

Lakeshore Living

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR LAKE COUNTRY HOME

Taste of Tradition

Peek Inside This Beaver Lake Stunner

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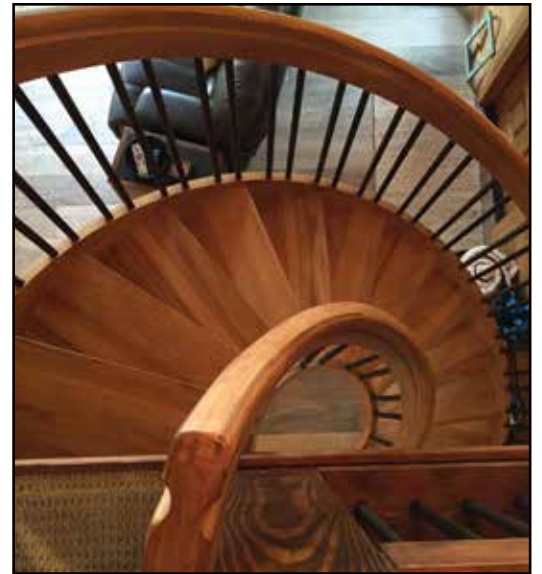
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Inspiring Improvements

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 pointer, 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 new Style pages starting on page 19, focusing on summer trends you need to know about now—like athleisure-inspired looks and fun embroidered 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, our The Workbook piece on page 30 is a must-read on hiring a contractor. In every issue, this feature will hone in on an important and useful home topic. And this 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

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director





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Lakeshore Living

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR LAKE COUNTRY HOME

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NEI-TURNER MEDIA GROUP

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

Have a little fun with a vintage-inspired cooler that's a step up from your standard beverage holder. Frayed brim sunhat, \$28, **Next Door Boutique**; Retro Drink Cooler, \$60, **World Market**.



Perfect for Parties Summer gatherings call for no-fuss serveware, great tunes and—oh yeah—a cute towel to dry off with. (Clockwise from top left): True Zoo Gilbert fish corkscrew, \$6, Milwaukee Street Traders; Bottoms Up embroidered flask, \$18, Décor Adore Boutique; Red Flower Paper 18" tray, \$50, Décor Adore Boutique; Cobalt melamine tumbler, \$8, The Fresh Market; Rope-wrapped stainless steel ice bucket, \$35, World Market; Ultimate Ears Roll 2 portable waterproof Bluetooth speaker, \$62, Best Buy; Hydro Flask Delafield 32 oz. hand-etched bottle, \$50, Clear Water Outdoor; custom sweatshirt blanket, \$64, Décor Adore Boutique. 🐾



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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.



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ACE YOUR Summer Look

Boring outfits, begone! Combine this season's hottest trends to keep you looking cool.

Styling and text by Shayna Mace
Photography by Shanna Wolf

Sweet Bomber

This classic piece gets a dose of sweetness in a blush pink hue and perforated design. Dex bomber jacket, \$54, Next Door Boutique



Striped Stunner

A cute jumpsuit with a flattering high waist is a wardrobe must-have.
Iris jumpsuit, \$46.95, Element Style



WHITE IS RIGHT

Keep it airy, light and even a little edgy in this shirt.
Line + Dot top, \$90, Next Door Boutique



FUN FRAYS

Kicky fringed hems?
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Denim Blvd.
jeans, \$46.95,
Element Style



Colorful Chic

This striped mini is perfect paired with a white tee or tank for pulled-together polish.
Z&L skirt, \$64.95, Element Style



CHARMING CHAMBRAY

This dip-dyed tank top with a frayed hem is equal parts practical and fun.
BB Dakota tank, \$75, The Barn Owl

AT FIRST BLUSH

A perfect day or night sandal.
TOMS Poppy Bloom suede sandals, \$90,
Main Street Boutique



PRETTY IN PINK

Swingy tassels add the perfect pizzazz to your outfit.
Beaded earrings, \$18,
Next Door Boutique



BLUE ME AWAY

A timeless color and a cute saddlebag silhouette makes this your go-to summer pick.
Handbag Republic bag, \$44.95, Element Style



FASHIONABLE FLORALS

Embroidered blooms make this striped tunic pop.
Mystree tunic, \$59, Main Street Boutique

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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 in Verona 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 Rae Kaiser, a Madison-based font designer.

Bates is also based in Verona and 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



Happy Home

When mother-daughter team Laura Goranson and Heather Weber decided to open home décor and gift store **G.Home**, they didn't have any retail background—but were confident enough in their skills to go ahead and run with it.

"We have a marketing communications company called G.Moxie which is our day job, and we wanted to get into retail because we felt like it's hard right now to find a place where you can go and find things that are your style that are within your budget. You want to pick and choose pieces that go with what you want, and not find something of just one genre," says Weber.

So the two opened **G.Home** in November 2015 in Elm Grove, where they both live (Goranson moved there within the last year). The two pride themselves on having unique pieces that span a variety of tastes and budgets. The neutral shop showcases a variety of vignettes that customers could imagine being in their own home—like a beautifully-set dining room table or casual lounge area with custom-upholstered chairs and cool statement side table.

Weber and retail specialist Elizabeth Rennie say that customers also seek out the store for their unique gift items—like their own **Gusto Mercantile** line they launched in 2017 that has T-shirts, tea towels, onesies, glassware and more. "We were excited to take customer feedback for what they were looking for in gift items and come up with creative local-centric items that they love as well," says Weber.

Being a part of the area has been key for Weber and Goranson. "We felt like we could be an asset to the community," says Weber. "And we want people to walk in and feel welcome and also a little bit like they could be in their home."

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Ten Minutes With SARAH EGGENBERGER

The *NewBeauty* editor-at-large and beauty brand consultant shares her world with us.

By Shayna Mace

You wear a variety of hats as an editor and beauty brand consultant. What do you do in each of your roles?

I do *NewBeauty*'s special assignments which includes their TV segments, blogger events, interviews and videos. I represent *NewBeauty* in segments on the *TODAY Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, *New York Live* and more. It's interesting to take a topic and then try to curate it for a three-minute slot and provide product and information and also be entertaining and engaging with the host.

In the past I've created product lines all the way from conception to being on the shelf. The first product I launched was glotherapeutics, which is for professional use, available through spas, plastic surgeons and dermatologists. I have also worked with natural hair and makeup companies to define their messaging. And I do consult with doctors and spas [on how] to brand and market themselves.

How did you first get started in this field?

Well, I grew up in Hartland. I started to work at a holistic health spa called Vesta in Nashotah. (It has since closed). I started working there in high school, and it became this job that I loved, so the owner suggested after high school I go to school to become an aesthetician. So I went to the Aveda Institute in Minneapolis. I came back to work at Vesta and do facials and manage the business. I had a love for the industry and wanted to



do more. I started working as an independent contractor for brands ... which [also resulted] in meeting the editors of *NewBeauty*.

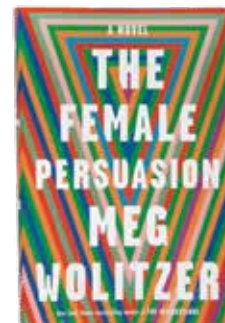
Why did you decide to stay in the Midwest instead of moving to the East Coast or elsewhere where a lot of your work is?

There's the parenting side of things (Eggenberger has daughters that are two and six years old) that you have to take into consideration and we live on the lake here. It's a great lifestyle for us and it's something we can't replicate anywhere else. So, that's the reason I stay here and fly out for consulting. I travel about two to three times a month.

You're so knowledgeable about the product formulations of skincare, hair and makeup lines out there. What's your best piece of advice for cutting through the clutter on what to buy?

The best way is to first look for the brand's value that aligns with your beliefs. If you're looking for something more clinical, or something with a "clean" approach, decide that first and then you can narrow down your search. From there what key attributes are you trying to change with your skin? Is it fine lines, wrinkles or acne? And then find a brand that specializes in that. And, very important: stick with a program long enough to see the results. 🍷

The *Female Persuasion* is a good beach read. It's about a woman going through life and the changes she faces. I like Meg Wolitzer's books.



I love that this is a shampoo, bath and shower gel and it has delicious scent! It's very light, and it doesn't conflict with any perfume you wear.

I can use this Sun Bum sunscreen stick on my girls and also on myself. And the scent is great—it smells like banana and coconut.



This fragrance is a delicate, everyday scent. It's one of those perfumes you can't overdo.



I love the founders of Smith & Cult—it's two women who have a past history of [starting] amazing brands. They have great color selections like this lip gloss—it's a good pop of pink for every day.

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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 past 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 in 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 your repertoire.

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Total Wine & More totalwine.com

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 your—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 ½ 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

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



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 good chefs to go above and beyond the predictable, and they know how to turn these ingredients into menu stars. At Belfrè Kitchen in Delafield, comfort food with a twist is a priority for executive chef Chris Murfield. He counts sweet corn as one of his favorite ingredients because it can be played sweet or savory.

A themed dinner, he says, could begin with a bisque of sweet corn and poblano peppers. Then, Murfield would do a panzanella of grilled sweet corn, cherry tomatoes, toasted brioche and a sweet corn buttermilk dressing.

For the entrée, Murfield says a smoked and pan-roasted rainbow trout with sweet corn succotash and a sweet corn purée could be a possibility. For dessert: a pavlova with a corn meringue and sweet corn custard, plus caramelized corn. Little corn is wasted, and that includes the silk surrounding the cobs of kernels. Murfield says the green silk fries really well, and it's fun to make nests out of corn silk with a soft poached egg of some sort.

He says it's important to work with local farmers because "it's a way to support your community and in turn, support yourself." Belfrè Kitchen, open since late 2016, works closely with about five farms, including Pink Teepee Farms in Dousman. The owners "have created an amazing rotation of beautiful vegetables and other goods that they make or forage throughout the year," Murfield says, and "the product never fails to exceed expectations as far as quality, flavor and aesthetics."

What Ripens When?

Wild swings in temperature and precipitation can affect crop yield and ripening, like in this year's growing season, which is behind schedule due to cooler temperatures. 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.



» 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 Waukesha

The mother of all markets in Wisconsin is the year-round Dane County Farmers' Market in Madison, 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 this year from April 14 to November 10.

In Waukesha County there are at least 11 farmers' markets. Here is the lineup.

Brookfield, Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. to noon, through Oct. 27, 2000 N. Calhoun Rd.

Butler, Mondays, noon to 6 p.m., through Oct. 29, 127th St. and Hampton Ave.

Delafield, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., through Oct. 20, 417 Main St.

Dousman, Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m., through Oct. 17, 118 S. Main St.

Elm Grove, Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m., July 11 to Aug. 29, Elm Grove Street and Watertown Plank Road.

Menomonee Falls, Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., through Oct. 31, Mill Street parking lot.

Mukwonago, Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m., through Oct. 10, 933 N. Rochester St.

New Berlin, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, through Oct. 27, 15055 W. National Ave.

Oconomowoc, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, through Oct. 27, 155 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Pewaukee, Wednesdays, 3:30-7 p.m., through Sept. 26, W240 N3103 Pewaukee Rd.

Waukesha, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, through Oct. 27, 125 W. St. Paul Ave.



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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.



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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.



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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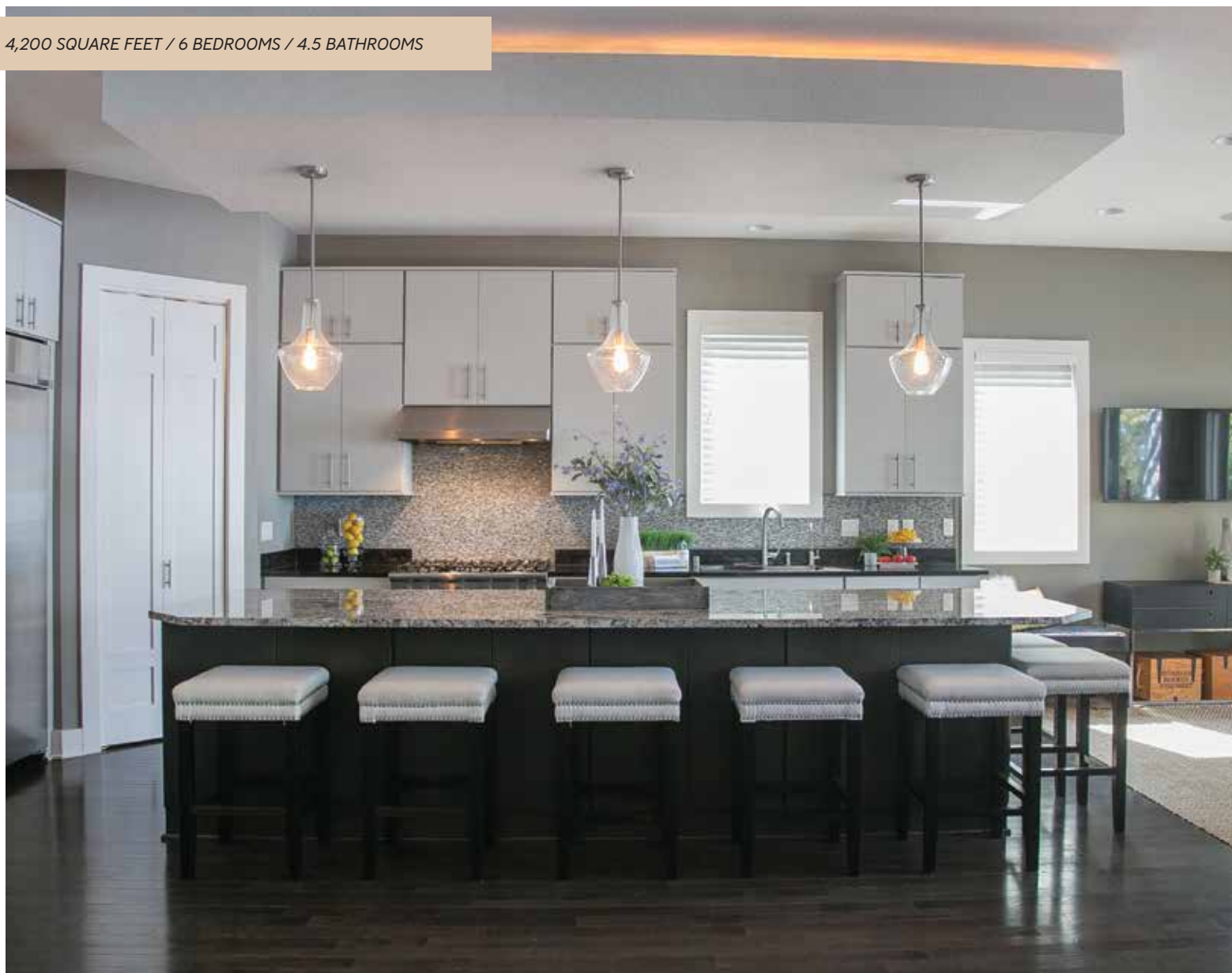


Chic & CONTEMPORARY

A couple builds a unique modern home with glamorous touches ideal for entertaining on Okauchee Lake.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf





Homeowner Gina Gaspardo wanted to make sure the island could seat her seven-member family. “We had a similarly large island at our other house. When I went to look for granite, [designer Jill Kowalczyk and I] both saw this and we loved it because it was so beautiful and unique. She thought our home was going to be a fun project given the contemporary design and unique finishes Matt and I were looking for.”

When Gina Gaspardo and Matt Miller decided to rebuild their lake home, it was actually out of necessity: in 2013, a fire destroyed about half of the property. Luckily the couple was living full-time in Bristlecone Pines and weren’t living there when it happened, but it was still a shock. The couple debated about what to do: renovate the current home or rebuild from scratch.

They found out that they would have to adjust the home’s square footage and comply with the current lake setbacks which were different from when the house was originally built. But the previous home’s layout was quite choppy, so in the end Gaspardo and Miller decided to rebuild and eventually make the lake home their full-time residence.

“As we started to build and add upgrades to make the home what we wanted, including heated floors throughout, Matt thought, ‘well, let’s move out here sooner rather than later,’” says Gaspardo. By chance the couple was approached by someone interested in purchasing their Bristlecone Pines home even though they hadn’t put it on the market yet. They jumped at the chance to sell, and the timing worked out.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

For the Okauchee Lake home the couple decided to work with Tony Federspill of Anthony Thomas Builders, who had built their home in Bristlecone Pines. “It was kind of a no-brainer, because he knows the rules and regulations for

building lake properties very well, he’s detailed and works hard to keep the project on time and within budget,” says Gaspardo.

Gaspardo and Miller originally wanted a Spanish contemporary abode, “but the lines weren’t working when we sketched it out,” says Gaspardo. “Tony helped us with that, and using a more contemporary design seemed to fit the structure. We knew we wanted a neutral palette. Our other house was ... French country, so for this house we wanted it to have clean lines and be comfortable. And take advantage of this awesome view.”

The couple considered other important factors in the layout including ease of entertaining and



“Matt wanted open stairways. But you couldn’t do it with how the risers worked with this space. So we had to make them closed, but we decided to make it look as wide open as we could, with the wire and the stainless steel railings,” says Gaspardo. A natural flintstone column softly echoes the great room’s fireplace surround (*left*).

having enough room for their combined five children.

“When the five kids all have their friends over, you can reach 20 people pretty quickly on the weekend! So we were like, the layout has to be big, open, inviting, able to accommodate a lot of people, and also bring the outdoors in as much as we could,” says Gaspardo.

FAMILY TIME

The main level is the heart of the home, with the kitchen and great room connected as one. Gaspardo wanted to make sure two things were in the spacious kitchen: a large island where all seven family members could eat together, and an attached sitting area for guests to hang out in.

“We don’t have a dining room or a kitchen table, but some of the specs we gave to the builder included having enough room at the bar and island for everyone when we entertain. The sitting area next to the kitchen is nice since it’s a comfortable place where people can relax and hang out with me while I am preparing dinner.”

Gaspardo and Miller began working with Jill Kowalczyk of Jill K. Interiors to start the design of the room around the stunning 12-by-4-foot light granite island from Designs in Marble (“we both thought it was so beautiful and unique,” she says). They chose darker granite for the back countertop for contrast. A row of dove-gray custom cabinetry (done by John Lestina of Carrington Corporation) is along the back wall

and is juxtaposed against the stainless steel Jenn-Air oversized refrigerator, Viking range and stainless range hood. The tiled backsplash was selected from Colleen Horner Kitchen and Bath. “We originally thought we wanted something simple with clean lines like subway tile, but Jill brought a sample of this over and it’s so different—I love it. It pulls out every color in the granite,” says Gaspardo. Three pendant lamps from BBC Lighting add some sparkle to the space.

The adjacent sitting area and bar is entertaining central with a grouping of nailhead-trim leather chairs, Perlick wine fridge, bar with storage and even a service window that opens to outside with a small ledge (*seen on page 40*). The



There's plenty of seating for when guests come over, whether it's at the oversized kitchen island, the bar area, on the comfortable, stylish sofa or chairs, or even outside on the deck that adjoins the great room.

couple placed barstools right underneath it for seating. "It's the notion of bringing the outdoors in. So the window opens up, and you can literally put all your barware and drinks out on the ledge so that when people are wet from the lake, they don't have to traipse into the house," says Gaspardo.

In the great room, soaring 19-foot ceilings open to the second floor, where cable railings reinforce the airiness of the floorplan. The natural flintstone floor-to-ceiling fireplace surround anchors the room beautifully and cabinets and floating shelves with custom LED lights on either side add eye-pleasing symmetry to the room. Gaspardo and Kowalczyk's goal was to build a contemporary look with touches of rustic décor, like in the Z. Gallerie wood coffee table (finished in silver) and touches of greenery and yellow flowers throughout. The yellow hue is a nod to Gaspardo's profession: she owns three Board and Brush studios in Wisconsin Dells, Sun Prairie and Mequon.

"Jill's idea was to bring in greens because we didn't want this room to be a completely muted palette of grays. And Matt wanted to bring in some color, too," says Gaspardo. "I'm a big fan of yellow and that is Board and Brush's signature color so in summer, we bring out yellows and then in winter, we accent with an eggplant color."

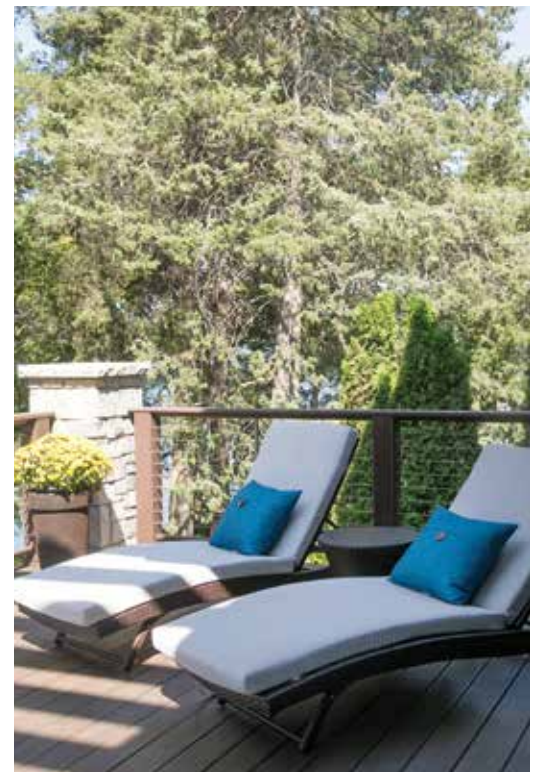
During warm weather the great room can virtually double in size because it opens up to the spacious deck with a pergola. The custom folding glass doors by Kolbe were imperative to let the outside in with no barriers. For the deck, the couple added an outdoor TV and chose Lane Venture living room-like furnishings to make the space feel like a second living room. The coolest part of the setup? The couple had custom retractable screens installed that come down on all sides of the pergola, so bugs stay out, and they can still enjoy the outdoors and the lake view—which also has amazing sunsets, Gaspardo adds.

LUXE LIVING QUARTERS

The master suite takes a slightly more glamorous turn than the kitchen and great room with gray walls and carpeting, an upholstered nail-trim headboard, mirrored storage bench, faux fur throw pillows and sleek minimalist pendant lamps from BBC Lighting beside the bed. Gaspardo also incorporated her beloved eggplant hue in throw pillows and other accents. The master bedroom also has access to the large deck.

The master bathroom melds seamlessly with the bedroom with show-stopping marbled granite countertops, dark custom cabinetry, large tiled walk-in shower, his-and-hers closets and a neutral palette. The modern cylindrical faucets that look like sleek works of art were actually pulled from their previous lake house, says Gaspardo.

Outside of the master bedroom's entrance is the petite powder room with an architectural



In the master bedroom, the couple's bedding is from Pottery Barn and the throw pillows are all from Z. Gallerie (*above*). The master bath's look was based off of the granite countertop, which was a remnant piece Gaspardo found. She says it's "semi-honed" for a flatter finish and has hints of silver and metallic in the stone. The granite wasn't long enough for one large countertop, so they had a cabinet installed in the center of the his-and-hers vanity for storage and that way they could have two smaller countertops (*bottom, center*).



concrete ramp sink that Gaspardo had custom-made. “I saw a similar sink at Story Hill BKC, called the restaurant, found out who made the sink and called the designer. It’s a guy in Milwaukee! So I went to his warehouse and worked with him on it,” she says.

PERFECT FOR PARTIES

Upstairs has four bedrooms and a den for Miller’s college-age kids when they come home and Gaspardo’s high school-age girls who live with them. When the kids’ friends are over, they head down to the lower level, which is one large room with a custom-made Pharoah pool table, poker table, couches and bar area. The bar is equipped with a dishwasher, refrigerator, sink and professional-grade Scotsman ice machine (“we didn’t want to be running to the store every time we needed ice,” she says).

Once again Gaspardo pulled in gray and purple down here, but added in pops of red that tie in nicely to the art pieces they’ve purchased throughout the years, like the cherry sculpture by local artist Marc Sijan. (Sijan’s lifelike “Security Guard” sculpture is featured at the Wisconsin Center and his hyper-realistic works are also in galleries and museums all over the world). On one wall hangs an art piece the couple purchased in Hawaii that has custom lighting that changes colors to coordinate with the piece. “We’re not in a hurry to add to the art collection—we just add as we go,” she says.

“Matt wanted this to be a home where we could live for the long term, with room for our children, future grandkids and friends to enjoy time on the lake, so he upgraded many features including installing heated floors and high-end amenities,” says Gaspardo. “He calls our home ‘Sunset Place’ since we have the best lake frontage for sunsets, and that’s positively the best feature of our home.” 🐾

Having guests over is a breeze at the couple’s home with the bar-service window connecting the kitchen and deck (*top left and middle*). The patio has multiple seating areas with comfy, upscale outdoor sofas and chairs, which their dog Sadie enjoys as well (*top right*). The lower patio has a water feature that Matt wanted (“it’s very soothing,” says Gaspardo) and a gas firepit for hanging out and watching sunsets.



Miller, who owns Tri-Phase Automation, a high-tech automation distributor, found people to complete his vision for the deck's screened-in porch which has retractable screens that come down from the pergola. "Matt worked with various companies to put together screens, channels, motors and sensors that will automatically pull up the screens if it gets too windy. This is very custom, but it's something these vendors will probably sell plenty of now," says Gaspardo.

A TASTE OF Tradition

A Beaver Lake home is infused with traditional and vintage style for a look that speaks volumes.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf







Framed artwork done by the kids rests above the stove to inject a little color into the room and bring smiles. The homeowner displays her china in the glass-front cabinets, which is a combination of hand-me-downs from her grandmother as well as an Anna Weatherley set she first spotted at Bergdorf Goodman that she was able to special-order from George Watts & Son in Milwaukee. Her china isn't just for display though—she uses it for entertaining, too.

When a Midwestern couple moved back to Wisconsin from New York City, they knew they wanted to be on a lake. They were due to have their first child, so they desired to be closer to family. They also had an idea of where they wanted to be, as both knew the area well, having grown up in Hartland and Elm Grove. The couple settled on a spec home on Moose Lake and lived there for a while. But with their young son, hunting dog and bull mastiff, they soon realized after three years they were outgrowing the property and the small yard quickly.

So they started their search again and honed in on a property on Beaver Lake this time with 150 feet of frontage and most importantly, a large flat yard that adjacent to the lake.

“It’s hard to find a lake property with a flat yard, so this [property] was unique in that sense, because we wanted a big yard,” explains the wife.

The family, which now also had another son and daughter, lived in the home on the property for two years, trying to decide whether they should remodel or rebuild from scratch. The couple learned that rebuilding would be more cost-effective, so they worked with Jim Ellingson of Ellingson Builders in Hartland (who had also built their Moose Lake home) and architect Gloria Lehrer of Designs Galore on the new build.

“[Gloria] came up with the plans for this house. She knew exactly what we wanted,” says the homeowner. “I wanted [the house] to feel open. [And] I wanted a dining room because growing up, my grandparents entertained a lot, and that was a big influence on my house—[thinking about] their house.”

She also wanted a designated living room “that was more formal,” she explains, a kitchen separate from the living areas, an office on the

first floor, a second-floor laundry room and a first-floor mudroom for washing their dogs. She also wanted all of the bedrooms on the same floor, versus separating the master from the other bedrooms. “I know it’s popular for the master suite to be on the first floor, but I wanted to be upstairs with the kids.”

In May 2013, the family moved into their new digs, which is best described as a mix of Old-World influences mixed with modern touches. “I wanted people to walk into the house and not know it was a new house,” says the homeowner. “One of the biggest compliments someone has ever given me was that when they walked in, they found out we had just built it, and they were surprised. They thought it was an old house. But I wanted that.”

DISTINCTIVE DETAILS

The front living room painted in Benjamin



The heart of the home for the wife is the living room connected to the dining room. The family will hang out here and play games. The couple like hosting dinner parties in the dining room, where guests get a close-up view of the colorful antique oil on canvas painting from Nathan Nichols & Company, a furniture and home décor boutique in Door County.



In the downstairs powder room (*left*), there's no mistaking the vintage feel of the black and white space with shiny black subway tile on the walls and white marble tiled floor with a black and white border. "My grandma had a black and white bathroom, so [this one] was inspired by her bathroom," the homeowner says. In the upstairs hallway, clear globe pendant lights with brass accents add a little sparkle to the space. The artfully arranged gallery wall has photos of all three children. The antique rug was ordered online.



Moore's Coral Bronze has a more formal look, softened by a comfortable custom sofa by Lee Industries and Pearson chairs, ordered through Bill Koehnlein of Collaborative Design, and a cool antique Oriental rug (picked up while the couple lived in New York City). The space is also glammed up by brass accents in the coffee table and mirror. A side table and hutch (which was the wife's grandmother's) displays mementos, including family pictures and antique china cups.

"I wanted everything to be neutral and gray throughout my whole house, but I have this one room, which has this bright color, and this hue reminds me of a color my grandma had in her house. I was inspired by her living room," she says.

Adjacent to the living room is another sitting room that the wife wanted to be "dressy," but still comfortable for the whole family. Working with Koehnlein of Collaborative Design, the two dreamed up a space with a distinct East Coast vibe that has crown molding, built-in cabinets and a formal fireplace. (Fun fact: the cabinet on the right houses the TV—it rises up from below!) Benjamin Moore's Gray Owl (which is also used throughout the home) covers the walls, which is the perfect backdrop for the soothing palette. A fun teal velvet chair holds court in the corner—a pop of color in the otherwise neutral space. The couple picked up the seascape painting that hangs above the fireplace at an estate sale—an appropriate nod to their lake life.

In the back of the room is a wet bar, a recommendation from Lehrer, with a honed quartzite counter-

top, small refrigerator and cabinets. Brass fixtures add gleam to the area—something the homeowner loves. "People can come in and we can welcome guests with refreshments and snacks," she says.

Around the corner is the semi-formal dining room that she also had to have. "I like that this room flows into our living room so it doesn't feel like we're sitting down to the dining room having this formal dinner," she says. The homeowner loves to pull out her grandma's hand-me-down china as well as her own set to entertain with in here that's on display in the upper cabinets in the kitchen. The Jonathan Charles oval mahogany dining table was another recommendation from Lehrer, and above it hangs a chandelier from City Lights.

FUNCTION FOR THE FAMILY

Certainly the hub of the home is the spacious,



Once again inspired by her grandma, the homeowner chose Benjamin Moore's Coral Bronze to jazz up the walls in the front living room, because her grandma also had a room painted in a similar color. It breathes life into the first floor that is otherwise peacefully neutral with a palette of grays, blues and whites.



The ceiling in the master bedroom's sitting area is hollowed out because of the bell-shaped part of the roof above it, which was suggested by the couple's architect, Gloria Lehrer. "Gloria loves that bell!" says the homeowner, smiling.

show-stopping kitchen with an informal sitting area. The beautiful space marries French bistro style and East Coast traditional touches for gorgeous effect. Honed quartzite countertops are juxtaposed against marble-look subway tile throughout. Retro Ferguson Plumbing faucets carry through the sense of tradition, as do the coffered ceilings and Oriental rugs scattered throughout. Leather and brass barstools from Restoration Hardware round out the comfortable, upscale room and match perfectly with the Visual Comfort nautical pendant lamps that hang above the island. The oversized stainless steel refrigerator is a must for the five-member family, says the homeowner.

If you look through the window over the white farmhouse sink, you'll see the amazing attached all-season porch outfitted with cozy furnishings and an elk skull and elk sheds that the couple picked up in New Mexico and Idaho (the husband is a hunter). A large fireplace makes the room cozy, the homeowner says. She says they sit in here to hang out after the kids have gone to

bed or when she wants a respite from the busy family areas. "If it's warmer than 20 degrees, we sit in here. [And] with the fire on, it's cozy in here. We do use that room quite a bit," she says.

The upstairs master suite is also a retreat for the couple, with enviable lake views. Four windows frame one wall, and above the sitting area the ceiling has an interesting hollowed-out look. That's because above it the roof peaks into a bell shape (seen when you're outside of the house). "Bill [Koehnlein] and Gloria [Lehrer] definitely helped with this space—there was a lot that went into it," says the homeowner. The furnishings are a mix of new pieces (like the custom-made curly maple four-poster bed) and items her dad made, including a mahogany high boy chest of drawers. The homeowner also painted one of the dressers a cool gray color.

Each child's room is masterfully decorated, too. One son's room is painted a deep navy blue and has interesting pieces on the wall, like a European mounted elk skull and colorful

real insects preserved in frames. A sprightly Union Jack dresser rounds out the whimsical, yet grown-up room. The other son's room is painted a mushroom gray and also has a European mounted elk skull, alligator print and vintage-look ceiling fan. But the coolest part of the boys' rooms is that they actually connect via a loft space. Each room has a ladder that leads up the cozy spot that the wife says the boys will even sleep in sometimes. They also have a Jack-and-Jill bathroom. The daughter's simple, sweet room has a butterfly collage on the wall and vintage bed passed down from the wife's family. She also has her own bathroom.

The home truly is tailor-made for the family of five, and the homeowner is happy to have an abode that fits everyone and their lifestyles.

"Beaver Lake is a great swimming lake—it's small and it doesn't have a lot of boat traffic, so we like that," she says. "I like the setting we're on, as there's a lot of areas for the kids to play in the yard since they're so active." 🐾



The two sons won't outgrow their rooms anytime soon since the wife and interior designer Bill Koehnlein took a more grown-up approach to the décor. One son's room takes a strong blue shade and makes it the star of the show with minimal, cool pieces filling out the rest. The other son's room takes a bit of a western turn mixed with rustic items and an artful alligator print for cool-kid cred.

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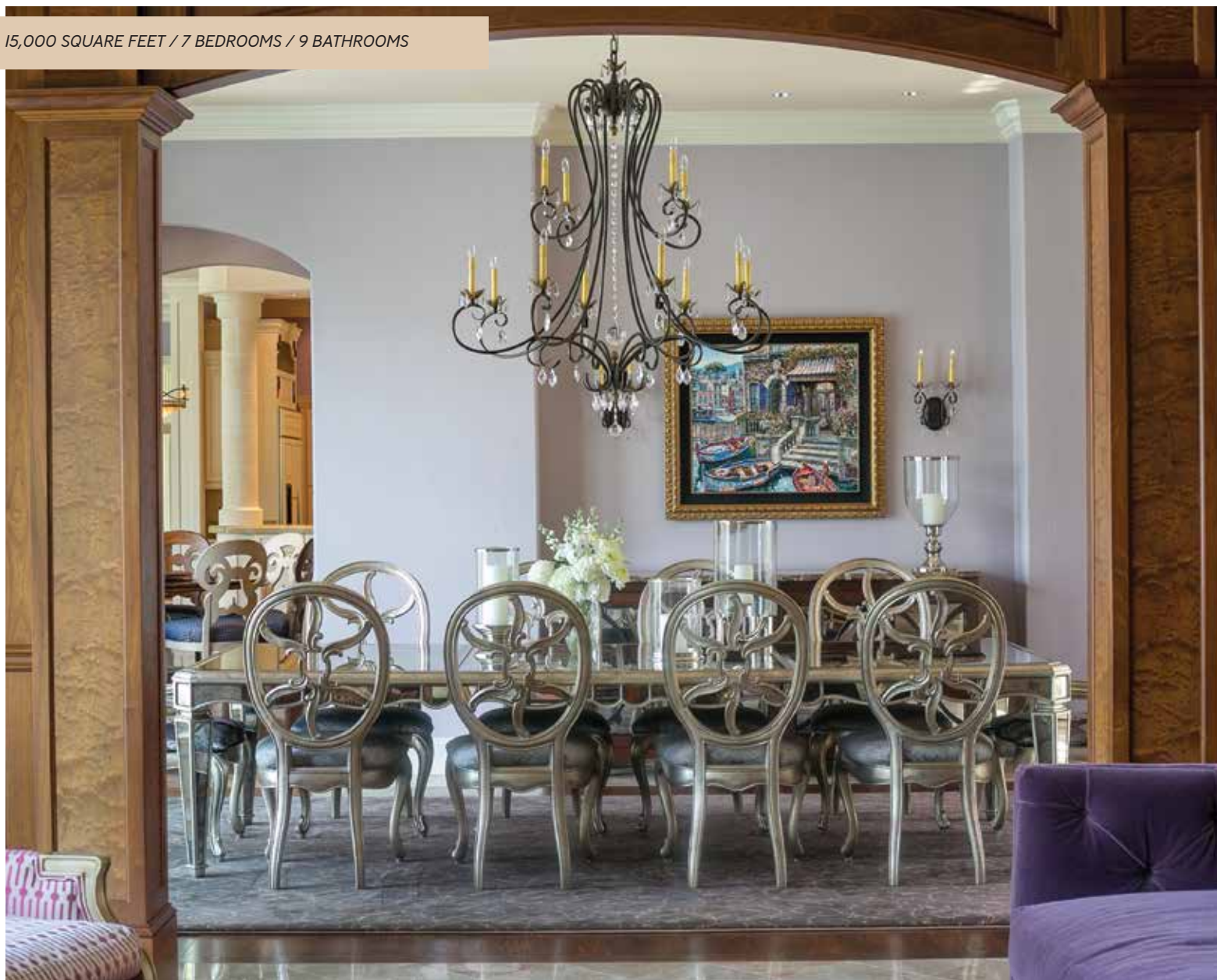


Classically Bold

How one couple styled a Pine Lake home with a sense of place and distinctive details to boot.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf





The living room and dining room tie together nicely, not only because of their traditional look with luxe woodwork and details, but the colors used in each flow seamlessly together. The homeowner admits she's not usually a "blingy" person but she did like the Henredon mirrored dining table.

When you love an area, you want to stay there—even if you've outgrown your current home. Such was the case 12 years ago for a family of six (soon to be seven) on Pine Lake that had been living full-time in the former Pine Lake Lodge, a historic building. The home had a large great room and four bedrooms, but no basement or attic. The homeowners didn't want to tear down the hundred-plus-year-old home so instead, they scouted the lake for properties for their growing family.

One important must-have for the new place was a large flat yard for the kids to run around on and space to ride their bikes. The couple settled on a 10-acre spread that had an existing property on it that they decided to tear down and start from

scratch. Then it was time to start dreaming up house plans.

A NEW HOME

The couple worked with Lakeside Development to do the house drawings and Professional Consultants Incorporated for the construction. Requirement number one was that all of the rooms had to face the lake. Beyond that, the couple had never built from scratch before, so they looked to the experts for help on deciding what to do. They ended up incorporating luxe details, like arched doorways, columns, crown molding and chair rails throughout the home, plus a lot of color thrown in for fun ("the color comes from me, because our other house was all white inside," says the wife). She also

collaborated heavily with interior designers Meg Zamzow and Anna-Marie Miles from Haven Interiors for the home's one-of-a-kind polish in every room.

Take the opulent living room that is the homeowner's favorite room. Haven worked with her to craft a look that was rich, yet cozy for the whole family and their guests. "I love the colors in here. The furniture is comfortable, yet stylish. And I wanted to get as much seating in here as we could for holidays and gatherings," she says.

The mahogany paneled walls and custom-patterned ceiling lend the space gravitas, yet the bold pops of color keep the room from looking too serious. "We wanted to bring in color, but do



Meg Zamzow and Anna-Marie Miles of Haven Interiors spearheaded the design of the living room, which is the homeowner's favorite room. Although the wood paneling on the walls and ceiling lean traditional, the designers helped bring life and contemporary style into the space with custom furnishings, jolts of color and feminine striped silk taffeta drapes. "We wanted to create richness in this room because it's a great room but not overdo it and keep it casual," says Miles.



Haven Interiors recently helped the homeowner revamp the great room's décor. The creamy-hued coffee table is a nice counterpoint to the pale purple walls. Vibrantly-patterned throw pillows in deep violet, fuchsia and blue add some pop to the neutral sofa (*left*). Dream House Dream Kitchens worked with the couple on installing a functional bar and entertaining area in the basement. The contemporary tiled bar is a show-stopping décor accent that doubles as art. Coffered ceilings add a sense of traditional style to the room (*right*).

it in a tasteful way," says Haven Interiors' Anna-Marie Miles. "So the large sectional is neutral, but then we popped it with pillows. And we played with texture on the ottoman." (*Editor's note: see photo on page 55*). A set of fuchsia and cream patterned custom-covered Lillian August chairs (with crisscross back detail) face the purple sofa and a brilliant oil painting on the wall ties together all of the colors in the room. An elegant hutch hides the TV and bookshelves hold pieces that the family has picked up on their travels—like art glass pieces from Hawaii and Italy.

Connected to the living room is the upscale dining room with mirrored Henredon dining table that can seat 10, Visual Comfort chandelier and oil painting picked up from an art gallery

in California. The homeowner has changed the paint color in this room a few times for fun. First it was beige, then she tried a brilliant fuchsia. Now the walls are a soft lavender that plays off of the bold purples in the living room. Subtle old-world details like the arched doorway, mahogany floors (that are also throughout the home) and sconces on the walls mix in a sense of history to the space. A small butler's pantry is tucked in between the dining room and kitchen with a wine fridge, icemaker and storage for glassware and dishes.

The grand kitchen showcases the homeowner's love of color once again. The pale purple walls are a calming hue that inject a lightness into the space that has white cabinetry, light granite countertops, custom range hood, prep island

and glamorous scrollwork upholstered barstools with nailhead trim detail. A casual round table that seats eight (with chairs that have similar scrollwork and blue upholstered cushions) has its own nook next to the kitchen. The soothing blue shade is then brought into the great room that also faces the lake with comfortable furnishings and a wood-burning fireplace.

OUTDOOR OASIS

Speaking of blue, there's no shortage of it outside, as the family can use the large in-ground swimming pool or of course, hop on the boat and take it out for a spin. The resort-worthy patio has enough room to host a large gathering or simply spread out with friends for a day in the sun. Steps lead down to the large flat lawn the family desired (which the homeowner says got heavily used



A custom wood ceiling medallion makes the home seem older than it is—in a good way. Since details like this aren't incorporated in newer homes much anymore, it's a special detail that grounds the dining area nicely. The homeowner worked with Haven on the seating in this area as well as decorating the adjacent great room.



"The wallpaper was in here already, so we based our inspiration off of that," says Haven Interiors' Miles. "So we helped with a custom chair and desk in here, as well as the custom silk taffeta window treatments."



when the kids were younger) and then to the lake. It's a heavenly scene that both the homeowner and her husband enjoy frequently. Adding to the outdoor space is a screened-in porch off of the home's library that the homeowner says her kids and husband hang out in.

The spacious walk-out finished basement also offers entertaining space that the couple chose to complete a few years ago (until then, it was unfinished). The homeowner says her kids love the space down there where they play ping-pong, watch movies and play arcade games. Working with Dream House Dream Kitchens and Haven Interiors, the couple added in a tiled bar, custom cabinetry, gas fireplace, sleek pendant lighting and ceramic tile floors. In the main hangout area, there's even a cool nook with a table and restaurant-like upholstered booths where the kids can sit and have a snack or play games. The whole space is kept light and bright with cream-colored walls, lighter wood trim and contemporary

finishes. Haven's designers helped select the Henredon sectional, Davis and Davis custom rug, Black Wolf Design table and artwork for the area as well as the light-filled parlor tucked off of the side of the lower level that has cheery teal upholstered chairs, hot pink throw pillows and a curvaceous white buffet for storage.

GETTING AWAY

When each of the family members need a little respite from the busyness of their lives, there are plenty of spaces to get away to. Take the wood-paneled library that Haven Interiors also helped design that has a dark, sexy look based off of cars, the husband's passion. A guest suite on the end of the home (that mimics the footprint of the couple's master bedroom, which is directly above) has an upscale vintage feel utilizing pink, chocolate and cream for the color palette. The wall behind the bed is covered in a hybrid botanical/damask print wallpaper and sets the tone for the room. The leather upholstered bed

with pink bedding beckons guests to take a load off. Custom silk taffeta drapes lend a rich touch to the cozy guest retreat. In the spa-like bathroom (which is also pink, chocolate and cream), guests can indulge in a soak in the large bathtub or simply take a seat in one of the chairs to relax. The glossy marble tile reinforces the hotel-like surroundings.

Although they've been in the home a fair number of years, it never seems to lose its luster with the large family. Although the kids are older now and are starting to live their busy lives, the home will no doubt be a gathering place for kids and potential grandkids for years to come.

"Having lived in Wauwatosa my whole life, I wasn't sure if lake living would be for me, but of course I came to love it and appreciate all it has to offer. I wouldn't think of raising a family anywhere else," says the homeowner. 🍷



The home is on the east shore of the lake, which was another must-have for the family. “We only wanted to be on the east shore, because you get the sun. We wanted the sun as long as we could get it during the day!” says the homeowner. When the couple originally started working on the house plans, the home was supposed to have a shingle-style Cape Cod look. But, they changed their minds and went with stucco and brick accents, which give the exterior an easy-breezy West Coast look.



Hidden Potential

A couple takes a Nagawicka Lake home from drab to fab with extensive landscaping and interior work for an abode that's tailor-made for their lives.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf

Sometimes when you find the perfect home, you have to see its potential, hidden beneath the lack of landscaping, old paint colors and less-than-ideal layout. And that's exactly what happened to Beth Sawant and her husband, who were living in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood but wanted to move to the Lake Country region. Sawant grew up in Sussex and her husband in Hartland, so they started scouting lake homes in the area.

"Lake access or a lake property was ideal for us when we were coming back because of the hustle and bustle of Chicago—we wanted to come somewhere a little quieter. We don't have kids, but we're not the type of people that want to live in a subdivision," Sawant says. "So we were looking for something on the lake and something unique—not a cookie-cutter type of house."

They found it in a quaint property on Nagawicka Lake with water access across the street and its own pier. But the home needed a lot of work.



The Sawant's home is a mix of minimal and rustic style. Although the kitchen was recently redone, it looks like it's been that way forever—in a good way. Sawant had originally wanted the sink under the window but it didn't work because of the space. That's when she dreamed up the built-in cutting board idea, which they use all of the time (*above*). The bar area that the couple installed adds in necessary counter space for parties. The glass vase holds pheasant feathers because dogs Montgomery and Greta are pheasant hunters (*bottom left*). The sunroom is attached to the living room and is a light, bright space that's perfect for letting the dogs in and out and storing outdoor gear and pet supplies (*bottom right*).



Michael Carter of Ken Michaels Furniture helped the couple pull together the living room, which included selecting the paint color. The restful space has lots of seating for guests and for hanging out and watching TV, which hangs above the fireplace (*not shown*).

"It was kind of a mess when we bought it; [it was] very dated," she says. "The yard had a dilapidated fence and there were trees in the front that had to be taken down. There were some dead pine trees, too. In the [backyard] we had to re-landscape all of that. We had to paint the house, add a new roof, a new furnace, a new air conditioner—everything you can imagine!"

But the couple liked the home's location, which was close to running and hiking trails and downtown Delafield. And the home's potential seemed to outweigh the projects the couple would have to do, so they set to work on a six-year improvement plan to tackle all that needed to be done.

CREATING A VISION

The front of the home badly needed to be reconfigured, which included the kitchen, dining room and small entertaining area. Sawant says when you walked into the home previously "you actually looked straight at a wall. And there was a little corner where there was an

opening for the kitchen." So they knocked the wall down which opened up the whole front of the home. Now there's a pleasant entryway and drop zone with hooks and a bench right off the front door. On the left is a bar with honed marble countertops, putty-colored cabinetry and wine fridge that the couple installed, which expands the entertaining area to right outside of the kitchen.

"[This space] needed to be comfortable and fit our lifestyle. We like to do a lot of entertaining, so it was nice to have the bar area when people come over, and have space to put food out," says Sawant.

The kitchen underwent a complete overhaul, including moving all of the appliances around, ripping out the "pinkish-coral" cabinetry, adding a pantry and even changing the size of the powder room that was on the side of the kitchen. Now the cheery, functional space fits all of their needs. And the details are what make the space feel custom, like the putty-colored

cabinetry, honed marble countertops, half-moon cabinet hardware, built-in black walnut cutting board (that was Sawant's idea), hand-made gray subway tiles (with a subtle crackle pattern on them) and lighting from Rejuvenation and Restoration Hardware. They got the stainless steel appliances through Abel K|B|S Kitchen & Bath Showplace. White beadboard is used throughout the front of the home (like on the walls and the underneath part of the high-top counter) to unify the space.

Connected to the kitchen is the tidy dining room, painted barn red for impact. The couple chose that shade (which Beth calls a little "vintage") to riff off of the old paint color in that room, which was a bolder red. The rustic dining table with bench seating on one side is from Pottery Barn, and the statement light fixture is from Restoration Hardware. Throughout the first floor the couple installed new, white maple flooring with a walnut stain that gently complements the space.



Sawant carved out a number of comfortable spaces to hang out and lounge in, like this chaise lounge in the living room (*above left*). An upholstered gray headboard with nailhead trim is paired with botanical-print gray and white bedding in the luxe guest room (*above right*). The vaulted ceilings and many windows infuse light into the upstairs master bedroom. The paisley-print bedding is from Pottery Barn (*bottom*).



The Sawants took the home's exterior from drab to fab with intensive landscape work, replacing the roof and repainting the house. The house was also originally painted red, but more of a mauve, says Sawant (*above*). Montgomery (or Monte for short) and Greta, the couple's vizslas, stand at the ready to play.

LOVELY ESCAPE

In the back of the home, the peaceful living room is a respite that has French doors (to close out any noise) a comfortable leather sectional and seating, and great views of the beautifully landscaped backyard. You can frequently find the couple's vizslas Montgomery and Greta lounging on the couch in here. The couple worked with Michael Carter from Ken Michaels Furniture in Brookfield to not only select the furnishings but choreograph the look of the room, right down to the custom ostrich leather ottoman Carter recommended. A petite yet bright sunroom is attached to the living room that allows access to the front and back of the home through two separate doors.

Out back the couple did extensive landscape and hardscape work with the assistance of John Tomasicyk of Arbor Experts, including laying down the blue flagstone patio. He even custom-made the couple the fence in their front yard, too. "I would recommend him, hands down! He's amazing. In the summer, it's really lush and private back here," says Sawant.



Upstairs is also a quiet retreat with the master bedroom and bathroom, guest bedroom and another bedroom that is used for her husband's office. The couple didn't change the floor plan besides expanding the master closet and reconfiguring the master bathroom. Now Sawant has a closet all to herself, and her husband has another slightly smaller one, too.

The bedroom is painted taupe and is light and bright with several interesting windows and even a cool loft space that lets in even more light. The rustic furnishings are her husband's from growing up, and other assorted vintage pieces pepper the room. The windmill print on the wall was her grandmother's and is an image of the Paris town she grew up in.

Now that they've finished all of the major house projects, Sawant is relieved they're done. "It was little by little, chipping away at it," she says. "I'm happy it's done, because it took us a long time to get here." 🐾

Across the street the couple have access to Nagawicka Lake and their own pier.





FUN IN THE SUN: A group of young men clamor to catch a Frisbee on the beach in 1988.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (IMAGE ID 9458)

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