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Glastar Sunroom offers ringside seat to nature's splendors

by MARGARET ANNE FEHR photography by DUALITY PHOTOGRAPHIC

eautiful things shouldn't go to waste. That was the motivation Lionel and Christine brought to bear on their decision to install a Glastar Sunroom on the second floor of their 10 year old Royalwood house that offers a prime lakeside view and setting sun spectacle.

"We like to call our lake 'natural' because, although it was excavated, all the vegetation was allowed to take root quite naturally, says Lionel. Between our lot and the lake is a buffer zone of tall reeds and cattails and the lake itself is self-cleaning. Also, there are fewer insects because of







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the abundance of dragonflies and spiders. It all makes for a soothing, therapeutic effect with the tall grass, the geese, mallard ducks, and the occasional red fox or deer."

When Lionel's brother and sister-in-law had a Glastar Sunroom installed in their own home, the decision kind of made itself says Lionel. "After seeing theirs, we knew that is what we needed."

A call to Glastar was all it took to get things in motion. "A consultant came to our house and helped us decide what would be the best fit for our needs and budget. Working with Glastar was a very pleasant experience."

Steve Sarens and his Glastar team proposed a custom

design that takes full advantage of the house's exterior dimensions. Steve says, "The front of the sunroom is just shy of 33 feet and angles back to the house on the right hand side to a width of 39 ½ feet. On the right hand side of the sunroom, the roof extends to provide a covered entrance and barbeque area for a total width of 44 ½ feet."

The couple wanted an area that they could use starting early in the spring

and running late into the fall that would give them the feeling of being outdoors but would give them control over the elements. "This deck area was built with the house and was up to code for being enclosed so it did not require any structural enhancements. It also had to be strong enough to survive the strong north winds as the walls were about 10 feet tall," says Steve.

"Because the deck, spiral stairs, pool and landscaping were already done, we had to design the room around what already existed. In order to have access to the existing patio door and still provide an area for the gas barbeque to remain and still be close to the eating area in the house, Rene, our designer, incorporated an angled wall with a roof extension to provide a dry area for the barbeque as well as the entrance into the sunroom."

An added benefit, not only does the sunroom provide enhanced useable space on top of the deck but also creates a dry area below, making for a more versatile space overall.

"This project was quite a custom design given the size, shape and height of the panels, says Steve. It's what we thrive on, given that not only are we the installers of the product but we also manufacture it. While other companies might be adapting other products to fit what already exists, we custom design and build each room for each home we work on."

When it came time to build, all the materials were delivered to the house, the sunroom was completed within 5 days and another team came to remove the debris. "A nice touch," says Lionel, "was receiving a call from a Glastar manager asking us if everything went well and whether we had any questions."

So it's definitely mission accomplished for Lionel and Christine. "We love seeing the birds on the lake and listening to the sounds of nature as the sun sets. Every second window opens up to let the air and sounds in, but we are still protected from the elements. We are so very glad to have added this wonderful Glastar sunroom to our home. We know it is one of the best decisions we have made and we look forward to many years of enjoyment."