

Lakeshore Living

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR MADISON AREA HOME

Minimalist Look, Maximum Style

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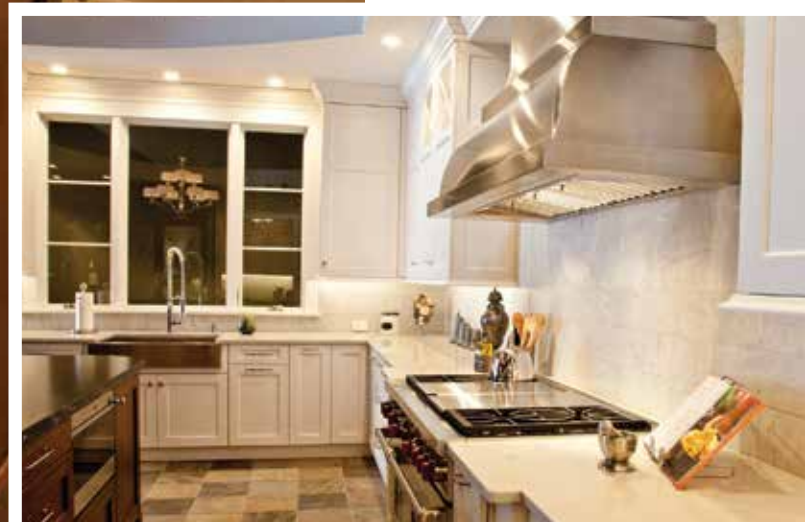


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Inspiring Improvements

In our world, we're always closely examining what our readers like, what's worked in our pages, what we're seeing in the industry and what we can enhance in the pages of *Lakeshore Living*. (Or as my Dad would say, we're always in a process of "constant and continuous improvement" around here. Thanks for the words of encouragement, Dad!) That's why this year, we thought it was time to revamp and add some new editorial features to the mix to give our readers even more interesting, helpful and informative articles and guides on trends, tips and tricks for around the home. But don't worry—we'll still feature a few gorgeous homes in every issue to sink your teeth into and provide you inspiration for your own home improvement projects!

In this issue, check out our new The Look section that's close to my heart. Within it are our Style pages starting on page 19, focusing on spring trends you need to know about now—like athleisure-inspired looks and fun embellished pieces. The Inspired Interior page gives you a snapshot into the mind of a designer, and we're thrilled to be working with the talented Alex Wood, owner of Alexandra Wood Design, who will provide insight in each issue on what's trending right now in interior design.

If you're looking to remodel or build a new home, The Workbook piece on page 32 is a must-read on hiring a contractor. In every issue, this feature will hone in on an important and useful home topic. And come this spring and summer, you're probably looking to entertain, so that's why perusing our Gatherings article on stocking your home bar is a fun (and relaxing) read on page 26. Of course, we have more new features not mentioned here that you'll need to explore for yourself—all written by our seasoned writers who have expertise in these subjects.

Thank you for reading, and as always, we'd love to hear from you about how you like our new features. Or, if you or someone you know has a home that would be great to feature within our pages, please email me at Shayna@ntmediagroup.com.

Enjoy the lake!

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director

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Please recycle this magazine—better yet, give it to a friend.

Best *for the* Boat

These water-worthy entertaining essentials will equip your boat outings and deck parties with chic, low-maintenance panache.

Styling and photography by
Shanna Wolf

All-American Style

Have a little fun with a vintage-inspired cooler that's a step up from your standard beverage holder. Retro drink cooler, \$60, **World Market** and cork keychain, \$7, **Orange Tree Imports**.



Perfect for Parties Summer gatherings call for no-fuss serveware, a refreshing cocktail and—oh yeah—a cute towel to dry off with. (Clockwise from top left): Zak Designs prep bowl set, \$12, and hex ice cube mold, \$8, both from **Orange Tree Imports**; S'well 25 oz. bottle, \$45, **Hatch Art House**; Be Mixed cucumber mint cocktail mixer (set of four), \$12, **Orange Tree Imports**; Kate Spade New York Cheers acrylic tumblers, \$24, **Macy's**; Ripple beach towel, \$44, **The Company Store**; textured acrylic wine glasses (set of six), \$24, **World Market**; Sydney beach towel, \$39.99; **Serena & Lily**.

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Compagnie De Provence liquid Marseille soap in Mediterranean Sea, \$28, compagniedeprovence-usa.com



Navy and White Feels Right

Navy and white has been a tried-and-true combination for designers for years because blue is impossible to mess up when combined with white. Whether it's adding a bold navy and white wallpaper to your powder room or layering in blue and white accessories to your space, this color combination goes with everything. Personally, I use blue and white throughout my entire home—like in my favorite set of TK Collections custom-designed woven bistro chairs that are in my kitchen. —Alexandra Wood, owner of Alexandra Wood Design

HUE KNEW

White Dove, Benjamin Moore (OC-17) This versatile shade is my key color for walls, trim, cabinetry and other millwork. White Dove maintains enough warmth so that it's not too cool, yet does not go on too creamy or yellow.

Decorator's White, Benjamin Moore (OC-149) You can't go wrong with this shade—it consistently looks good. I love this white for ceilings and woodwork, or in any room where you want a bright, clean white.

Intense White, Benjamin Moore (OC-51) This hue is a very light off-white color with tints of warm gray and a hint of green in the undertone. The mix of these colors in the undertones counterbalances the warmth, making this a gorgeous color for walls.



Hague Blue No. 30, Farrow & Ball This deep dark blue works well on walls, exterior accents and cabinetry. The green undertones of this timeless and dramatic blue make it a standout paint color.



Indigo Batik, Sherwin Williams (SW 7602) A nice choice for a navy blue that is dark but doesn't look black, and doesn't appear too royal blue in lighter situations. It's a dramatic wall color.



Hale Navy, Benjamin Moore (HC 154) An all-star paint color that is versatile, beautiful and dependable. It works in almost any lighting situation, has a perfect mix of cool and warm tones, and looks great on walls and furniture.





set sail in luxury *on a River Cruise*

River cruising is a relaxing and hassle-free way to unpack once, settle into your ship life and sail away to multiple destinations. In many ways river cruising is the way countries were meant to be seen because you can immerse yourself in authentic experiences in some of the most beautiful regions of the world.

River cruises have fewer passengers and as a result tend to be more regionally inspired than ocean cruises. The vessels can procure a delightful sampling of local produce, cheese, seafood and meat for onboard meals. Sommeliers may offer wine tastings, in addition to tasting dinners or events with local wines.

When you step off the ship, most river cruise lines offer at least one free shore excursion in each city. Led by local guides, you can enjoy walking tours or visits to castles, markets and museums, all of which offer an authentic

sampling of what each city has to offer from an insider's perspective. Discover Holland during tulip season, stroll through Europe's famous Christmas markets, experience France's majestic wine region, or embark on a wildlife safari cruise through Africa.

Historically, rivers were the best way to travel between communities, and this is where the true enchantment of river cruising lies. Rivers are the heartbeat of the region, weaving through the major cities and the scenic rural areas with picturesque small towns, castles and farmland between them. This is an experience unlike any other, and it's something you can truly savor on a river cruise.

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It's All in the Details

Spring's best looks feature classic silhouettes punched up with of-the-moment accents.

Styling and text by Shayna Mace
Photography by Shanna Wolf

Everything Embellished

Step up a standard moto jacket with embroidered details and sleek studs. Rino & Pelle Kimara lambskin jacket, \$480, Chauette



Best Bomber

Athleisure at its best in this tropical-print bomber.
Aldomartins bomber,
\$262, Terese Zache

LOAFING AROUND

These stunners will be the star of your outfit.
Crown Vintage Miaa loafer, \$59.99, DSW



GETTING GRAPHIC

Invest in this cashmere pick with a little attitude.
Skull Cashmere sweater,
\$230, Neena



POLKA-DOT PERFECTION

Pom pom trimmed sleeves? Count us in.
Elliott Lauren blouse,
\$152, Chauette



AT FIRST BLUSH

Pale pink is one of the season's hottest hues.
Botkier Vivi Satchel in Blossom, \$248, Terese Zache



PANT PICK

This paper-bag waist pair has a fresh silhouette for spring.
Fifteen Twenty paper bag waist pant, \$158, Neena



CHARMING CHAMBRAY

This adorable shirt can go from desk to drinks in a flash.
Nic+Zoe ruffle sleeve top,
\$138, Chauette



Pretty Pumps

Gingham gets citified in these chic D'Orsay heels.
Anne Klein Yolden pumps, \$49.99, DSW





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Meet the Maker



Put it on Paper

For Jessica Bates, it wasn't her ultimate plan to start her own greeting card and stationery business called jack + ella paper—it was a slow evolution. In fact, she had worked in hospitality and office management before striking out on her own.

But there were clues that this was the path she'd go down—for starters, she dreamed up her own wedding invitations (no small feat). Throughout the years, she also designed greeting cards for friends, and, eventually "started tinkering around with stationery—it was always something I was interested in," she says. Then, she started selling her cards at The Purple Goose with owner Halley Jones' encouragement. In 2010 she opened her jack + ella paper Etsy shop and launched her own website in 2014. The company is named after her kids, 18-year-old Jack and 16-year-old Ella.

Her product line now consists of greeting and holiday cards, place cards, notepads, change of address postcards and wedding invitations. She bases her merchandise mix on a simple principle: "Oftentimes it's a product I need, like a grocery list and a menu planner. So, I created those and I find that those are my best-sellers. I like useful products."

She uses 100 percent recycled craft paper from Wisconsin to showcase her witty sayings and "minimalist designs with a slight sense of humor." The clean, chic illustrations are done by font designer Rae Kaiser, a fellow Madisonian.

Bates has plans to expand to more small boutiques around the U.S. (currently she has about 50 wholesale accounts), add more seasonal collections throughout the year, introduce calendars and nanny logs, and make up downloadable templates for customers to print designs at home.



And even though we're a wired world, she's not worried about continuing to put her so-called pencil to paper to dream up new designs.

"I've had doubts in the past because of technology. But in my eyes, nothing replaces a birthday card—a text is just not the same, and I don't think it ever will be," she explains. "Handwritten notes are really important, and I hope it doesn't die off. And some people just like to see things on paper." jackandellapaper.com

Shoppist



A Special Spring Green Spot

Sometimes when you walk into a local shop, it affords you a great feeling—a positive vibe, if you will. And Mary D'Alton's gorgeous boutique Convivio in quiet downtown Spring Green is one of those places. D'Alton has made a conscious, thoughtful effort to stock items that are exclusive to her shop, including wine, spirits, tableware, linens, décor and specialty food items. Her curated selection has even caused those who are visiting the area to remark, "I can't believe I can find this selection in rural Wisconsin," smiles D'Alton.

This May, D'Alton's shop (which in Latin means "feasting together"), will celebrate ten years—quite an accomplishment for a local boutique in this age of online shopping. And her merchandise mix is changing focus from tableware to concentrate more on specialty food items, spirits, fair-trade items, jewelry, accessories and biodynamic and organic wines. (Or as D'Alton jokes, "no headache wines.") Also look for Japanese ceramics, Turkish hand-painted pottery (mugs, plates and bowls), hand-crocheted and woven baskets from Kenya, and Mayelo's brass jewelry, made out of ammunition shells by Kenyan women.

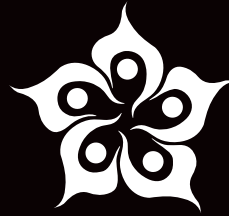
The deep navy walls, original oak floors and pressed tin ceiling shine in the 1911 building the shop is housed in. If you're there on a Saturday, you can partake in their weekly wine tastings, or take a seat outside in back when it's warm out to relax. Soon she'll also have an espresso bar serving Viroqua's Kickapoo Coffee Roasters.

"I love the community and people here," she says. "We have a lot of local people who love the store and make a choice to come here. That's the best part about a small town—the collaboration."

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Ten Minutes With ALICE CHOI

The Dallas native and social media personality and owner of the Hip Foodie Mom blog shares her world with us

By Shayna Mace

What inspired you to start Hip Foodie Mom, your cooking and lifestyle blog?

I started my blog as a hobby five and a half years ago when [my family was living] in Seattle. I was cooking as a hobby ... and I was sharing recipes with my friends. I used my advertising and marketing background and I knew what to do—I needed to monetize my food blog and put some banner ads on there. And then I just started connecting with brands organically on social media.

KitchenAid was the ... first major brand that I started working with on a regular basis. We just connected on Twitter! And then they started following me and then somebody reached out. And they asked if I wanted to develop recipes and use some of their appliances.

And you went from blogging as a hobby to doing it full-time, and even appearing on the *TODAY Show* and *Good Morning America*.

I was at an event and met a *TODAY Show* rep and worked with them on submitting recipes and appeared there. For *Good Morning America*, I think they Googled mom food bloggers and they found me!

You go out to eat a lot—what are your favorite restaurants in Madison?

Heritage Tavern, Forequarter, Morris Ramen, Graze and A Pig In A Fur Coat. I love that so many of the chefs here have a really close connection to the farmers here—they're shopping the farmers' market; they're talking to the farmers. I just love the quality of



the food. I think it's amazing, the restaurant scene that we have.

How do you develop your recipes?

Let's say I want to do a Buddha bowl. I'll think about what types of grain do I want in there ... and what vegetables, and then I'll think about sauces and how to put it all together. I also heavily focus on what's in season, produce-wise. I probably go grocery shopping when I'm testing recipes three to four times a week. Then, I just test different things together and I'll try things a few different ways. My husband is the key taste tester and if it's a kid-friendly thing, [I'll ask] my kids. Sometimes I'll have friends come over and try things.

Once I get it down to what I like, I make it again, test it and make sure everything is good.

What recipes of yours do your followers love the most?

My one-pot beef stroganoff always does really well because it's an easy and delicious weeknight meal to make. I have a marinade that does really well in the summer for steaks, chicken and pork. And then my Asian and Korean food recipes do really well, too.

What's next for you?

I will probably write a cookbook and I'm also exploring opportunities with the Food Network. 🍴



I love Sunborn Gardens—they're at the Dane County Farmers' Market. They do a flower CSA. They put together bouquets and wreaths that you can pick up!

My kids will almost always eat anything with pasta or something Asian, like soba noodles. I do a slow-cooker spaghetti meatball [recipe] that they love. With the kids, I try to keep it simple.



For inspiration, *Better Homes & Gardens* is one of my favorite magazines. I've had recipes in there too—as well as *Cooking Light*, *Food Network Magazine* and others. And I have my kimchi fried rice recipe in the March/April 2018 issue of *Midwest Living*!

I do buy a lot of organic produce, but I'm also not a stickler about buying 100 percent organic. But buying local is very important to me, as long as it's from a reputable farm that I trust.





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Raising the Bar

Simple at-home tips and tricks to have the best cocktail hour around.

By Kristine Hansen

Even in the 15 years since former Madison resident André Darlington started writing about cocktails, publishing several books on mixology, including this April's *Booze & Vinyl*, co-authored with his sister Tenaya Darlington, he's seen that world widen. "No one was drinking bitter drinks when I first started writing about cocktails. Now bitter drinks are the hot thing," says Darlington, who now lives on the East Coast. He credits *The Violet Hour* and *The Drawing Room* in Chicago with kicking off the cocktail movement in the Midwest, followed by *DISTIL* in Milwaukee.

And dovetailing with the craft-cocktail trend are more glassware options available at retailers and specialty cocktail items. Unique bitters, small-batch (and sometimes local) liqueurs, tools to stir and shake, and published recipes

just a Google search away are quickly coaxing home mixologists into worthy entertainers.

But the cost to stock a home bar can be daunting. Or, if space is limited, the fear you're carving out a cramped corner in your home.

"In general, start small," advises Julie Tominaro, owner of Crafty Kitchen, a personal-chef

service in Lake Geneva. "Find out what your guests prefer to drink. Choose alcohol that you and your guests enjoy imbibing in."

Darlington advises procuring just three bottles (gin, bourbon and Campari) to start—and growing from there when the time is right. Why these three? "Plymouth is a classic [gin] that a lot of bartenders use. It's got a nice light profile. It's not heavy," explains Darlington. As for bourbon, "I really like Buffalo Trace. It's really good bourbon for the money. Or Bulleit. That's a great one for the shelf," he says. The reason you want to include Campari into your home bar is for "something bitter," says Darlington.

"With those three bottles, you can make martinis and Manhattans," he says. Next, consider adding vodka and tequila to broaden

WHERE TO SHOP

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your repertoire. Tominaro likes to keep sweet vermouth on hand as it's "used in things like Manhattans and can add a lovely, slightly herbal but sweet characteristic," she says. And dry vermouth is essential "for a proper martini, which is the king of cocktails," Tominaro adds. "It's also used in any number of other drinks, adding that herbal characteristic but an underlying dry note." Just know that it should be tossed after a month—you always want to use fresh vermouth.

LOCAL LIBATIONS

By day, Christian Damiano is general manager at downtown Milwaukee's Harbor House, a glass-enclosed restaurant that juts out into Lake Michigan. At night, he loves to tinker around in the bar he just installed in his Sussex home as part of a renovation. Included in the design is a copper-top bar, work station, dishwasher, sink, glassware storage and wine fridge. His carpenter father-in-law built the top-notch cabinets.

He's been very impressed with Wisconsin-made spirits and tonics. "Great Lakes Distillery has put themselves on the map and local distilleries on the map," says Damiano. "[Twisted Path Distillery's] gins are just beautiful; very aromatic. They've [also] got a really fantastic vodka." Top Note's health-minded tonics are another product he does not hesitate to recommend. "They don't use corn syrup. Their flavor profile is really nice," he says.

In addition to spirits and liqueurs, Damiano recommends stocking your home bar with a nice cutting board, sharp knife and fresh citrus, like limes, lemons, oranges or clementines. "It changes the flavor profile ever so slightly," he says, when you switch up your citrus choice from, say, a lemon to a clementine that's in season.

And don't even think about skimping with a refrigerated plastic container of store-bought

lemon or lime juice. After all, this is all about entertaining: "For your home, always make it the best," says Damiano. To make a batch of drinks for a small crowd, "you want to have more than two shakers on hand, plus a muddler and a strainer," he says.

Glassware choices can also feel overwhelming. Damiano advises purchasing, to start, 12- to 14-ounce tumbler glasses. "You can put just about anything into them," he says. But if you really want to mimic a bar, Tominaro suggests buying the following glassware and tools: martini, rocks, highball, tall, red and white wine glasses; pint glasses; beer mugs; a martini shaker and strainer; toothpicks for olives and condiments; and cocktail napkins. Party-goods stores often stock toothpicks and napkins in bulk.

And you can never have too many garnishes on hand. Some basic ones, in addition to limes and lemons, says Tominaro, are cocktail olives and onions, horseradish, salt and pepper, Tabasco sauce and sugar. These can easily jazz up a cocktail. Basic mixers, she says, to keep chilled in the fridge include club soda, tonic water, soda (Coca-Cola, Sprite or 7UP, and ginger ale) and juice (orange, cranberry, tomato or pineapple).

Darlington has an ice tip, too. "Ice takes on the flavor of your freezer," he says. "Use ice not older than two weeks." And don't feel like you have to load up on barware all at once. Once you've got your bottles, glassware and shaker, add gradually as you learn what you—and your guests'—palate likes. "You don't need a lot of fancy barware, but you do need a good shaker," says Darlington, who has suggested for people who lack a stirrer that they use chopsticks instead.

Kristine Hansen enjoyed learning more about Wisconsin spirits and chatting with the sommelier at Harbor House, one of her favorite Milwaukee restaurants.



Some Tips on Sips

What's old is new again—even when it comes to cocktails. "Classic cocktails are coming back—with a twist," says Christian Damiano, general manager at Harbor House in Milwaukee. Some examples at Harbor House are the Cranberry Orange Manhattan and Autumn Negroni, bumping up against signature drinks, craft beer and glasses of bubbles on the bar menu. "People want flavor. They don't necessarily want a ton of sugar added," he says. (In other words, no drinks that replicate desserts, or martinis rich as chocolate bars.) "Bourbons and ryes are very much top of mind," he says. To play around with classic cocktails, make sure you have a bourbon and rye on hand, and your repertoire will go far.

RECIPES

Apricot Smash

2.5 oz. Four Roses bourbon
1 fresh orange section
Apricot preserves, muddled
1 fresh mint sprig
Shake first three ingredients
and serve over ice with a mint
sprig for garnish.

Courtesy of Harbor House

Champagne Cosmo

2 oz. Grey Goose vodka
¼ oz. Cointreau
½ oz. cranberry juice
Juice of ½ fresh lime,
squeezed
½ oz. Champagne
Shake first four ingredients.
Float ½ oz. Champagne
and serve.

Courtesy of Harbor House

South Side

2 oz. gin
¾ oz. lime juice
¾ oz. simple syrup
6 fresh mint leaves
Muddle the mint leaves
with simple syrup in a shaker.
Add other ingredients
and shake.

Courtesy of André Darlington

NINE PLACES TO EAT AT ON THE WATER

Our lakes afford us beautiful vistas served with a side of delicious dishes at these waterfront eateries.

By Shayna Mace

THE BOATHOUSE AT THE EDGEWATER

The Edgewater's pier has always been the place to be since the hotel's opening back in 1948. If you're coming by water, simply pull up, dock and enjoy a casual, leisurely meal at The Boathouse, which serves warm-weather fare like cheese curds made with Milwaukee's Clock Shadow Creamery cheese, a simple Boathouse Burger or the ubiquitous Friday-night favorite, the fish fry. Their cocktail menu leans in the craft direction and plenty of local brews (Ale Asylum, Karben4, Potosi) can be had, all while enjoying the breeze off of the lake.

INSIDER TIP: The Edgewater has a custom Babcock ice cream flavor of their own—caramel corn. Get a scoop after dinner!

CHRISTY'S LANDING

Known for its laid-back atmosphere, tropical vibe and lakefront tiki bar, this family-owned Lake Waubesa eatery is a must to visit by boat or land. The no-fuss menu features wraps, sandwiches, burgers and appetizers—like the fabulous Shrimp Christy, wrapped in pepperjack cheese and bacon, served with chips and pico de gallo.

INSIDER TIP: The second-floor deck overlooking the water is a prime spot to catch the water action and soak in warm weather.

MEMORIAL UNION TERRACE

The Terrace celebrates its 89th season this year as one of the best places to be in Madison in



Memorial Union Terrace

the summertime. And, with the improvements made to the Terrace in 2016, it boasts even more seating, better sight lines and most importantly, a better Brat Stand. Grab a brat, beer and a scoop of famous Babcock ice cream (made on UW-Madison's campus) and settle in on a Sunburst chair to chat with friends, listen to some live music or just enjoy the view.

INSIDER TIP: The trademark Sunburst chairs are in John Deere green, Allis Chalmers orange and yellow to celebrate spring and fall—the seasons students most associate with the Terrace.

VON RUTENBERG RESTAURANTS

This 57-year-old family business traces its roots back to the (now-closed) Nibble Nook, an eight-seat hamburger restaurant on East Washington Avenue that was purchased by Betty and Bill von Rutenberg in 1961. The family now has three waterfront restaurants (Captain Bill's, Mariner's Inn and Nau-Ti-Gal) and Betty Lou Cruises that sail on both Lake Monona and Lake Mendota. The nautically-inspired restaurants all focus on seafood and all offer stunning views of Lake Mendota.

INSIDER TIP: A seat on Captain Bill's deck is one of the best in the house.

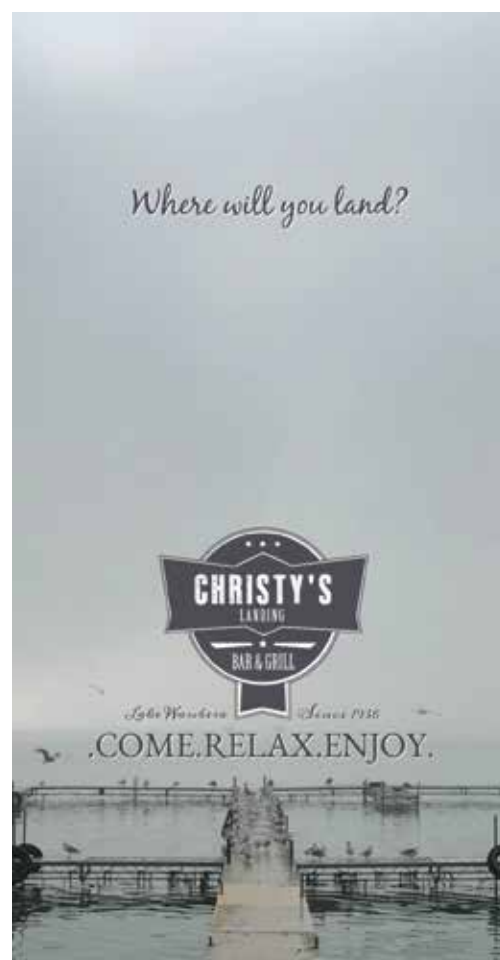


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The Boathouse at The Edgewater



Sardine

SARDINE

One of the most exquisitely appointed restaurants in Madison open since 2006, Sardine is a beloved institution, perched on the shores of Lake Monona. Once an icehouse and tobacco warehouse, the vintage bistro aesthetic carries on beautifully with wood beams and subway tile throughout. The French-inspired seasonal menu focuses heavily on meat and seafood—like the seared salmon, cassoulet and of course, moules frites.

INSIDER TIP: The brunch menu is one of the

most divine in the city, with delicious options (omelets, salads and entrees, like crab, bacon and shrimp cakes), great cocktails—and, if you can sit on their deck—a gorgeous lake view to boot.

WAYPOINT PUBLIC HOUSE

From the industrial design touches (Edison bulb pendants, corrugated metal accents and pipe shelving) to the spacious wraparound bar, this sophisticated restaurant is a welcome waterfront

option on Lake Waubesa. Have a seat on the deck outfitted with twinkling café lights and order up one of 30 daily rotating selections of draft beer from local favorites like Vintage Brewing, New Glarus and Wisconsin Brewing Company.

INSIDER TIP: Enjoy brunch on Sundays with a tinge of southern influence—like in the deep-fried pecan chicken and French toast or the chimichurri breakfast tacos.

Shayna Mace is editor of Lakeshore Living.



Madison's Waterfront Restaurants

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Fresh from The Farm

Get set for farmers' market season with our handy guide on where to go, what to buy when and shopping tips.

By Mary Bergin



Tami Lax

From Plant to Plate

When picked at the peak of ripeness, fruits and vegetables taste outstanding all on their own, with little need for complicated preparations. Snack on raw sugar snap peas, including the edible pod, or bite into a tomato as though it were an apple. The simple roasting of carrots or squash works. So does the quick steaming of string beans, or sautéing of Brussels sprouts.

But locally-grown ingredients also motivate chefs to go above and beyond traditional recipes, sometimes turning these ingredients into menu stars—especially in Madison.

At Harvest, a multi-course and fixed-price asparagus dinner will be served on May 20. Last year's menu featured deviled eggs with asparagus pesto, asparagus-pork paté, chilled asparagus soup, asparagus risotto, asparagus crab cakes and a dessert of asparagus panna cotta. This year's menu will be released closer to the date.

In August, heirloom tomatoes are the star of the show for another special dinner. Last year's guests tried heirloom tartare with whipped goat cheese and grilled focaccia bread and other courses featured the stuffed, smoked or pulverized ripened fruit. All dishes stay true to the restaurant's commitment to create an evolving menu "that focuses on the seasonality and locality of the products, rather than any one specific cuisine."

Harvest's proprietor Tami Lax is also co-owner of The Old Fashioned, a more casual eatery that opened next to Harvest in 2005 and showcases Wisconsin products, like Wisco Pop! soda and Sheboygan brats. Her passion for indigenous ingredients and products runs deep: She helped establish a Slow Food International chapter in Madison and was a founding board member of the international Ark of Taste, a catalog of 3,500 regional foods that are endangered because of environmental concerns, industrial production or changes in culinary traditions. That includes the Midwest's shagbark hickory nut, traditional sorghum syrup and watermelon pickles.

What Ripens When?

Mother Nature decides when food is ready for harvest because wild swings in temperature and precipitation might affect crop yields and ripening. Conversely, greenhouses or hoop houses extend growing seasons because the climate is controlled.

Here is what to expect at Wisconsin farmers' markets during a typical growing season.

APPLES: Mid-July to mid-October.

ASPARAGUS: May to mid-June.

BEANS: July through September.

BEETS: Mid-June to November.

BELL PEPPERS: Mid-July to mid-October.

BLUEBERRIES: Mid-June through July.

BROCCOLI: Mid-June to mid-October.

CABBAGE: Mid-June to mid-November.

CARROTS: July through November.

CAULIFLOWER: July through October.

CHERRIES: Mid-June through July.

CORN: July through September.

CUCUMBERS: Mid-July to mid-October.

EGGPLANT: Mid-July to mid-October.

GARLIC: Early to mid-August.

HOT PEPPERS: August through September.

LEAF LETTUCE: June through July.

MELONS: July through August.

ONIONS: Late July to mid-September.

POTATOES: Mid-June to mid-October.

RADISHES: May through June.

RASPBERRIES: June to late November.

RHUBARB: May through June.

SPINACH: Mid-May through June.

STRAWBERRIES: Mid-May to mid-June.

SQUASH: July through October.

SWEET PEAS: June to mid-July.

TOMATOES: July to mid-October.



Quick Tips:

- » Bring a reusable canvas bag for purchases.
- » Arrive early for the best selection.
- » Prepare to linger and nibble: This is not fast-food shopping.
- » Compare prices and quality before deciding what to buy where.
- » Don't paw at produce. Point at what you want to buy.
- » Ugly fruits and veggies, like misshapen or blemished ones, taste as good as perfect specimens.
- » Leave your comfort zone—try purple potatoes or tiny Thai eggplant.
- » Don't need a full pound of beans or a dozen ears of corn? Ask for a smaller portion.
- » Clueless about kohlrabi or garlic scapes? Ask the vendor for recipe ideas.
- » Like what you bought last week? Let the farmer know.
- » Buy heavy items—pounds of potatoes, trays of bedding plants—at the end.
- » Pay with cash; bring small bills.

Markets in Madison

The mother of all markets in Wisconsin is the year-round Dane County Farmers' Market, the largest producer-only market in the nation. The only items sold are those grown or produced by around 275 Wisconsin vendors total throughout the year; at least 150 stalls circle the state Capitol on Saturdays from April to November.

There's almost one farmers' market going on every day of the week, spring to fall. Here is the lineup.

Capitol View, Wednesdays, 3-7 p.m., May 30 to Oct. 10, 5901 Sharpsburg Dr.

Dane County (Wed.), Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., April 18 to Nov. 7, 200 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Dane County (Sat.), Saturdays, 6:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., April 14 to Nov. 10, Capitol Square.

Eastside, Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m., April 24 to Oct. 30, 202 S. Ingersoll St.

El Mercadito de Centro, dates/times TBD, 810 W. Badger Rd., call Centro Hispano (608-255-3018) for details.

Elver Park, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, June 9 to Sept. 29, 1250 McKenna Blvd.

Hilldale, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 5 to Nov. 3, 702 N. Midvale Blvd.

Monroe Street, Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 6 to Oct. 28, 2219 Monroe St.

Northside, Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., May 6 to Oct. 21, 1865 Northport Dr.

South Madison, Mondays, 2-6 p.m., June 11 to Oct. 29, 2500 Rimrock Rd.

Tuesdays, 2-6 p.m., May 22 to Oct. 30, 1602 Park St.

Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m., June 27 to Oct. 31, 2500 Rimrock Rd.

Fridays, 2-6 p.m., June 29 to Oct. 26, 2312 S. Park St.

Sundays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 29 to Oct. 28, 1602 S. Park St.

UW-Madison Campus, Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 30 to Oct. 18, 1308 W. Dayton St.

Westside, Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., April 14 to Nov. 3, 750 University Row.

Farmers' markets supplement what Madison writer Mary Bergin grows in her own little garden.



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THE INS AND OUTS OF HIRING A CONTRACTOR

A smooth construction and renovation process can make a big impact on your home's design.

By Maura Keller

Hiring an experienced and reliable contractor is crucial to a streamlined and successful home construction or renovation. But how do you know what to look for in a contractor, and what are some of the key questions that need to be asked when choosing a contractor?

According to Tom Miller, president of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, it's important to start with the local contractor licensing board to see what kind of complaints may have been registered against a prospective contractor, and to make sure they carry the proper license, bond and insurance.

"If there are any complaints, check to see if they have been satisfactorily resolved," Miller says. "And ask to speak to, or visit, a past client or two. Online review sites, which are fairly anonymous, have much potential to be unreliable."

Also check to see if the contractor belongs to NARI, or a similar professional organization. NARI members sign a code of ethics and are committed to promoting professionalism in remodeling.

"Undertaking a major remodeling project or building a new home is possibly the single largest financial investment most homeowners

undertake," says Scott Lowell of Lowell Custom Homes. "Homeowners have to be comfortable with the contractor that they are starting a long-term relationship with."

WHAT TO ASK

Chris Stebnitz, owner and president of Stebnitz Builders, says that with the popularity of HGTV and various reality shows that "teach" people how to complete projects on a low budget or give the impression that projects can be done in a short period of time, homeowners often come in with unrealistic expectations for time and budget for their project.

That's why Stebnitz says that some of the most important questions to ask the contractors you are interviewing include, how is your organization structured? And, are you a one-person company wearing all the hats?

"The experience you receive working with that contractor will be vastly different than the experience you receive working with a contractor with enough depth of organization to provide for a project that is not only a quality product, but a level of service that takes the worry and responsibility for your project off you," Stebnitz says.

Another question to ask is, what is your warranty and what does it cover? The industry average for a warranty is one year. More established contractors will warranty their work for as many as five years or more.

And be sure to ask if your project will have their own carpenters, or will they bounce from job to job? "This can be a very frustrating reality when you expect your carpenters or trades to be working on your project and no one shows up," Stebnitz says.

Regarding references, any contractor should provide the names of three (or more) homeowners that can provide useful, realistic feedback of their experience with said contractor. Stebnitz also recommends homeowners use the measurement tool called Guild Quality, a third-party survey firm who contacts clients after project completion for an in-depth, detailed survey/report about their remodeling experience.

Lowell says he tells clients to ask references, "If you had to do it again, what would you have liked to see handled differently and how did the contractor respond to issues after the home was complete—what was their follow-up service like?"

PRICING CONSIDERATIONS

According to Miller, professional contractors do not have time to provide estimates for every potential client who asks; typically, a phone interview can narrow the field for both homeowner and contractor, to see if the project and schedule appear to be a good fit for both parties.

"Many professionals are willing to make a first visit, to meet the homeowner and see the environment, and can often offer a rough estimate of price range based on what they see, but working up a reliable 'scope of work' and budget takes an investment of time and would typically involve a fee for services," Miller says.

As Stebnitz explains, most contractors price out their projects with project pricing, meaning, they give a price for the entire project. Or, they can price it out for every item and hour of labor—called time and material pricing. Both methods have pros and cons says Stebnitz, so discuss this in detail with your contractor.

ONGOING QUALITY CONTROL

After properly vetting a contractor and hiring them, it's important that homeowners make sure the communication is ongoing.

"Are schedule disruptions discussed openly? Is

the site cleaned up and made orderly daily? Do the workers conduct themselves professionally? These are signs that you're dealing with a trustworthy professional," Miller says.

Of course, all projects involve some degree of demolition or deconstruction and it is not uncommon to uncover some issue needing correction not covered in an agreement. Miller says that homeowners should expect some surprises but it's important to make sure there is a discussion about the process and cost of a solution.

"Expect some punch list items to pop up, even several months after the project is done and you are living in it," Miller says. "Materials dry out, things settle, cracks in caulk, grout or paint will appear. This is normal and a professional should come back to take care of them."

And at any sign of a problem, make sure to deal with the issue promptly, in person and with an open mind. Miller says that if the issues continue to seem unresolvable, discuss with the contractor whether you can agree on discontinuing the project, knowing that you would have to pay for services rendered.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK

- How long have you been in business?
- Do you maintain a current license, bond and insurance?
- Do you belong to NARI or another professional trade association?
- Are there past clients I can check with, and can I see some of your similar work?
- How are payments made? A significant project should be paid through monthly draws based on percentage of completion with inspections and payout through a title company. This protects both the contractor and the owner.
- Insurance requirements and limits—the homeowner and contractor have to protect each other.
- How are changes to the scope of work handled? They should be based on real costs.
- What is the warranty period and how are warranty issues handled?

Finally, ask to see a sample contract from the contractor and have it reviewed by an attorney. Pay special attention to:

- Start and completion dates.

"Local licensing boards often have a complaint resolution process, where a third party works with both sides to reach a suitable compromise," Miller says. "If the contractor simply will not deliver what was promised in the agreement, there is almost always a claim process that a homeowner can go through. But remember, if you choose a true professional, none of this will be necessary."

Stebnitz agrees. "Homeowners are much more

educated than ever before. But there is still a need for the contractor to educate their clients on the process," he says. "With so many resources online and through social media platforms, the homeowner has a great opportunity to do as much research on a contractor before they even make that first call."

Maura Keller is a seasoned freelance writer who frequently writes about trends in home building and design.

The decision to remodel your kitchen is a BIG one...



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Making Your Home a *Smart One*

The Internet of Things (IoT) is turning everyday home fixtures into intuitive devices that can improve security, fine-tune comfort levels and reduce energy consumption.

By Clair Urbain

"Home is where the heart is" may be a classic saying—but add-on technologies that make home life easier give new meaning to this oft-repeated phrase. Simply put, they make you love your house—and your life within it—even more.

The biggest trend in whole-home automation this year are smart hubs that accept voice commands or take cues from smartphones. Powered by Google (Google Assistant), Amazon (Alexa or Echo), Apple (Apple HomeKit) or other proprietary technologies (Wink's Hub 2 and Logitech's Harmony Elite systems, to name a few), can automate and remotely control lights, heating/cooling systems, garage doors and even kitchen appliances with a simple voice command or a tap on a smartphone screen.

These cloud-based systems are highly customizable, but the appliance or home device must be able to have an interface with your particular system. Frequently, those interfaces are built in to the device, making installation and programming practically seamless. Here are just a few of the ways these devices can leverage IoT capabilities around your home.

IN THE KITCHEN

Increasingly, new refrigerators are outfitted with control centers that can help track food use and assist in making grocery lists. The Samsung Family Hub refrigerator has cameras

REFRIGERATORS THAT MAKE
GROCERY LISTS, VOICE-
ACTIVATED SHOWERS AND
ROBOTIC LAWNMOWERS AREN'T
THE FUTURE—THEY'RE HERE
AND NOW.



Samsung's Family Hub refrigerator

BUYER BEWARE

If you're interested in making your home smarter with IoT-enabled devices, first check out the comments and ratings from users on various sites. End users tend to be quite frank, especially if there are problems in setting up the connections and the overall value of the smart device.



Nest Learning Thermostat

inside of it that allow users to remotely view what's missing or getting low while at the supermarket. The family can also use it as a connected message site that can share calendars, photos, notes and more between your refrigerator and your family's smartphones.

LG offers the SmartThinQ system that connects its smart appliances to your smartphone via Google Assistant.

IN THE BATHROOM

Technology is taking trips into the bathroom to interesting levels. KOHLER recently introduced the KOHLER Konnect bathroom that boasts voice-activated faucets, showers, tubs, mirrors and toilets that can be customized to the individual. The voice-activated system can set the preferred shower spray and temperature, pre-fill a tub to a desired temperature, provide hands-free toilet flushing and even has feet and seat warmers.

Similarly, the Voice Activated Faucet from Delta and amphiro's shower meters can help reduce water consumption.

HEATING AND COOLING

As furnace and air conditioning manufacturers continue to improve energy efficiency of models, controlling these systems remotely is also a huge priority for homeowners. While many incorporate this remote technology into their new models, add-on replacement thermostats offer remote control and greater efficiency to presently installed models. The ecobee4 and Nest Learning Thermostats offer these functionalities and qualify for a rebate through Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program, making these add-on improvements even more cost-effective. (For details, visit focusonenergy.com.)

HOME SECURITY

Replacement LED bulbs continue to go down in price (they can light anywhere for pennies),

improve light quality and last much longer than incandescent and compact fluorescent bulbs. Philips Hue bulbs can even be controlled via your smartphone or by voice command to change ambient light color or intensity, turn on or off and create routines for your preferred lighting throughout the day.

Similarly, the TrickleStar Motion Sensor power strip can sense when someone enters a room and power up plugged-in devices; when the room isn't occupied, it will power them down again, saving energy and wear and tear on connected appliances or devices.

Several companies have introduced security cameras, door locks and garage door openers that can be monitored and controlled remotely. As home delivery services are gaining popularity, homeowners with August Access Smart Lock Pro + Connect can issue a PIN to the delivery person for one-time access to the garage or home, then monitor their activity by camera (an additional add-on) while they make the delivery, and then secure the premises once the delivery person leaves.

August Access
Smart Lock products



HOME CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Powered floor sweepers and vacuums are growing in popularity as technology improves and costs decrease. Outside, remote-controlled and programmable devices are keeping up the home's exterior. The Robomow robotic mower can keep your lawn trimmed while the Rachio Smart Sprinkler Controller will keep your landscape green while reducing water use. Pool owners will appreciate the new Polaris 9650IQ pool cleaner that connects to a home's wifi and can be controlled remotely.

For entertainment, Bluetooth speakers can add music to any landscape. Solar-powered path lights are brighter, more appealing and offer a longer life per charge which can light pathways and landscapes with no impact on power consumption.

Clair Urbain is a Fort Atkinson-based writer specializing in equipment, technology, agricultural and business-to-business reporting.



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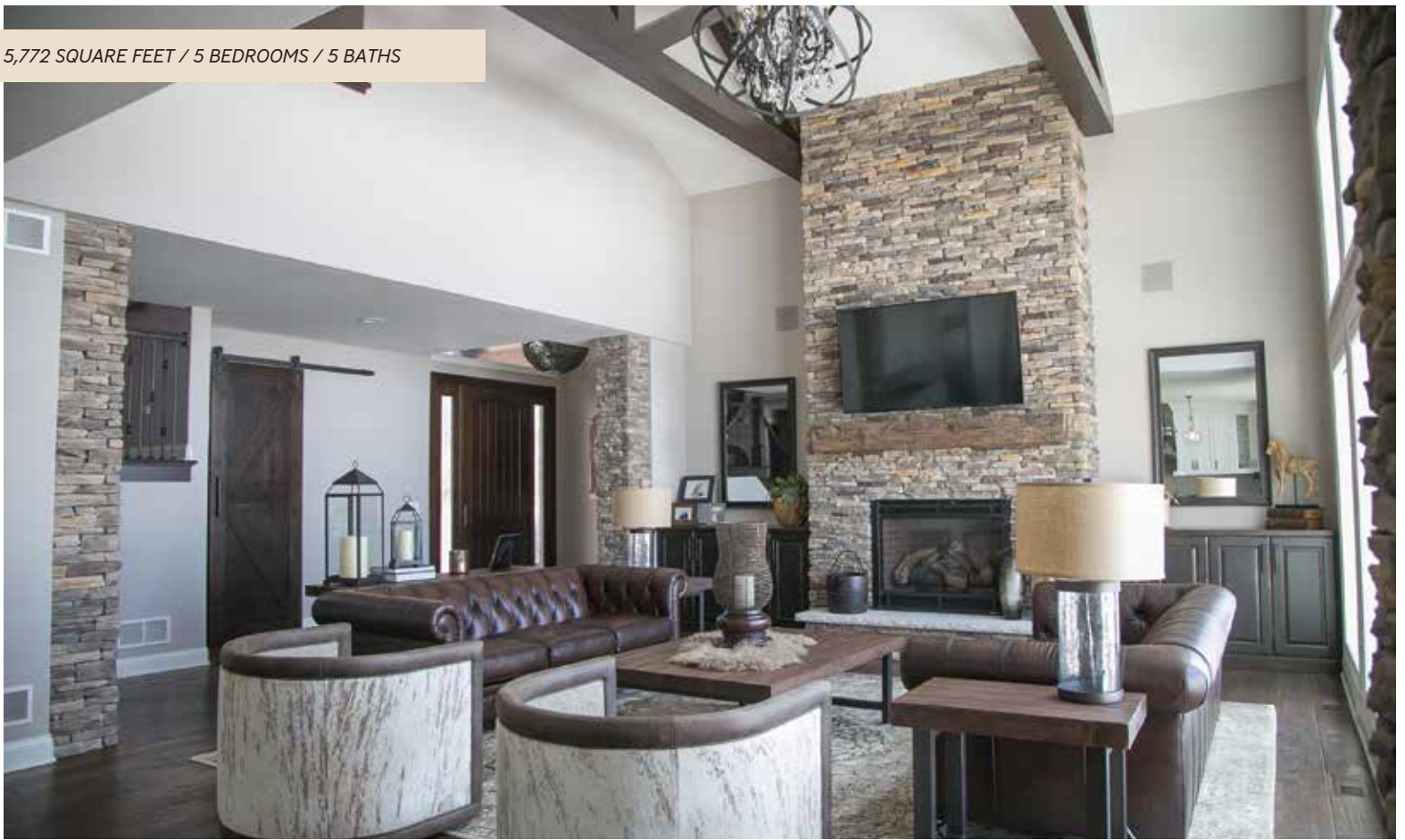


Returning Home

A young family finds a property in just the ideal location for them—down the street from where the husband grew up.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf

5,772 SQUARE FEET / 5 BEDROOMS / 5 BATHS



The soaring 20-foot ceiling in the living room beautifully displays the statement Madison Lighting fixture and wood beams. The newest additions to the room are the cowhide and leather-accented chairs, custom-made by Roughing It In Style.

The lure of the water can be hard to resist. Catching the sunrise off of the lake while having a morning cup of coffee, the sparkling midday sun on the gentle waves and the sunsets caught on the deck while having a glass of wine are hard to beat. And that's exactly why Jason and Stacy Weber wanted to be on Lake Waubesa—because of all of these idyllic moments that they could share with their young family.

And they knew exactly where they wanted to be—in the same general area where Jason, a McFarland native, grew up in.

“[This area] feels like home to me. I rode my bike by this property when I was kid,” says Jason.

However, finding a property for sale on the lake proved to be a challenge; after all, lake properties for sale can be a blink-and-you'll-miss-it opportunity. So, they called friends, asked around and even knocked on doors and told neighbors they were looking. Then one day while out on their boat, they spotted a For Sale sign right where they wanted to be—so they jumped on it. They had the property within two days. They packed up their home in Stoughton

and moved into an apartment while they figured out if they wanted to remodel the current home on the property or rebuild.

They recruited Jason DeNoble, a friend of theirs with Hart DeNoble Builders, for a walk-through of the home to create a game plan. It quickly

became apparent that what they desired would require a heavy remodel, so DeNoble suggested they start fresh. The home was torn down in the fall of 2015, and the new house was completed in December 2016.

BUILDING A DREAM

The couple had a firm wish list they wanted in their new abode, starting with ten-foot ceilings in the basement, a main-level master bedroom, a playroom for five-year-old Camden and three-year-old Piper, and an open floor plan.

“They wanted to take advantage of the lake views, so [they] wanted the main living areas on the lake side including the master bedroom, great room, kitchen and entertaining area [with] nice large windows and as much glass as possible. If you're going to build on the lake, you want to take advantage of it,” explains DeNoble.

DeNoble and his team were able to effectively sculpt the couple's vision after many back-and-forth conversations into a livable, welcoming home filled with custom touches that serve the family's needs perfectly, as well as create an optimal entertaining environment for guests.







Waking up to the water is a luxury Stacy and Jason have every day. The soothing bedroom features neutral pieces and a double-panel wood wall hanging that says “I love you” from Brown & Beam.

Along the way, Hart DeNoble’s design team addressed any challenges, such as building into the hill the property was on and rotating the garage 90 degrees from the original plan.

“What I really like about Hart DeNoble was [that] some of the things that we really wanted [in the] layout weren’t going to work with the lot. So, Steve [on their design team] pretty much had to design the house based on what we could have, and I thought they did an amazing job,” says Stacy.

On the design end, the couple worked with Tiffany Esser of Momentum Floral & Décor to create a rustic-chic feel with touches of glam here and there—like in the lighting choices and sleek subway tile backsplashes. A pair of custom-covered cowhide chairs in the living room and many of the furnishings throughout the house were provided by Jenna Theriault of Roughing It In Style.

Right off of the kitchen are two of the family’s

most heavily-used rooms: the butler’s pantry and the kids’ playroom. The couple worked with Rick Simler of Grand Appliance to select all of the pantry appliances (and throughout the home)—including the Sub-Zero ice fridge, Bosch dishwasher and wine cooler. And Stacy adores the playroom with its built-in bunks and space to contain the kids’ toys.

Tucked off of the living room is the couple’s master suite with a lake view. The gorgeous custom closet (done by Tim Woollen of Tailored Living) contains all of Stacy’s shoes and handbags—displayed just like a boutique.



The adjacent en suite bathroom has a spacious standup shower, granite countertops and custom-stained gray cabinets, done by Countryside Cabinets in Wonewoc.

A short walk to the lower level takes guests to the ultimate entertaining space, with a beautiful leathered granite bar, small game room (that will be a future wine cellar), media area, guest bedroom and bathroom, craft space and a small alcove designed for the kids to play in under the stairs. The ten-foot ceilings, radiant heat floors and abundance of windows fill the room with light. Jason says they use their lower level “more than most.”

With all of the custom touches in the home, the couple is happy with the design choices they made—with posterity top of mind.

“We knew we were going to be here a long time. It’s not [just] a 10-year house for us,” says Jason. 🍷



The sleek master bathroom has a touch of glitz in the Madison Lighting chandelier. Nonn's granite countertops finish off the space nicely. *(Above, right)* Stacy's closet is what dreams are made of—handbags are displayed behind glass like at a luxury boutique. *(Below)* The couple chose unique pendant lamps also from Madison Lighting to hang above the custom-built bar (done by Countryside Cabinets and topped with leathered granite from Nonn's). Next to the bar, a shuffleboard table stands at the ready for a spirited game.



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A Magical Mix

Blending lives (and décor styles) together showcases an eclectic, worldly and bold aesthetic in the home of these Lake Mendota dwellers.

By Shelby Deering | Photography by Shanna Wolf



In a space that was once a porch, a dining room marked by vintage-meets-modern styling stands at the ready for intimate meals and gatherings with friends. Set off by original brick, rosewood chairs unexpectedly mesh beautifully with a mechanized glass table and a starburst chandelier.

When a couple moves into a house together, there's a merging of varied tastes and preferences. And there are homes that represent each distinct personality and the décor converges flawlessly—Claire Ann Resop and Michael Richman have one of those homes.

"After having lived a long time with other people and separate families, we realized we had different tastes and different backgrounds," Richman says. "In some cases, [the décor] was more toward Claire's side of the spectrum, and sometimes it was more of my preference. We figured out a way to make it work in the middle."

The couple explains that the foundation of their décor choices, and their relationship, lies in a Chinese tale of a dragon and phoenix who put aside their separate lives to carve a pearl together. "Dragon and phoenix is a theme of ours," Resop says. "It's about new beginnings."

Resop and Richman's new beginning started in October 2015 when they bought a 1936 home that resided along the shore of Lake Mendota. In early 2016, renovations began.

The two called upon several individuals to

make their dream home a reality. Mark Hoffman of Hoffman and Co. Ltd. was the contractor on the project. Interior designer Barry Avery of Fontaine guided the couple as they chose colors, fabrics and wallpaper that achieved their desired look. Iconica's Bob Feller was the architect. And Dondi Szombatfalvy of Bella Domicile was involved in the design of the kitchen, dining area, master bath and master closet.

Szombatfalvy says, "This was going to be Michael and Claire's first home together, so the space needed to fit both of their needs, styles and tastes. They wanted a 'wow' kitchen, a master bath with Asian influences and a master closet that could accommodate two busy professionals."



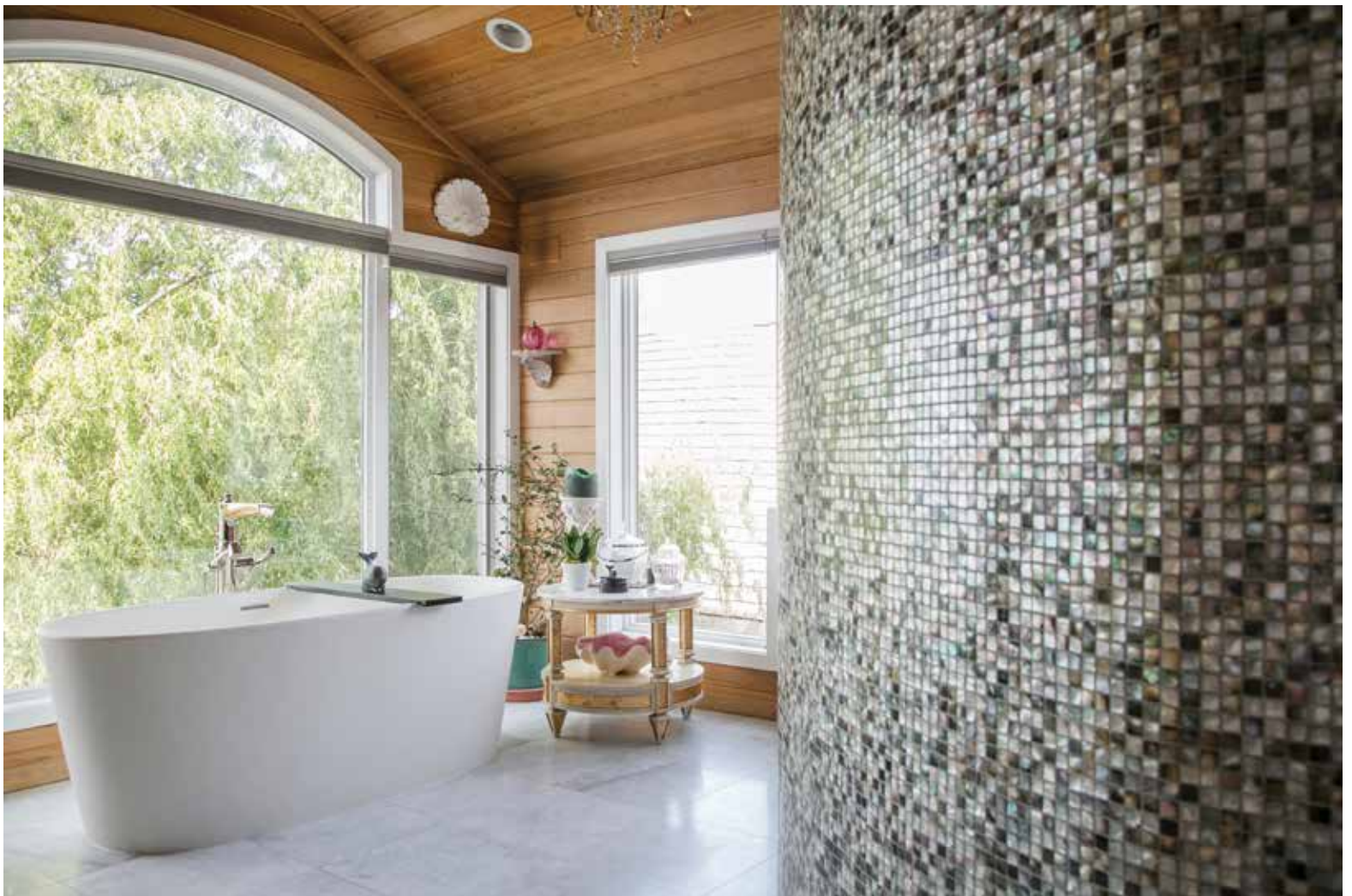
The renovations, which took nine months to complete, were fairly extensive. The home wasn't making the most of its exceptional lake views, so this idea was top of mind.

"The goal was designing a space that would facilitate everyday living and entertaining in such a way that the lake could be enjoyed at every vantage point," Szombatfalvy says.

To achieve this, a porch was transformed into a dining room by raising the floor level with the



Blue hues pull together the elegant living room. When working with interior designer Barry Avery, Resop shared inspiration photos with him, all of which happened to be shot in hotel lobbies. The blue velvet furniture and Turkish area rug evoke a luxurious, yet comfortable, feel.



The master bath sets the scene for soothing self-care sessions, featuring abalone shell tiles that cover the curved shower, a solid surface tub and a bay window that brings in plenty of bright, airy light.

existing living spaces. One doorway to a stairwell at the front of the house was closed off and an intermediate wall was removed, which created an impressive kitchen large enough to house two islands.

Now the couple enjoys idyllic sunset views from nearly every point in the house.

“My favorite thing is the sunset,” Resop says, and Richman adds that they face exactly west and can mark the seasons by where the sun is setting.

The couple often cooks meals together as the sun sets in the background. Before they had their grand kitchen, Resop jokes that Richman “only cooked eggs.” Now they cook side-by-side as they listen to the French Cooking Channel in the background, which is appropriate in a European-inspired kitchen.

The backsplash is a show-stopping accent in the kitchen. Depicting sweeping views of the Italian countryside, Richman says, “Very early on, we decided that we wanted to have a unique backsplash. We both had been to Italy not long before the work started, and we decided that we wanted

to have a Tuscan scene of vineyards, something that brings together that warm kitchen feeling.” Made up of individual tiles, the custom mosaic was purchased online.

Black-and-gray granite countertops play splendidly alongside the white cabinetry, and the purple chairs with gilded, lion’s head armrests pop in an otherwise neutral space.

Resop says, “We had a nice little breakfast in Manhattan one weekend, and I said, ‘Honey, let’s stop in that antique store across the street.’ And voila! There they were. These are from an estate in Boca Raton, Florida.”

Szombatfalvy explains, “The clients’ flair for the dramatic is demonstrated with bold corbel accents, intricate tile mosaics, curved cabinetry, accent lighting and rare Black Forest Granite.”

BRINGING BOLD

Beyond the kitchen, the décor throughout the rest of the home generally doesn’t shy away from bold colors and strong themes. The living room is particularly striking. As the couple worked with Barry Avery, they started with an Oriental-style rug that had been purchased during a





This home's character lies in its artistic details. The bedroom is a stunning sanctuary filled with Asian antiques. A Picasso lithograph entitled "Woman Sleeping" fills the expanse at the top of the stairs. And fanciful Scalamandre wallpaper saturated in vibrant carnival scenes turns a standard stairwell into a masterpiece.



The property offers can't-be-beat views of Lake Mendota, allowing the homeowners and guests to soak up dazzling sunsets. Lavender, lilacs and wisteria beautify the backyard, with lushness that's reminiscent of a European garden.

trip to Istanbul and built the room from there.

In flamboyant oranges and navies, Avery suggested that blue velvet furnishings would pair perfectly, and they do indeed. The fireplace was rebuilt by Carved Stone Creations out of Kaukauna, and now a stone fireplace featuring stately lions stands in its place, solidifying the grandiose nature of this room.

It should come as no surprise that when Resop was pulling photos to serve as inspiration, many of them were taken in sumptuous hotels.

"I love hotel lobbies," Resop says.

Another theme that's prevalent in the home is Asian design, something Resop says stems from the three years she lived in Guam. The master bedroom is unmistakably Asian-themed with its rosewood headboard that was handcrafted in China, a Persian rug purchased at Michael Fine Art in San Francisco and a piece of Asian-influenced watercolor art created by Julie Keaten-Reed, an artist the couple discovered at Madison's Art Fair on the Square.

The Asian styling carries into master bath as well, and can specifically be seen in the cabinetry.

"I showed Dondi an antique Asian cabinet I liked," Resop says. "She saw it and said that we could recreate that look. We chose the cabinets and I ordered the hardware from an Asian furniture supply store online. It looks just like an antique cabinet."



This exuberant home truly comes alive when it's filled with Resop and Richman's friends and neighbors. On a patio constructed by Olson Toon Landscaping, the couple revels in holding outdoor dinner parties and cook-outs, but if the weather turns chilly, guests are delighted to find themselves amid the exquisite décor inside.

Resop reflects on her love for this home. "It is a gathering place for friends to enjoy sunshine, sunsets, moonrises, food, champagne and wine while sharing laughter, music and good conversation." 🍷

Shelby Deering is a lifestyle writer from Madison, contributing to regional and national publications like BRAVA and Architectural Digest.



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Minimalist Look, *Maximum Style*

A home in Monona takes advantage of stellar lake views with soaring ceilings, welcoming entertaining spaces and a sleek design.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf

Like so many other eventual lake homeowners, Kim and Steve Machotka dreamed about living on the water—and spent a considerable amount of time searching for just the right place. But they wanted to be on Lake Monona in the right spot and hadn't had much luck—until Kim heard about a lakefront property during, of all places, a workout class.

The couple jumped on the chance to look at it and checked out the 1,200-square-foot 1930s Cape Cod-style home, which had been redone in the

3,400 SQUARE FEET / 4 BEDROOMS / 4.5 BATHS





(Left) Each of the home's four-and-a-half bathrooms has a tranquil ambiance. The main level's powder room has translucent bowl sinks, light wood cabinetry and a dash of shine in the pair of mirrors. (Right) Kim appreciates baths, so the couple was sure to put in an American Standard soaking tub in the master bathroom.

years since, but lacked the space and views the couple really wanted. They purchased the two-bedroom cottage and lived in it for a year with daughter Morgan and twins Lauren and Collin to figure out what exactly they wanted in their new home. The kids lived in the bedrooms and the couple turned the three-season porch into a bedroom—but Kim admits, “it was not very pleasant for a year!”

SETTING A VISION

Once they narrowed down what their new abode needed, they met with Chris Schmidt of Classic Homes of Madison, who was a neighbor of theirs in the Bergamont neighborhood. The 57-foot-wide lot was a slight challenge to work in, paired with the lake setback rules and side

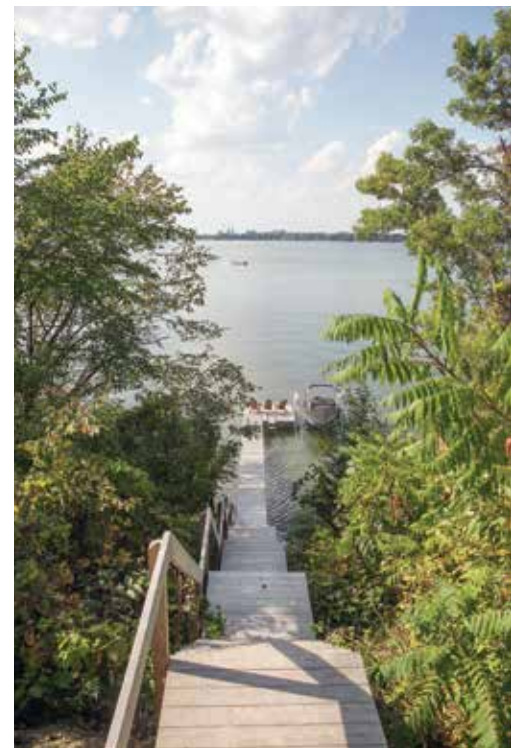
restrictions the city has—but Steve says they were able to accomplish what they wanted: lake views in almost every single room, morning sun in the kitchen, a view of the Capitol—and a minimalist, tranquil home.

“We like everything simple,” says Kim, referring to the lack of pictures on the walls, items on the counters and the clean white palette. “My [inspiration was] a California beach house. I didn’t want any dark wood, and I wanted everything light and bright.”

And the home’s layout reflects this laser focus on efficiency. For example, instead of a separate dining room, the couple put in a spacious six-by-ten-foot quartz island in the kitchen

from ProSource of Madison for meal prep and mealtime—no dining table needed. Ten guests can fit around it.

Entertaining is a huge priority for the couple, so the gas stove, custom stove hood, custom cabinets, large pantry and oversized refrigerator were all must-haves for aesthetic and practical reasons. A sleek white subway tile backsplash behind the stove, vintage-look fixtures by Ferguson and the trio of brushed nickel pendant lamps (from Amazon) all add a little flash to the soothing space. Flooring throughout the first floor is a wide-plank whitewashed white oak (from Old World Wood Floors) that seamlessly flows one room to the next.



The backyard was a huge undertaking to whip into shape—but the couple enlisted the help of Capital Landscaping for the greenery and Oregon Recreational Concepts for the concrete pool deck and pool. In order to accommodate the backyard space, Steve says Capital Landscaping had to dig out “piles of dirt” to make room for what they wanted, and cut down several trees that were blocking the lake view. The final addition was the outdoor kitchen and firepit, which the couple are looking forward to using.

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The property looks vastly different from before—but all of the extensive landscaping and home construction was worth it to the Machotkas. Steve grew up in the area, and the couple liked the school district, so they plan on this being their forever home.

To emphasize their enviable lake view, the astounding 22-foot-high ceiling on the main level makes the space seem even larger than it is. Kim proposed the ceiling height, and despite hesitation from Schmidt and Steve that the ceilings may be too high—they quickly agreed with her after they saw the finished product, outfitted with reclaimed wood beams from a barn in Brooklyn, Wisconsin. The floor-to ceiling wood-burning fireplace, built-in cabinets and wet bar all lend the living room a comfortable, easy elegance—that’s a cinch to entertain in. Bits of blue are pulled in to the area rug and throw pillows on the Pottery Barn couches easily convey “waterfront vibe.” The couple spends 80 percent of their time here, says Steve. “My favorite part is just all of the windows, which let in the light and the views. And I like the tall ceilings here, too—it makes it feel so open.”

CONNECTING AND CAMARADERIE

Just off the living room is the couple’s master suite with a relaxing spa-like bathroom with a

soaking tub (for Kim) and spacious shower. The couple picked the glass shower and backsplash tile because it reminded them of water, and the light wood cabinets and white tile floors successfully achieve the “rustic, yet California beach look” Kim was going for. In the bedroom, Steve says they chose the widest, tallest windows they could find to maximize the water vistas.

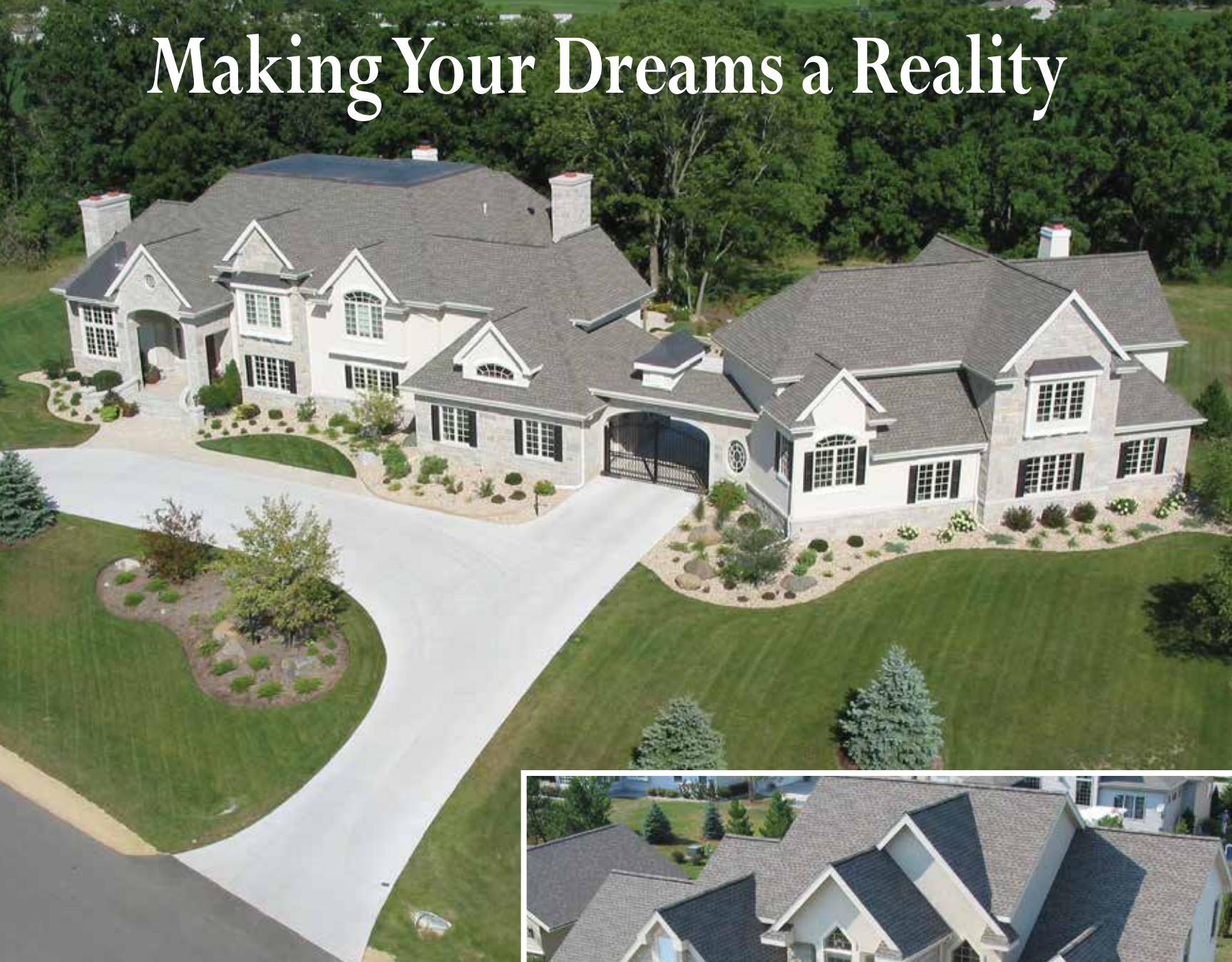


Upstairs, their son and daughter also have lake views from their rooms, too.

Playing up the home’s efficiency, the lower level is a combination space with Steve’s office, a guest bedroom and bath, another living room plus bar area, and storage. The kids love to hang with friends and watch TV down here, and the couple like to host pool parties on their newly-finished outdoor patio complete with a stainless steel outdoor kitchen with quartz countertops. The small kidney bean-shaped pool gets used by the kids nearly every day over the summer, says Steve. With the couple’s busy hosting schedule, the home fits their needs perfectly. Kim appreciates the main level for sunrise coffee sessions and connecting with friends in the kitchen or living room. Steve admires their lakefront perch.

“The view hits you right when you walk in the door, and it’s the first thing you look at,” says Steve. “You have to remember to appreciate that view every day.” 🐾

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From Humdrum to *Heavenly*

Now in its fourth year, Design for a Difference Madison awards another nonprofit a stunning makeover.

By Melanie Radzicki McManus



Before

All photos courtesy of Design for a Difference Madison



the pint-sized girl was traumatized. But no matter how kind the staff was at The Rainbow Project, she couldn't talk about it. Then she spied a beautiful corner reading nook fashioned with a curved curtain rod and drapes. Scrambling into the space and pulling the drapes shut so that she didn't have to look at anyone, she was finally able to open up.

That hideaway, so beneficial to the six-year-old, was a recent gift. It had been installed gratis as part of an extreme makeover of the nonprofit's digs on East Washington Avenue, courtesy of Design for a Difference Madison.

Design for a Difference began in 2013 as a national movement. The brainchild of The International Design Guild, an elite group of designers and showrooms, and Mark Brunetz, former TV host of the Style Network's *Clean House*, its concept was simple: Design professionals and students from the U.S. and Canada would compete for \$20,000 in goods and services to renovate a space in their favorite charity.

In 2014, Madison-area designers and companies jumped into the contest, nominating several groups. Unfortunately, none were selected, says Angela Skalitzy, vice president of retail sales and design at FLOOR360, a Madison flooring company. "When they didn't win, we said, 'We're going to do this anyway,'" she says. With that, Design for a Difference Madison was born with FLOOR360 being the main sponsor.

A year later, Madison's very own contest debuted, and the inaugural winner was The Respite Center. Part of the Center for Families (now called RISE), the Fordem Avenue nonprofit works to build strong families and prevent child abuse. To kick off the 3,500-square-foot makeover, Skalitzy and Bob Tobe, owner and president of FLOOR360, threw a party for local interior designers, explained the project and requested help. Nearly all of the designers present signed on. "I was amazed," says Skalitzy.

The group composed of about 20 designers got to work. Nine months and more than \$140,000 in donated goods and services later, The Respite Center received its transformation: cheerier colors, cozy spots, a kid-sized theater and marketplace, an additional bedroom, and, in the center of the kids' main gathering space, a tall tree surrounded by a circular bench.

After
The Respite Center (RISE)



After
The Rainbow Project

Before



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Not surprisingly, The Respite Center staff and clients were thrilled with the results. And the designers were inspired to see the positive impact the now-inviting spaces, fresh furniture and good design had on everyone, especially the kids. “When kids feel they’re in a respectful environment, it evokes the right emotions,” Skalitzky says.

DEDICATED DESIGNERS

Since its inaugural success, Design for a Difference Madison has grown. The group’s second project in 2016 was a \$330,000, 7,000-square-foot refurbishment of The Rainbow Project, with 33 designers assisting. In 2017, 38 designers tackled a 12,000-square-foot makeover at Centro Hispano. That project, worth more than \$600,000, is the largest Design for a Difference project nationwide to date. “Madison is leading the way nationally in the size and the scale of what we’re able to do because of the help of the community here,” says Skalitzky. (The program is now a local movement in several dozen communities throughout the U.S. and Canada.)

So what’s the draw for designers to sign on for months of free work? For Dani Frank, owner of independent design firm Distinctively Danette, it’s a way to collaborate with talented peers, plus give back to the community. Frank, who has worked on all three makeovers, now includes her husband, three sons, daughter-in-law and one son’s girlfriend in the projects.

Tara Buedding, owner of The Happy Home Organizer and also a three-time volunteer, participates because it gives her joy. “This has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done in my life,” she says.

ENERGIZED AND INSPIRED

Now at the start of its fourth year, Design for a Difference Madison has a set process. The group solicits nominations beginning in January—although they’re accepted year-round—then evaluates each to determine which group can be more successful and expand its reach in the community if its work space is refurbished. The recipient is announced at a spring kick-off party open to the public. And then, the work begins.

The designers each choose a specific space to refashion and consult with the nonprofit’s employees about their needs and current space usage. Meeting every few weeks as a group, they determine a makeover theme, color palette, furniture needs, lighting and more. While the designers have a lot of freedom to remake their spaces as they see fit, they’re also in charge of



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securing the monetary and material donations to fulfill their visions—and to perform the actual work.

In October, the chosen nonprofit's staff is temporarily moved out of their space for two weeks while the designers swoop in and do their magic, with the help of additional volunteers. When the paint is dry and the last piece of artwork hung, a big reveal takes place.

"We had to close our eyes, so we were shuffling in and holding on to one another," says Sharyl Kato, executive director of The Rainbow Project, about their 2016 reveal. "At a certain count we could open our eyes. Even thinking about it, I start crying. It was just breathtaking. I couldn't believe it."

Gone were The Rainbow Project's drab walls, the worn, mismatched furniture and the stained carpeting. In its place were rooms painted in soothing tones accented with pops of color. A long hallway was decorated with trees in relief, evoking the feeling of walking through a forest. New flooring and furnishings completed the look.

"We always tried to make it as inviting as possible here," Kato says. "But for 37 years we've had a waiting list, so every dime we had we spent on services."



Design for a Difference Madison's Centro Hispano design team

You Can Help, Too! The 2018 Design for a Difference winner is the East Madison Community Center. To donate money, supplies or labor, go to floor360.com/d4ad/ or designforadifference.com and click on Get Involved.

Today, some 18 months after The Rainbow Project's makeover, Kato is still excited. In addition to enjoying a beautiful work environment, the redesign spurred additional, unexpected benefits. Kato says she's more organized and efficient now that her office has functional, appropriate accommodations. Other friends and community members stepped up, redesigning the group's dated logo and updating its website and technology.

"This makeover was the community saying, 'We're here for you,'" says Kato. "And it's hard to explain how inspiring that is." 🍀

Melanie Radzicki McManus is a freelance writer based in Sun Prairie. She plans to help paint during this year's Design for a Difference event.



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WATER WAYS: Eleven-year-old Tia Nelson dives into Lake Mendota in July 1955. Nelson was one of Madison's "most outstanding young swimmers," according to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Interestingly, this isn't the same Tia Nelson who is an environmental activist, politician and daughter of governor Gaylord Nelson, who founded Earth Day—she was born in 1956.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (IMAGE ID 36138)

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