

under one roof

It's the little things that add up to blissful weekends when a family with an eye for design comes together.

Four o'clock is prime porch time for Brenda Vizzi. She grabs a glass of iced tea and rounds up the troops—three grown daughters, five grandchildren, anyone who happens to be around. “The dog walkers are starting!” she announces. But cute neighborhood Yorkies and Labradoodles aside, her real motive is bonding time. Everyday moments—“just really simple things”—are what make her Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, home so special. “It’s the interaction with family that I love about this place,” she says.



Brenda and husband Carl (who own Pennsylvania-based York Wallcoverings, the oldest wallpaper manufacturer in America) bought the home thinking it would be a family place—a gathering spot that’s a drivable two hours for their daughters. “Their approach was ‘If you build it, they will come,’” says daughter Carey Vizzi Jacobs, an interior designer who put her fresh spin on the decor. “They wanted to make sure we stayed a close-knit group.”

On weekends, kickball and baseball games are in full swing on the front lawn. Inside, Brenda might move her sewing machine to the dining table so her 9-year-old granddaughters (her star pupils in stitchery) can work on their doll clothes. And anyone who wants a little quiet time can sprawl out on the bubblegum pink sofa in the living room.

The Vizzi’s renovated home, above, is the place family gathers for breakfast, batting practice, beach time, and everything in between. Carey created a welcoming mood by keeping walls neutral (they’re covered in grass cloth) and threading lively shots of pink, yellow, and bright green through the main level. In the living room, opposite top, the pink sofa is a fun surprise.

That sofa says something about the place: “It’s a happy house,” Carey says. “The whole point is for everyone to be together having fun, so color was important.” So, too, was livability—hence slipcovered chairs and wood floors that make it easy to sweep up sand tracked in from bike rides to the beach. “From the moment you walk in, you feel relaxed,” Brenda says.

Most weekends, the only things on the agenda are big breakfasts. Carey’s husband usually takes the lead on the waffles; Carl, on the omelets. The seat-yourself-wherever meal means that pajama-clad Vizzi’s spill out onto the porch. The rest of the day is a blank slate. “We come up with a million different things to do,” Brenda says. High on her list: snuggling on the wide, cushioned porch swing. “A few grandkids, a couple of dogs, and me napping—it’s my little piece of heaven,” she says.