

## Love Letter to The House

The minute we turned the corner onto Twin Oak Road in early 2002 and saw our house, we knew we were home. We loved the street with its pretty houses, trees everywhere and we saw the potential in the house. With our one year old son and our daughter on the way, we quickly settled into life in Short Hills, joining the Racquets Club and sending our son to a local nursery school. The easy commute into NYC (walk to the train) and proximity to Newark Airport (15 minutes, less if you are running late for your flight) made work/life balance much better.

We lived in the house for seven years before renovating in order to determine exactly what we needed to make it our dream home. Given our love of entertaining we knew we had to add special touches. For the adults, our kegerator always has at least two beers on tap - usually one from our favorite brewery, Ommegang in Cooperstown. The wine cellar is also a favorite stop for our friends, especially those that enjoy Napa cabs. Almost every room in the house has built-in speakers, including the invisible speakers that are in the living and dining room ceilings. The third floor theater has hosted several Super Bowl parties over the years and the kitchenette makes entertaining easy. We specifically designed our house for indoor/outdoor living with a fire pit (gas starter which makes fires easy), plenty of room for dining and hanging out, and a flat upper yard which was the site of many baseball and soccer lessons.

Our kids loved going out to teppanyaki dinners and we were very excited to find a grill with professional level venting that we could install. Our Benihana peninsula has hosted many dinners and the grill makes for killer breakfasts after kid sleepovers. We love having our morning coffee in the kitchen nook with park like views and have gotten so much use out of the built-in Miele coffee maker. Another fun fact about our kitchen, the refrigerator actually pre-dates the renovation, as we purchased it (a Sub Zero 648 PRO) as soon as it was launched. We have the second one installed in the NYC area - the first went to Martha Stewart! We've found the two dishwashers key to handling after party clean up and the trash compacter comes in handy.

Our basement has been the site of kid parties and hangouts from pumpkin carving to pizza and movie nights as teenagers (with the wine cellar locked, of course). Our smart house is run by the server room. We have a Control 4 system that handles audio, lighting and heating/cooling while our TVs are on Tivo. The irrigation system is on Rachio and outdoor lighting is on Kasa. The beauty is that everything can be controlled on your iPhone although most things are programmed once and run automatically. Beyond ethernet drops, we also ran fiber to many rooms for high speed data and video. Many of our curtains are motorized as well as the blinds in the kitchen nook.

A few more important things to note. In the 20 years we have lived here, the house has never flooded - even during Hurricane Sandy. According to prior owners, it was first owned by the President of Nabisco back when they sold cookies door to door. He was friends with the CEO of Carrier and this house had one of the first air conditioners on the East Coast. The Millburn Schools are fantastic - our kids attended all 12 years, but we also have many friends in some of the amazing private schools in the area - you can't go wrong. The neighbors are wonderful - our closest friends all live within a 1/2 mile and we will truly miss them.

We love our house but our kids are now in college and a new job in a new city has led us to list it. We hope your family will make as many wonderful memories in it as we have.

Rob and Shannon Cross