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"WE JUST LOVE WHAT WE DO!"

from the editor



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 our new The Look section that's close to my heart. Within it are our new Style pages starting on page 21, 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 36 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 30. 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!

Shy Man_

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director

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$\mathbf{design} \mid \mathit{the} \ \mathit{edit}$



Perfect for Parties Summer gatherings call for no-fuss serveware, great tunes and a stylish snack cooler. (Clockwise from top left): Lake Geneva coozie, \$5, Pier 290; Host Wine Freeze cooling glasses (set of two), \$24, Le Cookery; Anchors Away spreaders, \$10 each, Cornerstone Shop & Gallery; Corkcicle canteen, \$40, Le Cookery; Lake Geneva hand-painted keychain, \$25, Pier 290; Sony XBIO portable waterproof Bluetooth speaker, \$69, Best Buy; Vera Bradley Splash Dot insulated cooler bag, \$50, Cornerstone Shop & Gallery; bamboo cutting board, \$8; Le Cookery. €



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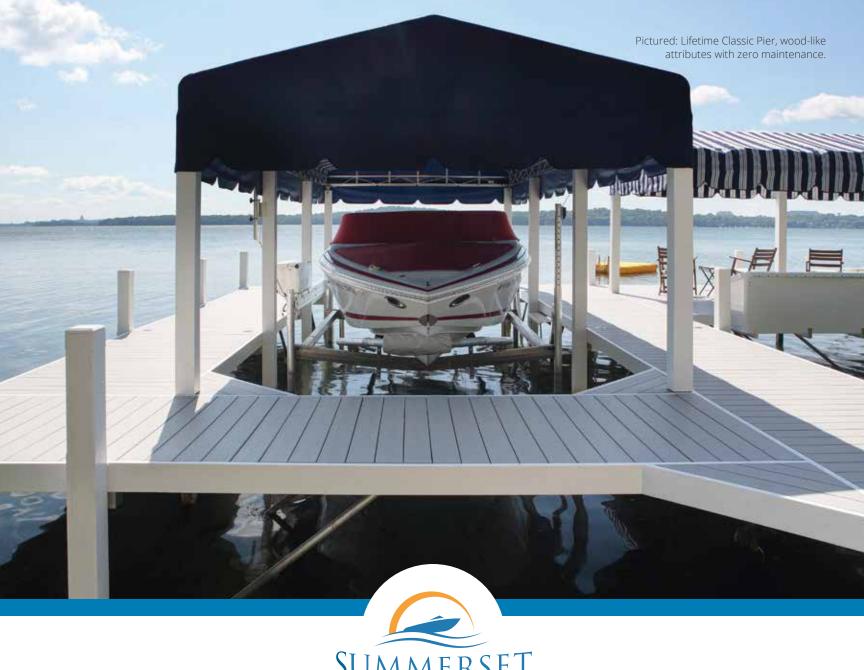




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Navy and White Feels Right

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

SHOP THE LOOK —



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Hempstead Thread monogrammed hand towel, \$35, hempsteadthread.com



Bungalow 5 Claire mirror in navy, \$674, trellishome.com



Dunes and Duchess white Moderne sconce, \$495, dunesandduchess.com



Compangnie De Provence liquid Marseille soap in Mediterranean Sea, \$28, compagniedeprovenceusa.com



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-I49) 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 standout paint color. 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



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 allstar 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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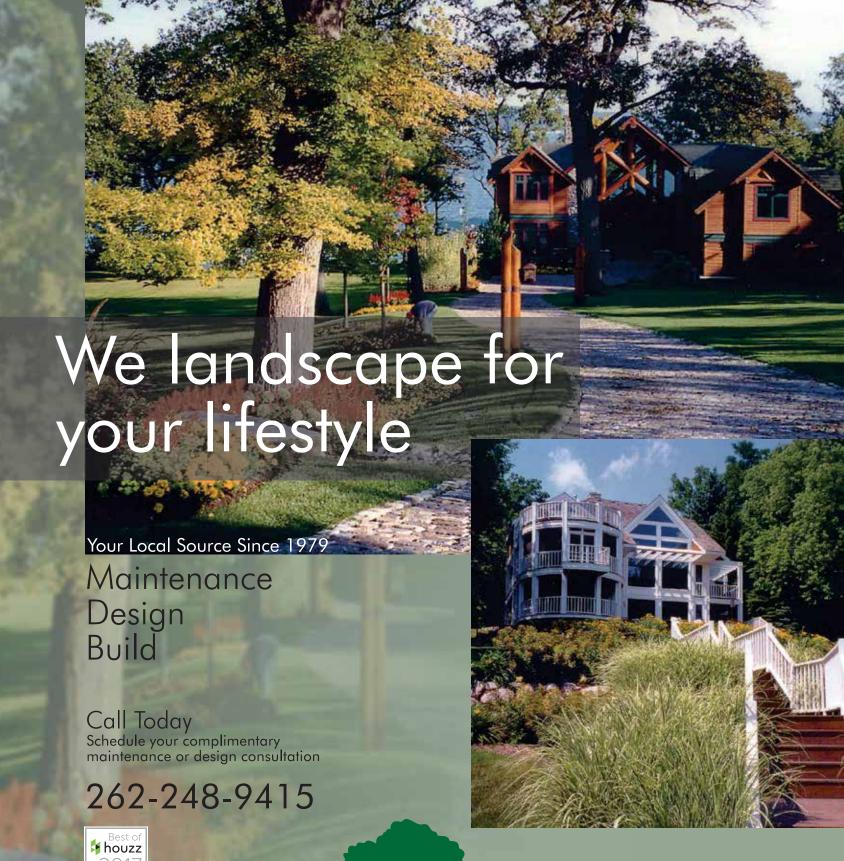


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You don't need to be heading to the game to incorporate easy-breezy sportif pieces into your daily look. Finish it off with soft pink accents for a feminine touch.

Retro Brand tank, \$36, E Street Denim Co., RD Style sweatshirt (tied around waist), \$49, Edie; Monkey Ride stripe denim, \$59, Bloomgbyrds; sunglasses, \$19, Jayne; Converse Breakpoint rose gold sneakers, \$60, ShoShoo.



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A soft-as-air cross-front top, of-the-moment jeans and metallic slides are perfect any day. Throw on a beautiful embroidered suede jacket for night (that you can wear into fall!).

Driftwood Ember suede moto jacket, \$268, Bloomgbyrds; KLD Burton top, \$59, Edie; Joe's Provocateur skinny denim, \$178, E Street Denim Co., necklace, \$28, Edie; TOMS Viv silver slide, \$60, Jayne.



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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, I8-year-old Jack and I6-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 IOO 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



Delightful Discoveries

Back in the day, many stores were named after their owners (see: Selfridge's, Marshall Field's, Bloomingdale's). In the case of downtown Lake Geneva's C.R. Goodfinds, many people think that's the case too—but it's not. It's a play on words: "see our good finds."

"It's like, see what we have," explains manager Mary Ferrini. "A lot of people think they're my initials though!"

The carefully curated gift and home accessory shop, open for two years, moved locations this past February to the historic F.S. Moore's Hardware Store space on Main Street. Owner Tom Konopacki (who also owns two other shops in Geneva, Ill.) had wanted to move from their previous Fancy Fair Mall location to a more permanent space.

Ferrini says when they took down the old awning on the building's façade, they discovered the original hardware store lettering on the limestone. "The building owner restored the limestone and we loved that it added history to the building," adds Ferrini. The staff also took out the drop ceiling, revealing original tin ceiling tiles; refinished the wide-plank maple flooring; added brand-new lighting and scraped the paint off of the front windows, which had painted-over portions.

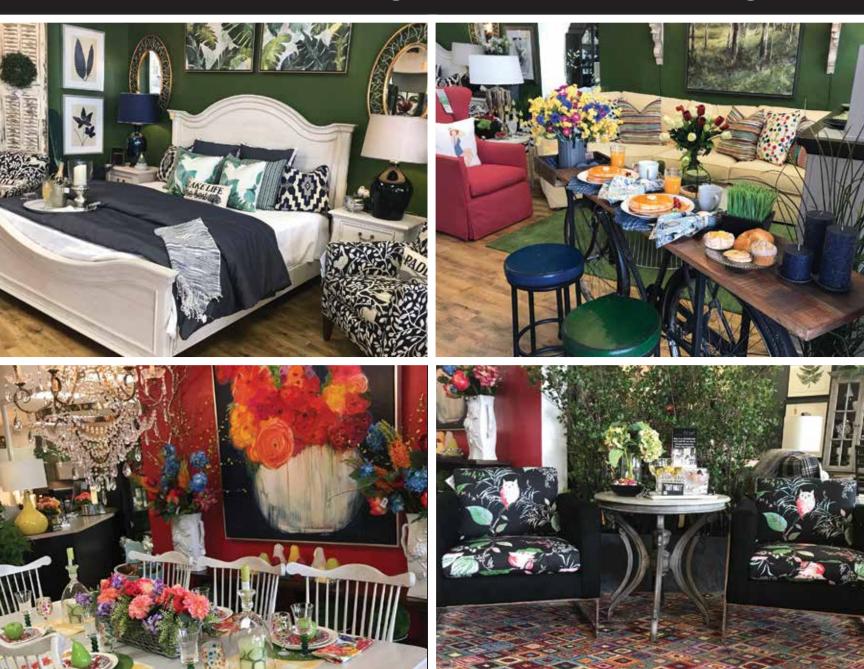
The building's heritage seems to unintentionally influence what C.R. Goodfinds prides itself on: "our brand is American affordable, and we like to say that everyone that comes in can buy something. And, we try to select all of our merchandise to be American-made," says Ferrini.

Find beautifully-patterned rugs, delicioussmelling candles, vintage cocktail glasses, jewelry, art by local artists, homemade soaps, throw pillows and more. It's all stuff that you may not need, but definitely want.

"We want [our customers] to feel like they're coming to visit a friend—it's that rapport that we have with them that goes a long way. I love that interaction with us and our customer—to make that personal connection," says Ferrini.

C.R. Goodfinds, 830 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. 262-812-4101. crgoodfinds.com €

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Ten Minutes With KRISTI HUGUNIN

The Elkhorn native and owner of Paper Dolls Home Furnishings shares her world with us. By Shayna Mace

Paper Dolls has been around for 35 years, with the retail shop open for 32. How have you evolved the business through the years, and what's the secret to your success?

I started out with a business partner, and we used to hang wallpaper for a living, so we were called the Paper Dolls. We started out with wallpaper in the '80s, and then we went through a period of IO years at least where nobody bought wallpaper. Now, it's making a comeback!

[For the retail store] we started out small, with a 600-squarefoot store, and it was all country crafts. Then we evolved and kept adding on. Currently we have a I6,000-square-foot store. Customers come to shop with us, for our interior design services, floral design and custom upholstery and window treatments. And I try to not look like a big-box store, because we can't compete with that.

How have you honed your craft over the years for putting together a great palette in the home?

Whether you have a degree or not in interior design, it's a God-given talent—either you have it or you don't. I do all of the purchasing and product selection and have the eye to put it together. Once it all comes in, I have a staff that helps. I have wonderful employees, and I surround myself with talented people.

What's the design style in your home?

I went from hunter greens and



reds to neutrals. Grays are the new neutrals ... and there isn't a color that you can't pair with neutrals and grays. I change looks [in my home] from winter to summer with pillows, florals and area rugs-even my dishes! It's so easy to transform it.

When you work with lake homeowners specifically, what do they want in their homes?

We sell a lot of nautical items and blue and white items. It's a staple for us. I've devoted two whole storefronts to just blue and white. And blue and white goes with everything—it's always going to be a [go-to] and it never goes out of style. (Editor's note:

We agree—see page 16 in this issue!).

What interior design trends are you glad to see retired?

I never want to see blue and mauve put together again! And oak cabinets and dining room sets.

What's the best part of your job?

If you come here in two weeks, there's going to be a new lookand that's why our customers keep coming back, to see what's new and different. I would never purchase anything for the store I wouldn't put in my own home. The creative part of [this job] is huge. I never want to retire from what I do! €



Artwork is one of my favorite things. I have a gift of picking out artwork

and area rugs—[the store looks] always just seem to fall into place.

At Christmas we completely transform the whole store and [it debuts usually] the first week of November. It takes us a good three to four weeks to do it!



I'm a hoarder of pillows and lamps. My husband always says we can't fit one more pillow or lamp in our house!







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Raisingste Bar

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

By Kristine Hansen

ven in the I5 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

WHERE TO SHOP

Find expert advice and knowledge at these fine Madison liquor shops.

The Bottle Shop thebottleshoplakegeneva.com Bruno's Liquors brunosliquor.com Elkhorn Wine & Spirits 41 N. Lincoln St. Geneva Liquors 797 S. Wells St.

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.

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 monthyou always want to use fresh vermouth.

LOCAL LIBATIONS

By day, Christian Damiano is general manager at downtown Milwaukee's Harbor House, a glassenclosed 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, I2- 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 I fresh orange section Apricot preserves, muddled I fresh mint sprig Shake first three ingredients and serve over ice with a mint sprig for garnish. Courtesy of Harbor House

Champagne Gosmo

2 oz. Grey Goose vodka ¼ oz. Cointreau ½ oz. cranberry juice Juice of ½ fresh lime, squeezed 1/2 oz. Champagne Shake first four ingredients. Float ½ oz. Champagne and serve. Courtesy of Harbor House

South Side

2 oz. gin 34 oz. lime juice ³/₄ 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

at home | lifestyle



NINE PLACES TO EAT ON THE WATER

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

By Shayna Mace

BARRIQUE WINE & BREW BAR

"Barrique" means "wine barrel or cask" so diners should know what to expect here—the restaurant and lounge always has 55 to 60 wines by the glass available for only \$6 to \$12 each, and they have upwards of 50 craft brews on hand to sip. Sounds pretty good, no? This cute spot has sidewalk and patio seating for excellent views of Geneva Lake's waters. Menus change seasonally, so expect to see crisp salads, fresh seafood (crab cakes, Maine lobster tacos, New England oysters), flatbreads (BBQ chicken, spinach, artichoke) and sandwiches. barriquewinebar.com

BOAT HOUSE BAR & GRILL

Enjoy views of Buttons Bay from the Boat House's deck at this great lunch and happy hour spot. The casual food menu features finger foods (cheese curds, calamari, fried pickles), salads and sandwiches, like their Juicy Lucy, a half-pound Angus burger stuffed with grilled pineapple and pepperjack cheese. House-crafted cocktails like their Sconnie is the eatery's take on the Old Fashioned. Their Pick Your Mule drink lets you customize your liquor for the libation for a Kentuckystyle (Jim Beam), Irish-style (Jameson) or Mexican-style (Jose Cuervo Silver) sipper. Fun! theboathouselakegeneva.com

CAFÉ CALAMARI

This Italian haunt tucked in Williams Bay offers fabulous Italian food with a view to boot. Can't decide what pasta to order? Create your own from seven noodle types, six sauces and five topping types (including meatballs, scallops and shrimp). Almost every dish on the menu of seafood, chicken, yeal and steak dishes can be customized-steaks have four different ways they can be prepared (Sicilian encrusted, Bordelaise and more) and seafood, veal and chicken options have interchangeable meat and pasta choices. If you're in the mood for some elevated cuisine while dining on the lake, this place hits the spot. cafecalamari.com

FRONTIER RESTAURANT AND LOOKOUT **BAR & EATERY**

When a property is nestled on two miles of Delavan Lake's shoreline, it's bound to have some stellar lakeside views. Lake Lawn Resort's

upscale Frontier Restaurant and the casual pub Lookout Bar & Eatery both offer blue vistas as far as the eye can see. Frontier's American Heartland cuisine features ingredients plucked from local farmers and producers, like Sartori cheeses, Nueske's bacon and Wisconsin maple syrup. Entrees range from house-smoked ribs to a vegan cauliflower "steak." The Lookout's tropical vibe urges diners to relax and crack open a local brew, like a Door County Cherry Wheat, and feast on beer boiled iced shrimp, a strawberry spinach salad or even build your own burger from their expansive list of toppings. The Lookout also has outdoor seating overlooking their pool and the lake. *lakelawnresort.com*

GENEVA INN

Strolling the Shore Path or hanging out at Big Foot Beach? Take a break and head over to the Geneva Inn's waterfront patio. The spacious spot is relaxed and offers a casual, curated menu of salads and sandwiches perfect for enjoying while watching the waves. The very large wine list with 20-plus wines by the glass (and many more by the bottle) offers any oenophile a chance to try a new varietal. When the weather is inclement the indoor restaurant isn't a bad place to be either with large windows that overlook the lake. *genevainn.com*

MARS RESORT

This old-school supper club on Lake Como, founded in 1923, is the perfect place to go to unwind and even experience a little nostalgia. The interior is simply furnished with wood-paneled walls and an expansive light-up (!) bar. Outside guests can sit on the wood deck or step down to a table on the sandy shore and feel the sand between their toes as they order up a classic cocktail. (They even have a separate Beach Menu!). Every day of the week (except Saturdays) find a dinner special, too-like barbecue ribs on Mondays, fried chicken on Tuesdays and the ubiquitous fish fry on Fridays. mars-resort.com

OAKFIRE

Reopened in June 2017, this sleek pizzeria specializing in Neapolitan pies defies the stereotype of old-school pizza parlor in a good way. Polished concrete floors, a penny-covered pizza oven (seriously, it looks like a piece of art) and hanging Edison bulb pendant lamps marry this universally-loved food with chic design. This family-friendly spot has plenty of room for the whole crew, with two floors plus an enviably large outdoor patio that overlooks Geneva Lake. The second floor has cool garage-style doors that open to the patio so even indoor diners can still experience the outdoors. With





salads, pizzas, pastas, paninis and a great local wine and beer list, it's the perfect spot to kick back and relax at. oakfirelakegeneva.com

PIER 290

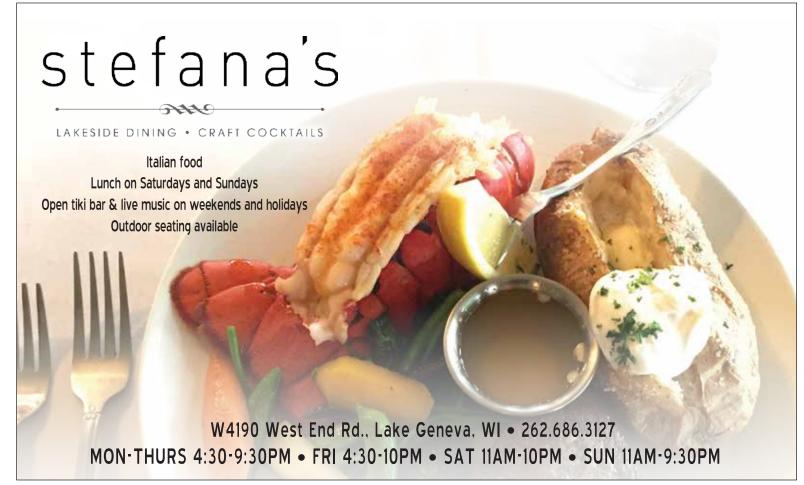
Warm weather practically begs for a seat on Pier 290's deck overlooking Geneva Lake. Drive right up and dock your boat and take a seat to enjoy a Watermelon Stack appetizer with chunks of watermelon and goat cheese drizzled with a balsamic glaze and pinch of black pepper washed down with a Grapefruit Paloma. The

contemporary American menu boasts delicious dishes like the Chilean sea bass with tomato succotash, asparagus and zucchini dressed with sweet Thai chili sauce; an arugula beet salad; and fall-off-the-bone short ribs served with potato mash. The vintage nautical décor inside the restaurant adds to the vacation feel. pier290.com

THE WATERFRONT

There's no guessing where this laid-back eatery is located when the name says it all. Situated on

the shores of Geneva Lake at The Abbey Resort, the vibe is vacation-ready. Grab lunch, dinner or drinks and while the day away with fun specials virtually every day of the week, like margaritas and pulled-pork tacos on Tuesdays, Wisconsin tap beer and a trio of apps on Wednesdays and Friday's Spotted Cow fish fry. Listen to live music by Lake Geneva, Milwaukee and Chicago bands on Friday and Saturday nights, too. Sunday's Burnin' Down the Docks party features live music and barbecue from The Abbey's awardwinning pit masters. theabbeyresort.com &



at home | lifestyle

Fresh from Far

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

By Mary Bergin and Shayna Mace



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 sautéeing 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 at John Bogan's Lake Geneva School of Cooking. Bogan's Farmers' Market and More class (which started in mid-May) whisks a group of attendees to the Lake Geneva Farmers' Market on Thursdays where they select fresh ingredients and whip up dishes made with their market bounty.

The dishes within the three-course meals vary throughout the spring and summer based on what's in season. In early spring, attendees might make grilled shrimp with asparagus pesto and asparagus with chopped egg and Kalamata olives over baby greens drizzled with an orange white peach vinaigrette. In summer, it may be zucchini saltimbocca and a sandwich with pan-seared zucchini, smoked gouda and fresh sage, served with greens. In August ("right when you have all of these beautiful vegetables," notes Bogan), guests may prepare a ratatouille with eggplant, heirloom tomatoes and zucchini. When the season shifts to fall, Bogan may dream up a fall harvest risotto with vegetables.

But Bogan doesn't just use local purveyors during farmers' market season—he works with farmers year-round. One of his favorites is Burlington's River Valley Ranch for their mushrooms. He also visits Wilson's Farm Meats in Elkhorn a few times a week for their bacon and pork and Lake Geneva Country Meats for their sausages.



- » 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 itemspounds of potatoes, travs of bedding plants-at the end.
- small bills.

BEANS: July through September.

BEETS: Mid-June to November. **BELL PEPPERS:** Mid-July to mid-October.

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.

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.

» Pay with cash; bring

Markets

Burlington, Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., through Oct. 25, Corner of Washington and Pine streets. burlingtonwifarmersmarket.com

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

East Troy, Fridays, 2-6 p.m., through Oct. 5, 2881 Main St. easttroy.org

Elkhorn, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., through Sept. 29, IOO N. Wisconsin St. elkhornchamber.com

Fontana, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to I2 p.m., June to Sept., Porter Court Plaza, 262-275-0040.

Janesville, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to I p.m., through Oct. 27, IOO-200 blocks of North Main Street, downtown Janesville. janesvillefarmersmarket.com/jfm

Lake Geneva, Thursdays, 8 a.m.-l p.m., through Oct. 25, 330 Broad St. horticulturalhall.com

Mukwonago, Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m., through Oct. IO, Hwy. 83 & NN. mukwonagochamber.org

Whitewater, Tuesdays, 3:30-7:30 p.m., through Oct. 30, 301 W. Whitewater St. (Historic Train Depot). downtownwhitewater.com

A Green Guide

Wisconsin is well-known for our agricultural heritage, family-owned farms, farm-to-table cuisine and farmers' markets. In 2002, Madison-based REAP Food Group, an organization that promotes a sustainable local food system in southern Wisconsin, started the Farm Fresh Atlas to publicize local food producers in Wisconsin. With a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, the organization pulled all five of its regional guides together into farmfreshatlas.org, which lists farmers and food producers, farmers' markets, restaurants, retailers that sell local food and more. According to a REAP press release, "The enhanced collaborative website is ... for the public, farmers and restaurateurs who enjoy local food resources throughout our bountiful state. You can now find everything you need in one location," says REAP Executive Director Helen Sarakinos.







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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

iring 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?

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

- 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?

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.



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

Nest Learning Thermostat

ome is where the heart is" may be a I 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

BUYFR BFWARF

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.

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



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 voiceactivated 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, addon 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 965IOIQ 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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Getting, ON THE WATER

A Delavan Lake retreat offers a soothing palette for guests with pops of patriotic and nautical style.

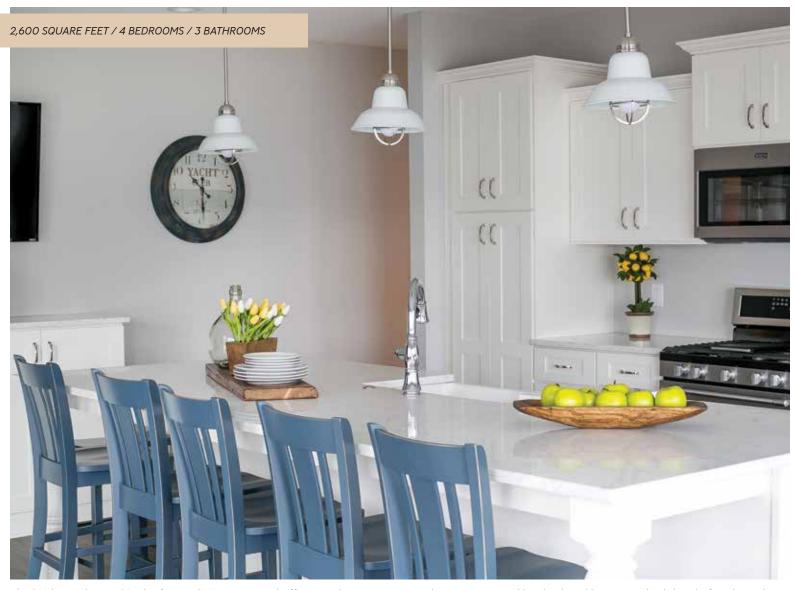
By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf

With lake real estate, it's all about timing. In 2008, Nancy and Joe Fenton drove up from their home in Mundelein, Illinois to attend the Parade of Homes and saw a home on Delavan Lake that caught their eye. Even though it was at the height of the Great Recession, the price was still out of their reach so they decided to wait—but found out the home sold that year in October.

So, they went back to the drawing board, keeping an eye out for other homes on Delavan Lake. (The couple kept a boat at Lake Lawn Resort's marina so they came up frequently.) Then in 2011, one popped up, so the couple snapped it up and bought it in December.

Now that they had their weekend home set, they moved on to another goal: finding an income property to buy and rent out to guests. In 2015, they scouted one right down the street from their weekend home, and closed on it in August 2015. The roughly 1,600-square-foot "McDonald's house" as the couple jokingly called it, had mustardyellow siding and red trim. It had potential—but the Fentons knew they had to do some work on it in order to make it a more appealing rental.





The kitchen is located in the former living room and offers ample space to spread out. Fenton and her husband have even had the chef at the Delavan Lake Yacht Club cater an extended family dinner here: "It felt like we were coming to a restaurant—it was fun!"

IDEAL EXPANSION

The first order of business was to enlarge the home's footprint and add square footage, plus a two-car garage. (A garage particularly is a prized commodity on the lake, notes Nancy.) The couple hired Cook Construction out of Delavan to take the home down to the studs in August 2016. The company added on an entire living room and wet bar area off of the front of the home and the garage underneath. The room addition tacked on an extra 1,000 square feet of living space. They reconfigured the second floor to move the kitchen into the old living room and convert the old galley kitchen into a large bathroom for the guest bedrooms.

In July 2017, construction concluded, and Nancy set to work on outfitting the home to make it welcoming for guests. Her first stop was Brick & Mortar Home, because Brick & Mortar

had also helped decorate her lake home down the road. "I would go in there and we did a lot of things [with them] in our other house. [Our house] was pretty turnkey, but also not our style. I basically went in there a few times a month, and have been going there for about nine years," explains Nancy.

Amber Cook, Brick & Mortar's manager, buyer and designer, happily helped Nancy with her project, since they had already worked closely together before. (And, coincidentally, Amber's husband, Brian, was the general contractor of the Fenton's home, unbeknownst to Nancy until after construction had started.)

"I just wanted the home to look lake-y," says Nancy. "I didn't want it be formal; I wanted it to be comfortable."

"When Nancy came to us, we wanted to provide the clean look [that she wanted], that was also low-maintenance and durable," echoes Cook.

That meant outfitting the entire home in dark wood-look vinyl plank flooring from Four Seasons Flooring to withstand water, scratches and wear and tear. In the kitchen, bathrooms and wet bar, quartz countertops from Kitchen & Bath Design Works provide not only style, but superior durability for years to come. The custom upholstered living room furniture is covered with Sunbrella fabric, which is easy to clean and can even be bleached, if needed.

"Choosing the fabrics were really important, and we based that off of the fact that the Fentons won't always be here, so we wanted them to be low maintenance and easy to clean but still have a nice, chic look," says Cook.





The addition of the large great room overlooking the lake was imperative not only for more space, but so that the home had a garage (situated below it). The kitchen (top left) and dining area (top right) afford ample room for parties, and the wet bar (bottom left) is perfect for fetching drinks and storing essentials for guests.





The master bedroom has a view of the lake as well as access to the upstairs deck—a huge boon for potential guests. The net-covered lantern and Einstein bulb light fixtures add a pleasing mix of nautical and old-timey style to the space.

GOOD FOR GUESTS

The light-drenched, spacious kitchen provides plenty of room for a group with the 10-by-4-foot quartz-topped island with seating on cheerful blue chairs for five people. The custom cabinets (also by Kitchen & Bath Design Works) are in an eye-pleasing white, and nautical-inspired pendant lamps from Brick & Mortar reinforce you're on lake time here. A quartz-topped buffet tucked along the wall lends even more storage for place settings and kitchen essentials.

When visitors step down the hallway from the kitchen, a wet bar with copious storage flanks the back wall and the lake view greets them to the right. The open, airy living room with vaulted 20-foot ceilings and windows on all sides gives a gorgeous view of Delavan

Lake—and is the perfect place to sit and relax with friends and eat on the 10-person dining table, perched right in front of the windows. Nancy made sure to pick bench seating to accommodate kids or adults, and red and white lanterns and candles in the center add a lake touch. A vinyl floorcloth under the table not only provides protection from spills but adds a dash of style to the room, too.

Adjacent to the table is the homey sitting area with the aforementioned Sunbrella-covered furnishings. The couches and chair tie in nicely to the whole home's red, white and blue idea which is deliberate: "Red, white and blue is easy, and when I have a theme, it's better and makes it flow!" remarks Nancy. A sturdy jute rug pulls the room together.

HOSPITABLE HOSTING

With the aim of making guests comfortable, each bedroom is also equipped in style, too. The master bedroom tucked into the back of the house (with a lake view and deck off of it) has a tray ceiling painted with Benjamin Moore's Stormy Sky, a deep gray, to break up the gray walls and add coziness, says Cook.

"Most of the other rooms are cottage-y, but we wanted to do something different in here. So we did the navy ceiling and had the special low headboard made that fits under the window. Then we warmed it up with wood tones to bring it all together," says Cook.

Touches of industrial style are seen in the sconces next to the bed, which juxtaposes











Nancy says the majority of the home's accent pieces are from Brick & Mortar, and Cook's décor input was crucial to garnishing the home to add style and touches of hominess. The Delavan Lake print (upper right) adds a sense of place to the home.



Benjamin Moore's Stonington Grey paint was used throughout the home to seamlessly flow the rooms into one another. It also provides a neutral base for the red, white and blue punctuations in many of the rooms. The round red coffee table is a bold, fun statement piece for this room, too.



pleasingly with the tropical-themed bedding. The adjacent master bathroom has a large sink with two faucets and a soothing gray and white palette.

The other two upstairs bedrooms offer similarly comfortable surroundings. The fun bunk room was originally painted white, but Fenton and Cook decided to paint it Benjamin Moore's Hale Navy because the white walls and bunk beds were too much white-and the moody blue broke it up more. In a nod to classic American style, the gingham bedding is the perfect complement. And Nancy loves the caged nautical lights in each bed.

In the home's lower level, a comfortable TV room with a custom sectional is perfect for lounging or playing board games in. Another bedroom is tucked in the corner of the house equipped with two gray bunk beds and gingham bedding, for more guest accommodations. In total, the home sleeps 12 people.

Surrounding the house is landscape and patio work done by Tom Good of Golden Tree & Landscape, which complements the home's dark gray siding (no more McDonald's house here!) with white trim. The large upper-level deck offers enviable views of the lake's calming waters, something Nancy enjoys year-round in their weekend home, too.

"I hope everyone that rents the house will enjoy the lake as much as we do," says Nancy. 📽



Shop the Look

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NOD TO NAUTICAL Boat print set, \$1,399, Paper Dolls.







HUE KNEW Benjamin Moore Hale Navy, Benjamin Moore stores.

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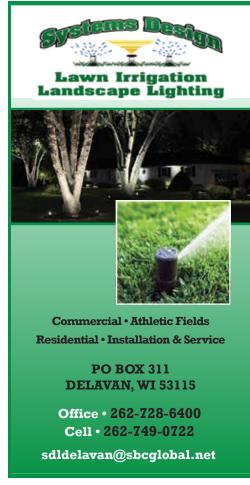
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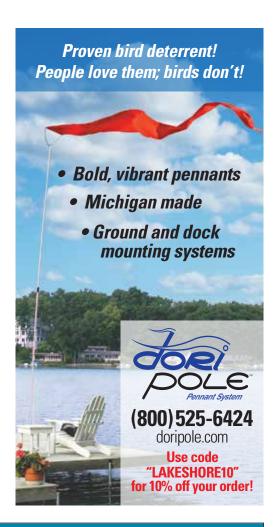


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Into the Light

A Geneva Lake home is the ideal escape for a Chicago family to reconnect and recharge.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf

When you spot a gorgeous East Coast-look home from the street, it fits right in with the surrounding homes—and that's by intention. The Cape Cod-style silhouette with gray shingles, a steep pitched roofline and tidy white trim look tailor-made for lake living. But in fact the home, which was finished in 2017, sits on the very spot a vintage summer cottage once stood before a Chicago-area couple decided to tear down after buying the property.

"The previous home presented remodeling challenges," explains the homeowner. "It was built in the 1950s, so much of it was concrete block, so to try to remodel it [was tough]. If you took one wall down, you had to take down three of the walls, so it didn't make sense to work with what it was."

The couple's goal was to intentionally lend the home gravitas with the East Coast feel, large windows and sloped roof. "We didn't want to place this house here [and have it] look like it shouldn't be here. I really like the overall look of it now. It looks like it could be in Wisconsin or in Cape Cod," she says.

To accomplish their design goals, the couple recruited Lowell Custom Homes to guide them through the process. The homeowner says owner Scott Lowell even went to area real estate listings with her to gain inspiration and ideas on what the family wanted in their eventual home.

"[They] were a dream to work with because they did so much homework and came to us with an extensive idea book created from magazines and architectural sites," says Lowell.





"We didn't want to close this space at all, so we have bigger windows and open shelving," says the homeowner about the kitchen. Custom cabinet doors hide the Jenn-Air refrigerator and Bosch dishwasher. The microwave is tucked in the island for a clutter-free look.

However, the lot had one major challenge from the outset: it's located on a triangular piece of land with a major slope coming down from the street.

"There is a 13-foot differential between the street and the foundation," says Lowell. "[We had to build a road to get down to the site to get bulldozers down there, and build a 'catwalk' from the road to the upstairs to deliver materials inside of the house."

Despite the tricky building logistics, the family couldn't be happier with the results of the whole process. "We showed [Lowell's architect] Todd [Cauffman] everything we liked, and honestly I don't think we changed a thing he did—he just nailed it—it worked out perfectly."

VACATION DREAMS

The Chicagoans knew they eventually wanted to build a second home in the area. The husband's grandparents had a vacation home in Fontana, so he grew up coming here. Once his wife joined the family, the couple continued coming up.

"We used to ride around on the boat thinking, 'this would be so nice.' So we were finally in the position to do it and decided to [buy the lot] while our kids were young, so they could have the same experience of growing up on the lake," she says.

Now there's plenty of room for their 12-year-old son, 8-year-old daughter and dog to spread out in the two-story home. Although the wife and the kids come up for the whole summer (the husband comes up on the weekends), they also use the home throughout the year on holidays and weekends to relax from the hustle of city life.

The first floor features an open floorplan with the entryway, kitchen, dining room and living room all neatly transitioning from one to the next. A half-bath, small den and laundry room are tucked off on each side of the back of the home for convenience.

And the home distinctly carries the exterior's Cape Cod feel right into the interior too—with a subdued palette of light gray, white, taupe and splashes of blue in décor. Underfoot the couple opted for oak flooring with a light gray wash that enhances the airy feel.

In the dining room, the star of the show is the Visual Comfort light fixture that's a mix of rustic, yet contemporary design. The homeowner says she wanted to source a light that wouldn't block the view of the lake, so the open design of this one worked. The bleached-wood Restoration Hardware table and chairs capture the nautical feel effortlessly.

Adjacent to the dining room is the gorgeous, functional kitchen outfitted with pale gray custom cabinets by Geneva Cabinet Company. (The gray hue is also used in the bathroom and laundry room cabinetry, too). The homeowner opted to do open shelving on one wall for decorative appeal, and touches of whimsy, like









The custom touches throughout the home makes it feel special—and adds lived-in character. The vintage-look KOHLER faucet melds perfectly with the traditional farmhouse sink (top). The open shelving displaying the wife's collection of white pitchers and carafes and the porthole window in the pantry adds a little something special to the workhorse kitchen (bottom left and middle). In the front entry, etched window insets and a sparkling chandelier are elegant accents.



The furnishings throughout the home are from Wisteria, Ballard Designs and Restoration Hardware, and aren't too precious for daily wear and tear (especially with two kids and a dog in the home!). The sturdy jute rugs anchor both sitting areas in the living room and in front of the fireplace.



in the glass-door top cabinets, custom range hood, wall sconces and porthole-like window on the pantry door, all add to the elegance of the space. The shiplap-like walls and apron sink echo the East Coast traditional vibe, too. The quartz countertops carry on the white theme and add a luxe touch. The room's topper? The jewelry-like Restoration Hardware pendant that

injects just the right amount of glam.

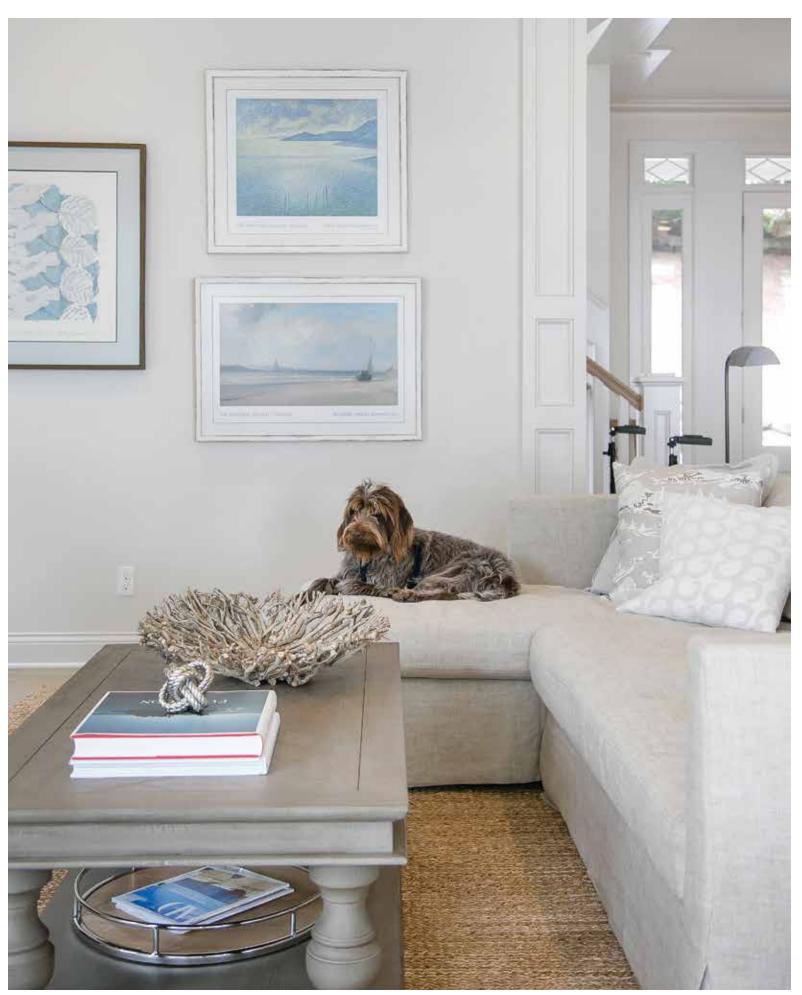
"I love the porthole on the pantry door, because it reflects the porthole-like accents on the light—it makes me really happy," she says.

Amazingly, the homeowner did much of the interior design on her own. Like in the spacious

living room, where she commissioned Lowell's carpenters to craft a custom mantle and fireplace insert out of herringbone quartz, based off of a catalog picture.

She also carefully selected the wall art that adds a soft pop of blue to the living room. One print was her stepmom's, bought from the Harvard Coop in the '70s. The other two waterscape prints were purchased at the National Gallery on a family trip to London, before they had a lake house. "We thought, 'wouldn't these be great if we had a lake house?' And, one of them looks just like where our home is located on the lake," she says. In the home's entryway, the couple commissioned a Turks and Caicos artist to paint the oil on canvas water scene (of Grace Bay in the Turks and Caicos) that greets guests as they walk in.

The living room's coffered ceiling imparts a sense of history to the home—yet another intentional design choice, and one of her favorites. The couple likes to nestle into the Restoration Hardware furniture, have a cup of





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The homeowner admits at their Chicago home, their bedroom is quite dark for sleeping. But she wanted a light, airy space where she and her husband could wake up with the sunrise at the lake, so they opted for an all-white palette but still installed blackout shades, should they want darkness.

coffee and watch people stroll the Shore Path in the sun-filled room. They also have a great view of the large yard, which the kids love to play on.

COMFORTABLE CHIC

Upstairs is truly a retreat for the family and their guests. The second floor has a den outfitted with beautiful cream and charcoal-striped Kaleem Broadloom Peter Island Stripe wool carpeting from Home Carpet One in Chicago. (She also used the same carpeting in all of the bedrooms and the downstairs den, too.) A guest bedroom down the hall has its own deck off the back of the house, and on display in the hallway is a four-foot-tall wooden sailboat that her husband and son refinished together.

The couple's master bedroom, also on the second floor, has a treehouse-like feel with vaulted ceilings, an adjacent sitting room, deck and stunning views of Geneva Lake. The whole room is painted in Benjamin Moore's Silver Satin and the ceiling in Lily White, and mirrored nightstands add a little dazzle to the otherwise minimal space. The master bath is a sanctuary for the couple, featuring all Carerra marble countertops and a soaking tub, custom cabinetry by Geneva Cabinet Company, Restoration Hardware and Pottery Barn lighting and a custom oversized shower, done by Bella Tile.

On the third floor is a special hideaway, just for kids (or guests). The fabulous bunkroom, crafted by Lowell's carpenters, has four beds that face the lake. White beams in the ceiling lend it a slightly rustic summer cabin-like feel-but it has up-to-date touches like a light and outlet for each bed (for iPads and phones). The cozy room even has its own balcony outside, too.

Although they haven't had the home for long, the homeowner says the family has already made memories here—like walking the Shore Path, the kids catching frogs at the park and simply enjoying the view.

"I love the whole thing. I think the kids love having their hangout spot and the bunk room. Even in the winter, you feel like you're outside even when you're inside," she says. "We love sitting on the front porch and relaxing—it's lovely, watching the lake." "







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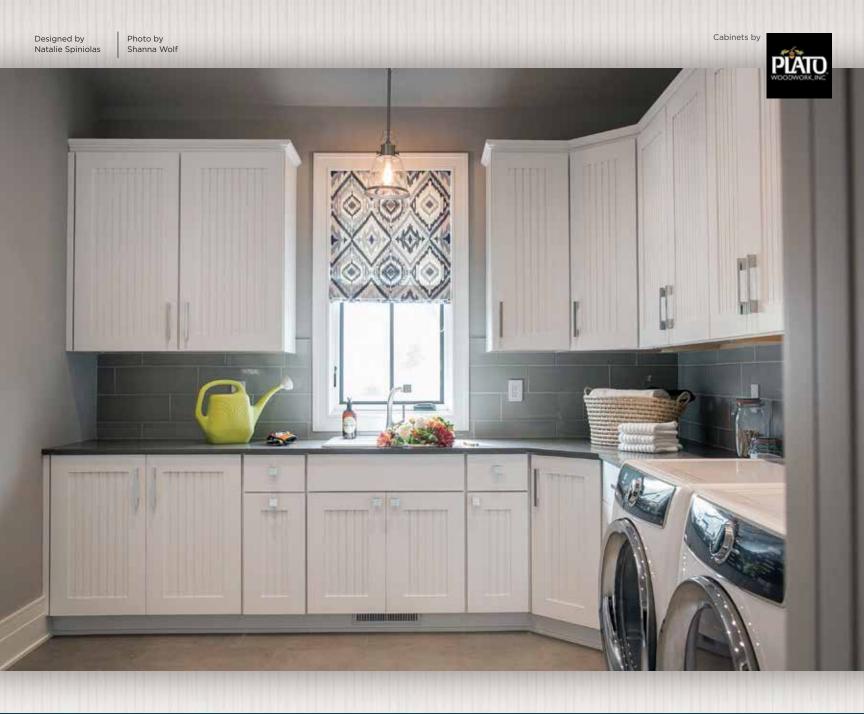




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