

WEDDINGS OF THE YEAR | INSIDE THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE RACE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022 \$4.95

# Bethesda

## Best of BETHESDA



**137**  
WINNERS

Drinks at  
Colada Shop  
in Potomac

CHEVY CHASE | GAITHERSBURG | KENSINGTON | POTOMAC | ROCKVILLE | SILVER SPRING | UPPER NW DC

## Built-ins and a sauna

**WHEN LAWYERS ERICA HAGGARD** and Stewart Crosland and their infant son moved into their Bethesda colonial in May 2019, “the basement was just a big open space, and we didn’t know what to do with it,” Erica says. “The couple who owned the house before us were empty nesters, and it didn’t seem like they used the basement much.”

The pandemic forced the couple to work from home starting in March 2020. Living in close quarters with each other, their son and his live-in nanny spurred the couple to hire InSite Builders & Remodeling in Bethesda that summer to rethink the basement. “We knew there would be demand for home improvements, and we knew we needed to get started, since we didn’t know how long it would take,” Erica says. “We needed space for our son and his toys, and we wanted a workout area since we couldn’t go to the gym.”

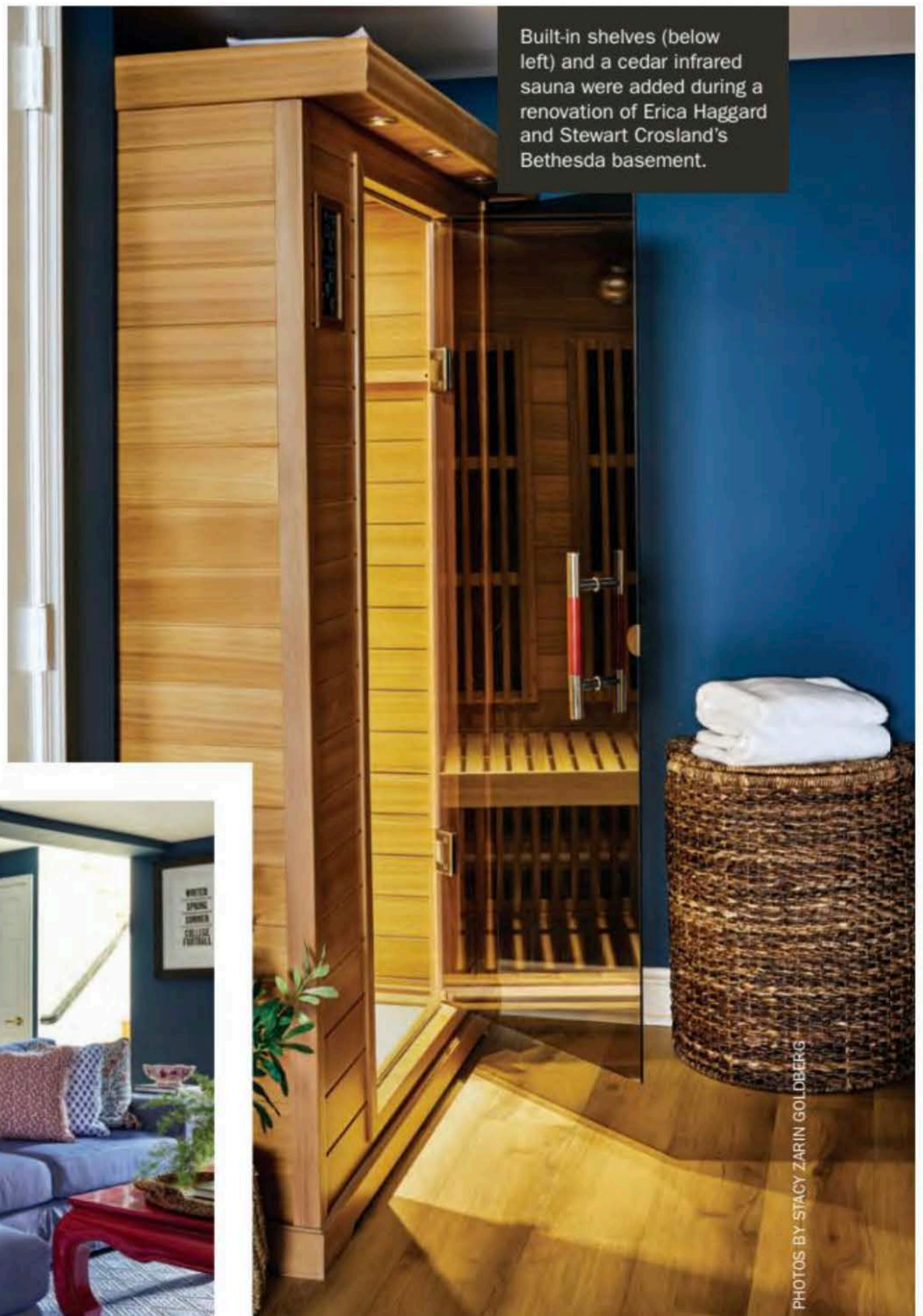
InSite architect and director of design Tom Reineberg helped them transform their 800-square-foot basement into a multifunctional family zone. “The biggest challenge was that the basement had several dropped bulkheads where there were steel beams and ductwork,” he says. “We had to come up with a design where the ceilings didn’t seem out of place or cut up too much.” In the central den, that meant adding built-in bookshelves and a niche for a television to conceal heating and cooling and electrical systems. The basement walls, as well as the bookshelves, were painted in Benjamin Moore’s Newberry Court Blue.

Two other rooms were turned into a small playroom and a home gym decked out with sports memorabilia. Reineberg installed interlocking rubber flooring in both.

The couple also remodeled an oddly configured

full bathroom that had an off-center mirror and an outdated metal sink. “It was not a nice bathroom,” Erica says. “Now it has a bespoke blue wooden sink vanity, a Serena & Lily mirror and a freestanding shower. It’s a tight space, but everything is upgraded.”

A small hallway between the home gym and the bathroom holds what may be the basement’s best feature: a cedar infrared sauna by Coastal Saunas. “This winter, I’m going to use it a lot,” Stewart says. “I don’t think we would’ve added it if we hadn’t been home all the time, but now I’m glad we did.”



Built-in shelves (below left) and a cedar infrared sauna were added during a renovation of Erica Haggard and Stewart Crosland’s Bethesda basement.

PHOTOS BY STACY ZAPIN GOLDBERG

