.

"And that was it. We figured, 'We've got the bed, guess we better build a house.'"

That bed was also the start of a beautiful relationship with Stephanie Grill and her partners, Mary Kay Hylton and Kerry Cressler. From the blueprint stage forward, Harbor Town helped every step of the way.

"(Stephanie) did everything: bath towels, linens, carpeting, upholstered furniture – you name it," Wirtz said. "She was there for the move-in date. She even helped me set up the kitchen."

Wirtz and her husband had never built a house from scratch before, so it was especially helpful to have Grill help with space planning.

"She could look at the blueprints and figure out where pieces of furniture would go, like I needed an 86-inch sofa and not a 72," Wirtz said. And living in Chicago, it helped Wirtz to have Grill back in St. Joseph looking out for things when she couldn't be there herself: "I always felt I could call Stephanie and say, 'They're putting some paint samples on the wall, can you run over and see what you think?'"





MAKING IT PERSONAL

Most of the work that Harbor Town Interiors does involves homes along the lakeshore. Clients know they can count on Grill and her partners not only for quality service, but to come up with creative solutions that ensure every interior is one-of-a-kind, and at reasonable prices.

Their 2,400-square-foot showroom is a wonderland of fabulously fun home furnishings: eclectic home accessories, furniture and gifts. They're a one-stop shop, handling everything from interior design to upholstery, lighting, lamps, art, accessories, furniture, window coverings and more.

Besides being an authorized dealer for Norwalk and Company C, Harbor Town carries Vanguard, Four Seasons, Wesley Hall, Comfort Design, Fjords, Braxton Culler, Stanley, Lexington, Four Hands, Dovetail, Halo Designs and Paula Deen by Universal. Its rug lines include Company C, Dash & Albert, Surya, Japur, Lolo, Classic Home and Chandra.

"We can get the usual stuff, but we also carry and find things you don't get everywhere," Grill said. "We shop all over and have longstanding relationships with many vendors and manufacturers."

Whimsical lakeshore looks are as prominent as reclaimed wood pieces reminiscent of Restoration Hardware. Grill and her partners have an eye for the unique, and shoppers are as likely to encounter a collection of old life preservers as fantastic rugs, pillows and a headboard made from oars.

"It's just what we love to do," Grill said. "We help clients think it through to make sure the function is there, as well as the look so that they can truly enjoy their surroundings."

"We help them express themselves, so it doesn't look just like everybody else's house."

Company information:

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Awards: Awarded State of Michigan Special Tribute Salute to Business Platinum Stakes Award during first year in business. Voted Best Place in Michigan to Shop for Home Décor and Best of Region, Shore magazine



Top: A combination of new and vintage creates a memorable weekend retreat. Center: The sun room indoor/outdoor rug lends eye-catching color and a touch of pizzazz, while worry-free outdoor fabrics provide artfully upbeat seating. Bottom: A splash of whimsy enlivens this inviting master bedroom.