

PUB IN THE HOUSE

Many homes contain a bar, but a full, authentic Irish pub? That calls for a toast!

Design by **Anthony Passanante, Anthony Albert Studios**
Photography by **Meghan Balcom Photography**
Text by **Donna Rolando**

It isn't the Blarney Stone, but then again, it's not across the ocean either. For a Wayne family of Irish descent, a distinctive item now claims a place of honor in their home pub. (Yes, they have a home pub.) "There's a piece of slate behind the bar that's carved into the map of Ireland," says Brian Sullivan, one of the homeowners. "It's actually a roof tile from the house that my father grew up in in Ireland." A fitting showcase for this bit of family history had to be "the most social area of the house," he says, and the pub fits that to a T.

With billiards, classic games and enough instruments for a band, the pub dedicates 900 feet of a new addition to good times for Sullivan, his wife Mary Jo and seven children, as well as guests no doubt surprised to find such authenticity above the garage. "It definitely looks like a

The unexpected at the top of the stairs over the garage is this Irish pub, where a Wayne family of nine finds delight in games and togetherness.







good Irish pub,” Sullivan affirms.

As a toast to pub character, designer Anthony Passanante of Waldwick’s Anthony Albert Studios maximized the warmth of oak, using it as a common thread in the bar’s custom cabinetry and vaulted ceilings as well as its floors. For further warmth, wood paneling also complements the soft blue of the walls, Passanante says.

Drawing from inspiration the homeowners found in restaurants, Anthony Albert Studios built wine lockers, which flank on either side the Celtic-flavored mirror where the slate keepsake takes center stage. The lockers are accented with aged brass mesh; “each has lights for a nice effect at night,” the designer says. Describing it as a “classic metal for a classic theme,” Passanante extended aged brass to the mirror and cabinet hardware as well.

Contrasting white and black, honed quartzite from Dente Trading runs like a waterfall over the counter’s edge and wows the bar top too. No detail is missing in the bar’s design, which features an old-school Chicago bar rail and a quartersawn oak top, along with a Sub-Zero beverage center and a wine unit that blend in for aesthetics. Brown leather bar stools are a rustic touch and complement a nearby sofa.

Stressing the benefits of collaboration, Passanante says that working with builder Spencer Cosgriff of Sterling Ridge Contracting gave him the advantage of planning from the get-go for optimal results. Completed in the summer of 2022, the pub drew the stamp of approval from Irish relatives for style and the children for the fun factor.

“Aside from the kitchen,” says Sullivan, “it’s probably the most used room in the house.”

Sports memorabilia adds to that genuine pub vibe, as does the bountiful wood that embellishes a vaulted ceiling, paneling and the bar itself.



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