

Lakeshore Living

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR LAKE COUNTRY HOME

A Chic Retreat

***Farmhouse Meets Fabulous
on Silver Lake***

Cheers!

Excellent Food
+ Drink Pairings

**8 Great
Kitchen Trends**

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THE MOST**

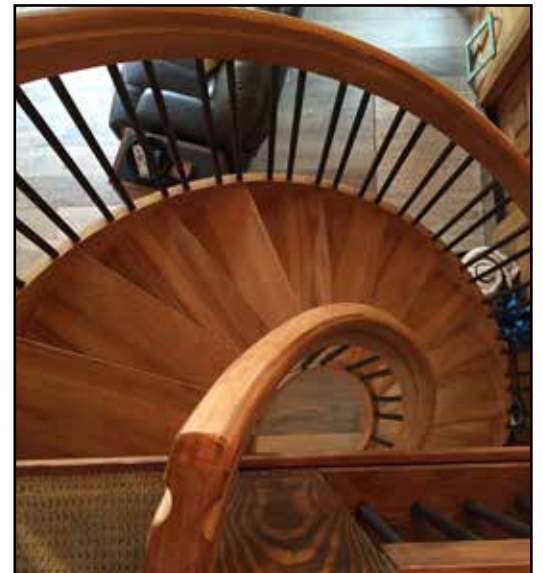


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welcome home.



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Taking Home Some Tips

We moved into our home a year ago. What was exciting was that it offered a fresh slate to reimagine the interior the way we wanted it to look. So we undertook the painstaking work of painting the oak trim white throughout the entire home, repainting all of the walls, adding kitchen hardware, replacing flooring and carpet, swapping out light fixtures, landscaping ... and a whole lot more. It's been a lot of work, but we're so proud to call this place home now.

Being at the helm of Lakeshore Living has offered me so much inspiration for how a home can push the design boundaries. I've gleaned many ideas from the gorgeously-appointed houses I've been lucky enough to walk through. Our marble countertop in our guest bathroom, our (hopefully, in the future) patterned tile kitchen island and throw rugs galore are all design tips I've pulled from the homes I've seen that have successfully employed these tricks to make their spaces look beautiful and pulled together. It's never too late to make your own design tweaks on a small or large budget, too!

I'm in love with this edition. We have so many useful takeaways about home design and style that I can't wait for you to read it cover to cover. Take Katie Vaughn's piece on six easy steps to properly selecting, hanging and displaying your wall art. It seems like it's a simple task—until you realize there's a lot more that goes into it than you think. Read about it on page 26. And Deanna Kane explores two interesting topics for us in The Workbook and our Technology departments: what's trending in kitchens right now, and great smartphone apps to help you design your home. Check them out on pages 28 and 30, respectively.

And of course, we bring you another full slate of stunning homes, including an Upper Genesee Lake farmhouse-style gem and a sweetly designed retreat on Moose Lake. Our cover story on a dreamily-appointed abode on Silver Lake is pretty awe-inspiring, too!

Thank you for reading! If there's ever a topic you're interested in seeing in our pages, don't hesitate to drop me a note. And 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

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 NEI-TURNER MEDIA GROUP

For the Host With the Most

Got a gathering to attend?
Be the favorite guest and
gift your party host one
of these special, useful pieces.

Styling and photography by Shanna Wolf



Beautiful Board

Slate cheese board, \$35,
Décor Adore; porcelain
cheese markers, \$15/set
of four, **Sur La Table**; and
local cheeses, prices vary,
Good Harvest Market.





Thank-You Thrillers Go from “Well, that’s nice” to “Wow!” with these anything-but-standard trinkets. *(Clockwise from top left):* Upper Lake Tea Towel, \$12, Gather tray, \$19, and wine cork spreaders, \$16/set of four, all from **Décor Adore**; MKE Candle Company Spruce + Cedar 9 oz. candle, \$20, **The Barn Owl**; gold-dipped 5 x 7 frame, \$30, **La Belle Legacy**; Barr Co. Fig & Grapefruit hand soap, \$30, **Décor Adore**; After Dinner loose tea, \$10, **urbalteat.com** for stores; Barkr’s Dozen dog treats, \$9, **The Doggy Bag**; orchid plant, \$33, **The Flower Garden**; and brown gourd wreath, \$62, **La Belle Legacy**.



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"Luxury is having time to share experiences with family and friends." ~ Clodagh ~





— SHOP THE LOOK —



Lands Downunder Herringbone Throw in Lilac, \$128, landsdownunder.com



Jana Bek Design Lilac Brushstroke Lamp, \$525, janabek.com



Biscuit Home Pique Sham in Chartreuse, \$135, biscuit-home.com



Color Crush: Lilac and Green

The color purple is on trend and popping up in interiors everywhere. It's one of those colors that can be hard to commit to but if it's used well, it can create a sophisticated space. Designers Rosemary Wormley and Meredith Present of Ash Street Interiors designed this darling girl's room, above. "Lilac was an obvious choice when our client told us it was her favorite color! Pairing it with a punchy green created a beautifully balanced combination," says Present. This color combination is fresh and fun, yet still elegant. I can't wait to use it in my own interior projects. —Alexandra Wood, Owner of Alexandra Wood Design

PATTERN PLAY

Don't be afraid to mix and match textiles in this fun color combo. (All prices below are upon request.)



HUE CUES

It can be tough to find the right shade of purple, but when you do, it's magic. Here are two winners.



Spring Lilac, Benjamin Moore (1388) This shade of lavender is very sophisticated and remains timeless. There are no hints of blue or gray and it pairs well with many accent colors.



Dreamy Cloud, Benjamin Moore (2117-70) This soft and subtle color is closer to being an off-white, but with a perfect hint of purple. An ideal choice if you don't want to commit to a full-on purple wall.

Left to right:

- China Seas Double Cross in Jungle Green, quadrillefabrics.com
- Romo Zahira in Mauve, romo.com
- F. Schumacher Acanthus Stripe in Leaf, fschumacher.com
- F. Schumacher Haruki Sisal in Lavender, fschumacher.com
- F. Schumacher Poms in Lilac, fschumacher.com

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What to Wear Now

Cool weather
calls for
fashionable finds
with all of
the best details.

Styling and text by
Shayna Mace

Photography by
Shanna Wolf

Hue Knew

Rich jewel tone shades rule right now, and this irresistibly fuzzy sweater is a gorgeous wardrobe pick. Pair with diagonally-frayed hem jeans (so cool this season!), a structured, timeless black handbag and leopard booties—another covetable trend this season.

Wild Honey sweater, \$54.95, and necklace, \$28.95, both from **Element Style**; Articles of Society skinny jean, \$69, **Ryloo Boutique**; Forever Camila leopard bootie, \$38.95, **Element Style**; and Melie Bianco Sienna handbag, \$65, **Next Door Boutique**.



Sleek & Chic

Need an all-in-one outfit that's figure-flattering? Look no further.
bishop + young jumpsuit, \$94, Next Door Boutique.



TEXTURE TEASE

Cute, cozy toppers are pure fun.

Hayden Harlow faux fur jacket, \$56.95, Fray Boutique.



CULT CLASSIC

This "liquid leather" moto jacket is actually made out of a soft-knit, lightweight stretch fabric.

Ciara Sun Woo jacket, \$159, Main St. Boutique.



MIGHTY MENSWEAR

Menswear makes a splash—in a so-cool dress.

hem & thread dress, \$46, Main St. Boutique.



SOFT STYLE

Pair this velvet twist-front dress with tights or leggings and a cozy sweater.

SUGAR + LIPS dress, \$52.95, Fray Boutique.



BEAUTIFUL BOTANICALS

Florals carry into fall in this light, airy top.

Hayden Sweet as Honey top, \$32.95, Fray Boutique.



WANDER WEST

Western style is big—here's an elevated take on the trend.

THML gray embroidered top, \$54.95, Element Style.



SUPER STRIPES

When aren't stripes cool? This draped top is a new take.

Striped button-up, \$39, Main St. Boutique.

Burgundy Best

This deep aubergine bootie is surprisingly versatile.

Madeline Poet ankle boot, \$65, Main St. Boutique.

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Meet the Maker



It Makes Scents

The heavenly smell of soothing lavender and uplifting lemongrass waft from Tara Parish's quaint Madison-area farmers' market booth on a sunny Tuesday afternoon. Shoppers unfamiliar with her products probably stop first for the smells—but quickly realize that Parish's **Shade Tree Naturals** line is worth the pause. Her handcrafted soaps, hand and lip balms are 100 percent all natural, and Parish will gladly fill you in on every ingredient in her wares. It's her life.

When Parish had her first son eight years ago, she started buying baby body-care products but was disheartened to find that many weren't as all-natural as they seemed. "So that spurred my research and not wanting to use those products on him. And that's when I started my business," says Parish.

She started reading about essential oils, soap-making and where companies source products from. "If I was going to make natural products, I wanted to know every single ingredient that was in something I was using and what I was putting on mine and my family's bodies. I had also had multiple pregnancy losses and there were no answers from anybody on what was happening, and this was a big time for me to switch how I did everything."

Parish taught herself how to make lip and hand balms online. She took a soap-making class in northern Wisconsin. She then tweaked all of her recipes to craft her own exclusive formulas. Parish sources all of her own ingredients and asks her wholesalers for Material Data Safety Sheets or proof of sustainability for their products. "And anything I can get locally, I do. If I put coffee in my soap, I use a fair-trade local roaster, or beeswax from a local farm," she explains.

This fall she introduced seasonal scents like orange clove, pumpkin chai, peppermint cocoa and honey vanilla in addition to her year-round scents of lavender lemongrass, eucalyptus spearmint and more.



"I want to focus mostly on women and children and them making healthy choices for their families," says Parish. "I want to be a business people can trust and as close to nature as possible."

Parish will be at the Madison Makers Fall Market & Pub Crawl on November 23, otherwise peruse her website where she offers \$7 flat-rate shipping for her goodies. shadetreenaturals.com

Shoppist



Happy Home

When Brenda Wistl opened **Harvest Home** in Pewaukee 18 years ago, it was because of her love of retail and the way it made her feel. In her previous job working at the Milwaukee Rescue Mission's homeless shelter, she would often take her lunch and go over to a nearby shop to eat and relax. Being in the shop gave her a feeling of calm amidst a chaotic day.

"Our desire here is to create a peaceful place for people to shop, no matter if they have a million-dollar house on Pewaukee Lake, or an apartment," says Wistl.

The business is housed in a former residence-turned-shop and shoppers can weave their way in and out of cozy rooms, all skillfully merchandised by Wistl and her staff. Find décor, soy candles, light fixtures, wall hangings, milk paint, scarves and throws, cards, clothing, jewelry and more. Wistl loves the furniture she carries by independent makers and Amish craftspeople.

Many of the items have a tinge of farmhouse style, and classic and vintage-look pieces reign supreme, like artfully weathered décor pieces and beautiful white kitchenware.

Next up is her famous Fresh Greens Sale the day after Thanksgiving. Wistl says customer lines stretch down the block to pick up freshly arranged greens in vintage and repurposed containers, bundles of greens, wreaths and fresh garland mixes—all arranged by herself and florist friend. "It's the coolest event of the year!" she says.

Even more cool than that is the fact that Wistl uses a portion of her shop's proceeds to help out programs at the Joy House in Milwaukee.

"We've poured our heart and soul into this," says Wistl. "And, it doesn't matter what style of décor you have in your house—what we have here works."

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Ten Minutes With KATHERINE GRAMANN

The Hartland native shares how the water influenced her to start passion project (and now full-time gig) Lake Effect Co.

By Shayna Mace

You started Lake Effect Co., a hybrid lifestyle and e-commerce website in 2016. Why was this your calling?

My path has always followed [the] water in some way. I grew up in Hartland and went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for college. I lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan, after college, working for Google in AdWords support. Then I moved to San Francisco, also for Google, doing community management for some of their big products. [I was with Google for] four years, but ultimately my heart was drawn back to the Midwest the whole time.

I started freelance marketing and had been doing that for a couple years ... but I ended up not really having any balance. My true escape was time by the water. I had this love of the lakes that I wanted to put into writing, and build something around. Branding is my favorite aspect of marketing that I would do with clients, so it was natural to build a brand around this concept. The retail side of it [came] naturally after people would like the slogans or phrases that I was coming up with.

Now you live in Milwaukee. What do you love best about your adopted home?

I [live] two blocks from Juneau Park, which leads to the water, and I can see the lake from my rooftop. So I spend a lot of mornings, when weather permits, up on the roof and evenings too, catching sunrises and sunsets. I'm also huge into walking by the



lake. If I don't do that daily, it's like a part of my routine is missing. It's an amazing city to live in, but I would be gone by now if I didn't have the use of the wonderful habits crafted around the lake.

In the summer, I pack my swimsuit in my bag at all times and I just dip in the lake after a workout class. People seem to take the lake for granted in Milwaukee, because it's intimidating. [I love] the big-city feel, the ease of living here and the proximity to the water.

The health of the lakes is also very important to you.

This has been part of my brand from the beginning, to give back

to the Great Lakes. So, I started giving five percent to the Alliance for the Great Lakes for the first year. I recently switched to [giving to] the Milwaukee Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. They support my same mission of getting people to fall in love with the water. It feels like it's my responsibility to get people to fall back in love with the water—to chase the adventure. Maybe for them adventure isn't jumping in the lake every day. [It may be] making time to see the sunset or see sunrise, or pursue moments that connect them with nature. It's something that's very accessible in this area, and that we're fortunate to have. 🌿

I like Birch & Banyan Coffee Shop in downtown Hartland. The coffee is amazing, [and] they're incredibly friendly. The owner and her mom are often in there, so it's just a really lovely community.



I love to go to Beaver Lake and take my inflatable paddleboard. [There's] a carry-in and launch there, the water is the perfect color and it's so gorgeous.



In Delafield, The Barn Owl is one of my favorite shops—and they're a stockist of mine.



My "So Cold" beanie is my biggest winter seller. It's been so fun to see those hats in the wild. Those are made in Minnesota, so [I'm] keeping it local.

Our "Chase More Sunsets" tank top is now available in a T-shirt and a long-sleeve shirt. The tank top was our best-seller of the summer!





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Perfect Pairings

Matching up food and your drink of choice, whether it's wine, beer or spirits, can be a fun and educational way to savor what you're serving to guests. Here's the lowdown on how to do it best.

By Kristine Hansen



Food and drink pairings can feel intimidating. Will you accidentally ruin the taste of the food you've labored over in the kitchen? What if the special wine you picked out doesn't sing ... and tastes terrible instead?

"You can be very playful," advises Shannon Berry, cheesemonger at Fromagination in Madison, who spent her childhood on a lake near Rhinelander in Northern Wisconsin. After cooking at restaurants in New York City and Portland, Oregon, she returned to Wisconsin, in part because she missed lakeside living.

Your goal should be to bring out flavors you like in each of the beverages and food items, "two like parts of two different things," says Berry. "You don't want [the food and drink] to fight each other." For example, scotch and aged goat cheese both feature bright, grassy notes.

Also consider textures. Does the beverage have a dry finish or is it sweet? Is the mouth-feel heavy or light? Keep like with like and you can't go wrong. "With a wine that is very buttery and silky, you want to match it with a cheese that has that same texture," advises Amy Wulz, wine educator at Drumlin Ridge Winery

in Waunakee who teaches wine classes at the winery as well as at Madison College. Another example: delicate cheeses with delicate wines, like a goat cheese with Chenin Blanc. Not sure if the wine is delicate or not? Look at the alcohol content. Above 12 percent typically means this is an intense wine.

Also, don't be shy about opting for fall-friendly selections. "People are transitioning from all

STAY LOCAL

When in doubt, drink and eat items from the same geographic region. This is a tip Wulz gives in her wine-education classes. "If the people in Spain have been eating Manchego and drinking it with a Garnacha, that's a good match," she says. Along those lines, she says, try Drumlin Ridge Wauna Red Wine Blend (70 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 percent Syrah and 10 percent Zinfandel, featuring Lodi AVA and San Luis Obispo-grown grapes and a "very lush and velvety profile") with a five-year-aged Wisconsin cheddar.

these cool, crisp whites (wines) from summer," says Wulz. Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc can easily be replaced with Beaujolais and Pinot Noir.

WINNING WINES

Autumn is the perfect time to uncork fruit-forward reds. Berry recommends the fruitiness of a California Zinfandel wine with English Stilton cheese to complement its spicy finish. This is also when spice-rubbed cheeses are fitting, such as Roth's Gran Queso. "The rind is rubbed with paprika and cinnamon," says Berry, who would pair this with a spicy Zinfandel.

Bleu Mont Dairy in Dodgeville makes an award-winning Bandaged Cheddar Berry never hesitates to recommend to customers. "It would go great with a Cabernet Sauvignon or Barbaresco (Piedmont, Italy) or even a Glogg (hot spiced wine punch). It can hold up to any of those," she says.

For Thanksgiving and other fall-season meals, Phil Bilodeau—owner and co-founder of Thief Wine in Milwaukee and Shorewood—can't get enough of a dry style of Rosé. Apparently neither can his customers: "I'm selling more in September, October and November than I used to," he says.

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Bilodeau also discourages only drinking reds once the outdoor temperature cools. The key is to look for wines without an oaky presence on the palate. "Albariño from Spain is really an underrated food wine," he says, as is unoaked Chablis (France). But if you want to drink red during the fall, consider Cabernet Franc (mineral with floral and raspberry notes), fruity Beaujolais from France and Nero d'Avola from Sicily, Italy. And don't forget about Pinot Noir. "You can get great [Pinot Noir] from Burgundy, France; New Zealand; and California," he says, noting they are "crowd pleasers and low in tannins."

BEST FOR BEER

Chef Ryne Harwick of Hunt Club Steakhouse in Lake Geneva thinks fall is the easiest season for pairings. "[In the kitchen] I really like to work more with winter spices, like juniper and cinnamon," he says. "A lot of the heavier beers are more in season that time of year. We're really moving away from the bright, citrus-y flavored beers."

One of Harwick's favorite pairings is roasted butternut squash with a dark beer. "It's going to have the same body in the mouth feel," he says. Earthy tones in carrots and beets, too, are ideal

while sipping heavy beers, like lagers or porters.

A pairing with local roots that Berry highly recommends is any Oktoberfest craft beer from Wisconsin with Roth's Monroe cheese, a double cream, washed-rind variety.

CONSIDERING SPIRITS AND DESSERT WINES

You might think ordering an Old Fashioned, which was invented in Wisconsin—and is a staple on every bar and restaurant menu, from college-area dive bars to swank supper clubs, is trite—but maybe not?

An Old Fashioned's cinnamon and orange flavors are often reflected in autumn cuisine, says Harwick.

What can be really fun when mapping out a meal is pairing dessert (your cheese course, perhaps?) with a drink, giving it the same consideration as you did the appetizer or main entrée. "If you're searing a really pungent, creamy cheese or a really heavy blue, you should go with a dessert wine or late-harvest wine," says Wulz. Dry, nutty wines with caramel notes like Sherry and Madeira also go well with most desserts. 🍷

WISCO AUTUMNAL BEERS TO TRY

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Capital Brewery Oktoberfest, Madison

Central Waters Brewing Co.
Oktoberfest Lager, Amherst

Door County Brewing Co. L'automne,
Baileys Harbor

Geneva Lake Brewing Co.
Oktoberfest Ale, Lake Geneva

Lakefront Brewery Pumpkin Imperial Ale,
Milwaukee

New Glarus Brewing Staghorn
Oktoberfest, New Glarus

Stevens Point Brewery Point
Oktoberfest, Stevens Point

Tyranena Painted Ladies Pumpkin
Spice Ale, Lake Mills

Kristine Hansen is a freelance writer who calls Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood home.

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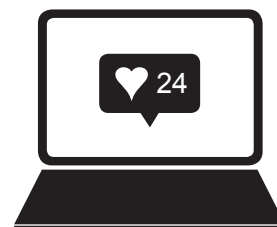


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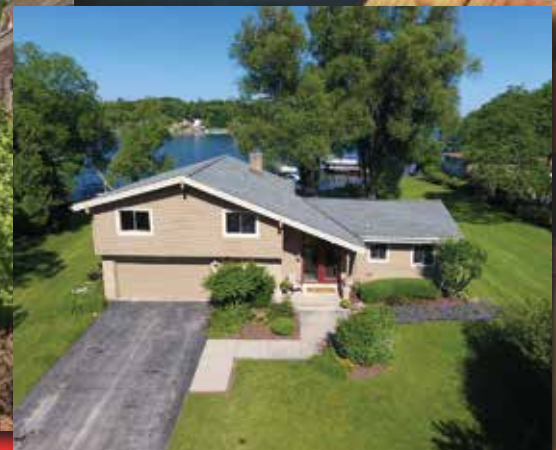
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Hang Time

A beautiful home isn't complete without some show-stopping art. But finding a masterpiece and displaying it properly can be intimidating. Not to worry.

Here's how to go from "Oh, I love this piece" to "Ahh, it looks perfect right there" in six simple steps.

By Katie Vaughn

START WITH THE ART

Let's be clear: There's no such thing as "right" or "good" art—just art that speaks to you. If you're choosing new art, start by getting a feel for what you like. When a work catches your eye, try to determine why. Is it the colors, the subject matter or the mood? A sense of calmness or an exciting dynamism? And is it a portrait, landscape, still life or abstract work? These can all be clues to identifying your aesthetic.

When it's time to shop, keep both your stylistic preferences and practical needs in mind, suggests Tory Folliard, director of Tory Folliard Gallery in Milwaukee.

"Once I have a better idea of their taste, the size and a general idea of the amount they would like to spend, I am able to provide [clients] with options," he says. "Along the way, there is an education process—providing information about

the artists they are considering and the works themselves."

EXPAND YOUR OPTIONS

Paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and mixed-media works on paper and canvas are all fantastic art options that look wonderful on a wall. But what else might you frame and hang? Pretty pieces of wallpaper or fabric, old maps or mementos and items of clothing with sentimental value could have new life as art.

"All artwork is worthy of conservation framing—a child's artwork, a hard-earned diploma, family photographs, even a signed concert poster," says Gary Milward of Gary's Art & Frame in Middleton.

And perhaps art you already own just needs to be reframed or placed somewhere new to shine.

"Many of my clients have collections of stunning art pieces," says Lisa Mohindroo of Milwaukee-based Mohindroo Interiors, "but their beauty needs to be brought to its fullest by displaying them in ideal locations of the home."

CONSIDER YOUR DÉCOR

Once you've found art you love, how do you make sure it works with the décor in your home?

"Really, the only rule of thumb that I follow is to make sure your art doesn't match your interior," says Barry Avery, owner of Fontaine Home in Madison. "I tell clients that we don't want to be matchy-matchy—we can do better than that."

So if a home is decorated in saturated jewel tones, Avery wouldn't place a similarly hued painting in the space; he'd opt for something lighter for contrast. It's the same with design styles: The magic comes in mixing things up.

"If someone has an extremely modern home, I might have them try a gilded frame with a traditional oil painting," Avery says. "If they've

got a more traditional environment going on, bring that more contemporary piece in."

Ultimately, choosing art you love—not what matches your sofa—makes good financial sense. "Fabrics, styles and color trends come and go," says Folliard, "but hopefully, if they choose wisely, the art will be with them for the long haul."

THINK INSIDE THE BOX

These days, the options for show-casing art are nearly limitless.

"Honestly, it's a personal preference," says Jamie Jorndt, an artist and volunteer at Gallery 223 in Lake Geneva. "Some like a raw canvas, some like works framed. And I've noticed more framing of canvases lately."

The only constant considerations when framing, says Milward, are related to quality and protection. Choose conservation-quality UV-filtering glass, high-quality mats and proper mounting techniques, he says, and never put photographs in direct contact with glass or glue down original art.

As for design, simple, clean looks are on trend, Milward says, pointing to thin floater frames that surround a canvas and large white or neutral mats paired with simple black moulding. For those looking for a jolt of color, Milward suggests Prisma frames. Made from clear Lucite, they can be customized in various colors, patterns, textures and shapes to suit the art they will hold.

SEE THE LIGHT

Think about lighting to ensure your masterpiece is both visible and protected. Talk to your framer or art dealer if a piece will be hung in direct sunlight to make sure it won't suffer from fading or other damage.

But don't leave your art in the dark! "More and more clients are understanding the need for picture lighting," says Avery. Sure, recessed ceiling lights can do the job, but



many homeowners are opting for lights placed above that specially bathe art in soft light. And it's not just traditional brass fixtures anymore—choose from classic lamps to sleek bars in a wide range of finishes.

LEVERAGE YOUR LOCATION

Take stock of your space long before picking up a hammer or drill. "Every room is different—some rooms have high ceilings, others may feature many windows with just a narrow wall space to work with," says Mohindroo. Take a step back and keep scale in mind.

For instance, you may know you want to hang a painting in your dining room, but a work that's on the smaller side would look teeny on an expansive wall. A large-scale canvas, though? Hello, bold statement!

You could also opt for a triptych or a tight grouping of works that reads like a unit, suggests Avery. A single frame style would enhance the cohesiveness. Or maybe a gallery-wall treatment of several different-sized pieces would best fill the space. Go with whatever feels right, suggests Jorndt. "You're basically looking for balance."

A gallery wall looks especially great in long hallways and offices where you might want to feature a variety of artwork. You can go with matching frames and an orderly arrangement for a calmer, tidier feel, or vary materials, colors and sizes for more personality.

And whether your art's hanging with a group or flying solo, think beyond the basics of placement. Kitchens, bathrooms and bookshelves can all be stellar—and eye-catching—spots to have an artistic moment.

"Any space in your home that could use a little livening up should be fair game," says Mohindroo. 🐾

Katie Vaughn is a Madison-based art, travel and features writer.

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Trending in a Kitchen Near You

Classic design elements are complementing the hottest looks in kitchens right now.

By Deanna Kane

Whether you are undergoing a gut rehab or looking to update a few fixtures, keeping your kitchen current means taking a new spin on the classics. As we look into 2019, focus on timeless trends, and creating a home around livability, warmth, comfort and longevity.

"Trends can be timeless. It's a matter of blending and being consistent with adjacent areas," says Ericka Sprangers, interior designer at the Kohler Design Center.



SUBTLE, STAINED CABINETS

White cabinetry has become the gold standard of a brand-new kitchen. "White is safe, timeless and classic for any space," says Sprangers.

While white cabinets are too classic to ever go out of style, stained cabinets are the new front-runner to warm up the space and make it more livable.

"Stained cabinets are easy to maintain," says Eileen McGee Wetzel, interior designer with Story Hill Renovations. "You don't notice the wood expanding and contracting, like in painted cabinets. Stained cabinets are also easier to conceal the typical wear-and-tear."

The Classic: White cabinets
The New Take: Stained cabinets



FUNCTIONAL FAUCETS

Similar to kitchen sinks, up-and-coming faucets will have a focus on functionality.

"Consumers want style, but also functional faucets with features," says Sprangers.

"I think we're going to see more semi-professional style faucets instead of the traditional pull-down faucets," says McGee Wetzel. "The semi-professional faucets allow the nozzle to move around without the restraint of the gooseneck."

The Classic: Pull-down faucets
The New Take: Semi-professional faucets

SOLID FOOTING

When choosing a flooring material that will set the stage for your home's overall aesthetic, stick to the classics. "Wood flooring is a lifetime floor," says Jerry Schmidt, sales director with Dream House Dream Kitchens.

"Wood, wood, wood," says McGee Wetzel. "The trend will be wider planks; this creates a higher-end look than the traditional three-inch plank."

The Classic: Wood floors
The New Take: Wide plank floors

GRAY WILL STAY

If you thought gray was on its way out, it continues to reign as the leading paint color. This go-to shade has staying power.

"Gray is not going anywhere but we will see a wider palette, ranging from warmer grays to cooler blue-grays," says McGee Wetzel.

The Classic: Gray
The New Take: Expanded gray palette



PLAYING WITH PATTERN

While the bones of the kitchen will remain timeless, backsplashes are the perfect platform to incorporate pattern, color and different materials.

"Having fun with a pattern is a great way to express your personality. You can easily replace a backsplash in five years when the trend has gone away, but you can't do that with counters and cabinets," says McGee Wetzel.

If you're ready to move beyond subway tile, this is your opportunity. Ceramic tiles will bring pattern into the kitchen and create a bold statement.

"I'm in love with all of the bold ceramic and cement tile patterns I'm seeing," says McGee Wetzel. "They are a great way to add [interest] to a backsplash, whether it's behind the range or all around the kitchen."

Another way to add dimension to your kitchen backsplash is integrating metal into the design.

"Incorporating brushed brass within the tile is a way to make your backsplash stand out," says Schmidt.

The Classic: Subway tile
The New Take: Handmade, ceramic subway tile



QUARTZ IS QUEEN

Quartz remains the countertop leader in function and style, but expect to see it expand beyond surface level.

"Quartz has so much variety in color and pattern—there's an option available for everyone," says McGee Wetzel. "I think we're also going to see it used more as a backsplash and as waterfall edges to create a clean look."

Also expect to see other materials incorporated into countertops, such as integrating walnut with quartz as the seating edge of a kitchen island, according to Schmidt.

The Classic: Quartz

The New Take: Quartz expanded beyond the countertops

FINISHING TOUCHES

When it comes to selecting finishes, this is the area to show your flair for the dramatic.

"Matte black will be a finish of choice," says Sprangers.

"Matte black can be easily paired with any color, stain or finish; it's a great complement to white counters and cabinets," says McGee Wetzel.

If you're looking to keep your finishes more traditional, matte gray with a no-fingerprint finish lends a timeless, beautiful glow to the room.

"Matte gray creates a sophisticated look to elevate your kitchen to a higher level," says McGee Wetzel.

The Classic: Polished nickel

The New Take: Matte black



ARTFUL APRON FRONTS

Apron sinks remain a leading kitchen sink choice; however, look forward to seeing sleeker variations of this classic. This sink style is moving beyond the farmhouse look, and into more contemporary designs.

"Apron sinks are here to stay, but we're going to see slimmer versions," says McGee Wetzel. Kohler's Strive Vault sink is an apron-front design, in sleek stainless steel. It makes a visual statement, while providing the easy-clean functionality every kitchen needs.

The Classic: Apron sink

The New Take: Streamlined apron sink

Deanna Kane is an interiors, home decor and real estate writer, who also enjoys taking on her own home renovation and design projects.



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Virtual Design Made Easier

Using your smartphone to help create a perfect, Pinterest-worthy room is only a few taps away.

By Deanna Kane

From space planning to visualizing one-of-a-kind pieces, there are a plethora of apps to help design your home. Creating a dream home can be overwhelming, so use your smartphone to help simplify the experience. These home design apps take the burden out of preparation and selection, so you can enjoy the creative process. (All apps are free unless noted.)

Prep Work

Houzz (iOS, Android)

The Houzz app separates the pros from the amateurs. Houzz is a canvas to begin gathering professional design ideas to ignite your own creative process. View similar spaces to yours, to help visualize your home's potential.

"The best part about Houzz is you don't have to filter out DIY projects; everything is posted by professionals," says Eileen McGee Wetzel, interior designer with Story Hill Renovations.

iHandy Level (iOS, Android)

If your toolbox is scarce, don't skip the most important step of hanging pictures—ensuring they hang level. This straightforward app will turn your phone into a level, resulting in a straight wall of frames.



Photo Measures (iOS, \$6.99; Android, \$4)

There's no need for a tape measure when you download this digital measuring app. Take a photo of any room or item, and the app will show you the exact measurements.

"Understanding how furniture will fit in a space is crucial. Using a measuring app means you don't have to pass up a one-of-a-kind piece at a flea market or antique store, because you are afraid it would be too large or small," says Cynthia Wilson of Cynthia B. Wilson Interior Design.

Benjamin Moore Color Capture (iOS, Android)

Benjamin Moore's app lets you take a picture of any color that inspires you—the lake on a sunny day, a dusty rose hydrangea, fabric from your grandmother's vintage dress—and you will instantly receive its color match from Benjamin Moore's 3,300 paint colors.

"Color Capture encourages you to take a chance with a color you might have previously ruled out," says Wilson.



Design



Art.com (iOS only)

While creating a gallery wall looks straightforward, there can be a painstaking amount of measuring and arranging before you commit to hammering in nails. This app lets you create your "dream gallery wall," and perfect the layout to avoid patching up the aftermath of measurement miscalculations.

"Gallery walls are still strong, but getting them started is sometimes a challenge. This app lets you lay out the gallery wall virtually before you hammer in the nails. You can also purchase prints directly in the app," says McGee Wetzel.

Chairish (iOS only)

If you're looking for unique, one-of-a-kind pieces, explore vintage treasures in the Chairish app. Once you've found the piece you can't live without, use its "View in Your Space" feature to see it in your own home. (Pro tip: Double-check the seller's ZIP code to avoid astronomical shipping fees.)



Homestyler Interior Design (iOS, Android)

Eliminate any lingering scale or style doubts with this app's three-dimensional functionality. Before making any expensive electrical mistakes, view how the statement chandelier you've been eyeing will look in your foyer, or avoid costly return shipping costs by determining if a set of island stools will work in your kitchen.

"This app is an easy-to-use tool to help visualize your ideas. You can take a photo of your space and try out wall colors, décor items, furniture and more," says McGee Wetzel.

Hutch (iOS, Android)

Hutch was developed with the idea to "allow anyone to discover their inner interior designer." Select the room you would like to design, your preferred style and budget, and Hutch will create a photo-like rendering of a sample room with shoppable decor items. You have the ability to edit the room to best match your taste, including changing the paint color, furniture and art selections. If you are happy with the design, add the pieces to your shopping cart and purchase them directly through the app.

TRANSLATE TO REAL LIFE

With the plethora of apps available at your fingertips, there is still no replacement for visualizing the item in your home. Scale is the most important element for creating a cohesive space.

"It's imperative to double-check measurements when purchasing items online. Use blue tape or stack boxes to thoroughly understand how large or small an item is for the room," says Wilson.

With the number of resources available to purchase furniture online only, the comfort factor can be a gamble. Wilson offers some tips to make sure the pieces that look perfect online provide the level of comfort and durability you need in a long-term piece of furniture.

"A trick is to look at the item's weight. If something is very light, I would be worried," says Wilson. "A dining room chair could be wonderfully upholstered and look great in photos, but you could find draping a coat on the chair causes it to fall backwards. Make sure you're purchasing solid pieces."

Wilson also advises that every piece you purchase online should come with a warranty. 🐾

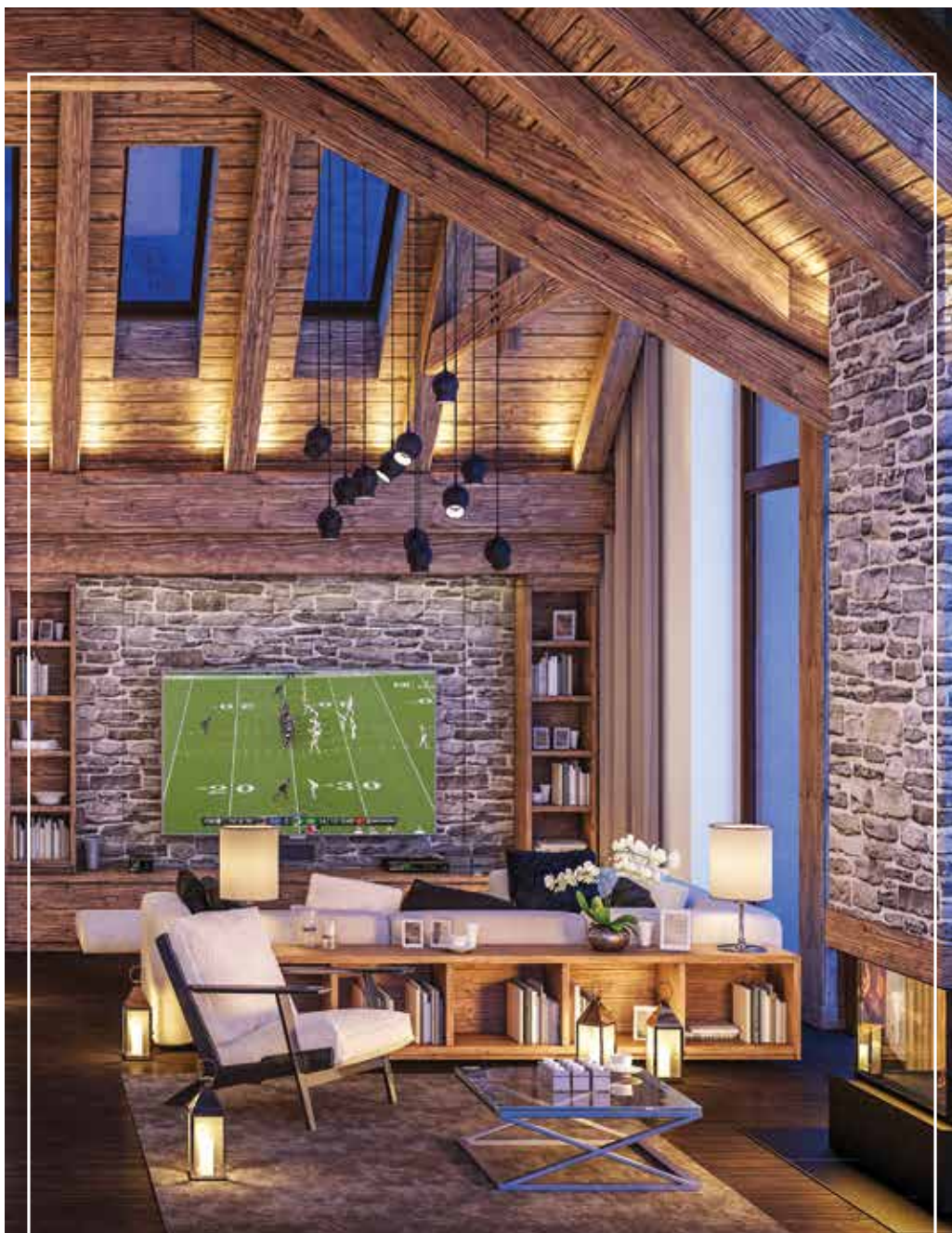
Picture-Perfect

While downloading a curated selection of home design apps can make designing your home infinitely easier, there is ultimately no substitution to seeing a color, fabric or texture in real life.

"The digital world is different than reality; you should never rely 100 percent on a digital image to make a design decision," says McGee Wetzel. "Always find a physical sample and bring it home to see what it looks like with your lighting. When in doubt, hire a professional to assist with space planning."

If you're looking to keep your design experience digital but still want a closer level of guidance, e-design is a smart middle ground.

"Some interior designers have entered the digital game by offering e-design. This is a great way to get professional advice, then execute the design yourself," says McGee Wetzel.



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Keith and Kathie Dunton knew they needed a new patio at their home on Ashippun Lake in Waukesha County, so they contacted Tom Auer of The Ground Crafter to help with the project. However, when Auer first got a look at the home's existing outdoor space, he realized that the Dunton's property—sitting on four acres and containing more than 100 feet of lakefront—had a lot of unused potential. Beyond that, the existing deck and surrounding patio displayed structural damages so severe that Auer felt it unwise to do a basic replacement.

"The entire hill was sloughing off down the slope," Auer explains. "That was cracking the foundations for the old patios. I told them the whole thing had to come out, otherwise it would have just been throwing good money after bad."

Following Nature's Lead

A Waukesha County lake house incorporates the natural terrain for ideal outdoor living.

By Anne Morrissy | Photography by Shanna Wolf

By demolishing the old deck and patio space, Auer was able to work with the Duntons to completely redesign the outdoor living space. Utilizing a clever terracing design, Auer nearly doubled the amount of space on the decks and patios, to about 2,600 square feet. The new plans introduced two distinct terrace levels, and included a pergola, an outdoor kitchen and dining space, a hot tub, two fire features and a water feature meant to suggest a natural stream.

Auer says part of the intention in redesigning the outdoor space was to make it look like the home had been placed into its natural environment with very little effort. "This home is in the Kettle Moraine region, so one of our goals was to keep it looking like the house was dug into the side of a natural kettle," he says. In order to accomplish this, Auer and his team began

by re-grading the space between the home and the lake, and then installing several sub-grade walls to ensure structural integrity. "The walls that surround the hot tub on the lower terrace, for example, there are actually hidden support walls behind them," he explains. "The outcropping stone is not meant to be structural—it's decoration. So behind that, there's a thorough concrete rebar wall holding up the upper terrace above."



Fabulous Flowers

Auer and his team saved and repurposed naturally occurring boulders from the soil during the re-grading of the property to create a landscaping plan authentic to the home's location in the Kettle Moraine.



Water Ways

A pondless water feature mimics the effect of a natural spring cascading over the landscape. The nearby patio seating provides an ideal breakfast space—the Duntons say they love to have their morning coffee near the stream.



Sensational Seating

Auer and his team designed the new upper deck to ensure that no railings obscure the view of the lake from the sun room. The pergola enhances the amount of shade provided by a 20-year-old honey locust the homeowners wanted to preserve.



Views for Days

A gas-operated fireplace on the lower terrace matches a similar fire feature on the upper deck and provides additional entertaining space. In designing the new outdoor living space, Auer, of The Ground Crafter, aimed to maximize the view of the lake from each level.

Love their backyard?

*Here are
Tom Auer's
landscaping tips:*

Choose a plant palette and stick with a common color theme throughout.

Plant groupings of complementary foliage with some contrast colors, but stay away from colors that clash while blooming.

Consult resources on naturalizing plant schemes and companion varieties. For example, if a *Ligularia* is chosen in a small group, also consider planting *Rodgersia* as both plants prefer rich, moist soil.

Take advantage of the expertise available at your local garden center. Find someone that is excited to help you and not just somebody that “points you down the aisle.”

For more complex landscaping, consider hiring a professional. Pricing can be surprisingly budget-friendly and their advice is invaluable in preventing frustration and ensuring your money is spent on plants that will thrive in your specific situation.





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The hot tub had long been a dream of Keith's, but he confesses to being stumped as to how to incorporate everything he wanted with the classic Colonial architecture of the house, which the Duntons built in 2004. "The front of the home is very traditional and pretty and Colonial style," Dunton explains. "We live on a lake, and we wanted to retain that Colonial design but still take advantage of the feeling of living on the lake. It was a challenge." Keith credits Auer with his ability to incorporate all of their ideas into a design that worked with the existing house and property.

To do so, Auer made liberal use of natural stone in the design, including New York blue stone, shipped from New York and Pennsylvania, and local Lannon stone. The natural stone steps leading to the lake were a feature of the Duntons' previous patio that Auer's team saved during the demolition and repurposed in the new design. Another important element Auer incorporated into the plans was a 20-year-old honey locust tree that the Duntons were determined to save. "We started by establishing a protection fence around the root zone," Auer says. "Because of that, everything on that side of the house was done by hand, because heavy equipment could have shocked the tree roots. And then at the end, any roots that we disturbed were root pruned."

The new outdoor living space presented plenty of opportunity for landscape plantings, including fern, astilbe, moneywort, coneflower, coralbells, Ligularia, hydrangea, rhododendron, Hughes Juniper, Lamium, hostas and geraniums. In keeping with the natural environment, Auer worked the plantings in among boulders unearthed during the excavation. "The kettles were formed by retreating glaciers, which left large boulders and rocks behind in the soil," Auer explains. "While excavating in the area, it's very common to find these large boulders, so we repurposed some of those, set them aside and then put them back into the environment."

The finished product has exceeded the Duntons' hopes for the project. "My wife and I love to go out with a cup of coffee or a drink in the evening and sit by the stream," Dunton says. "There's just something very soothing about the sound of the water." He says a recent guest commented that they must be happy with the new landscaping and outdoor space. "That's it exactly," he says. "We are very happy with it." 🍷

Anne Morrissy is a professional writer and editor from Williams Bay who now splits her time between Walworth County and Chicago. She is a frequent contributor to Lakeshore Living and At The Lake.

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Fresh Farmhouse Style

An Upper Genesee Lake property is host to treasured memories and family gatherings for a life well lived.

By Shayna Mace
Photography by Ryan Hainey Photography





Seasonal Services did the landscaping at the Dunlap's house, and Marcy loves it. She also transplanted a lot of plants from their old house here, and they have a garden in back of the house. The couple had a prairie at their old house and they liked the look of it, so the couple is aiming to have some prairie areas planted next spring in the backyard, too.

For Marcy and Jim Dunlap, the choice where to build their dream house came down to a simple connection Marcy had to the land. Growing up, Marcy's high school friend Laura had a horse farm on the land their subdivision is on. In 2013, Jim was driving in the area and spotted a lot for sale in the subdivision. The couple wasn't looking to move from their Genesee home, but knew they eventually wanted to live on a lake. And, the lot checked the boxes for what they wanted: lake living; a great location close to the Interstate and halfway between Madison and Milwaukee; a flat and relatively large yard; and close to Lapham Peak.

"My friend Laura passed away a number of years ago from cancer, but I thought it would be cool to live here. She was a really good friend of mine in high school. So, that felt special," Marcy says. Marcy also had a friend that bought the home that Laura's family lived in, still located in the subdivision.

"You know how they always say, you can't pick your neighbors? I thought, well, we already know one of them! So, that was a selling point too. We thought, maybe we should try this," says Marcy.

The couple knew that if they built a custom home they would work with their friend Jeff Burg, owner and president of JFK Design Build. Once they bought the lot, they sat down with Burg to envision their new digs.

STARTING FROM SCRATCH

The Dunlaps first reflected on what they liked about their current house, and their wish list for the new home. They knew they wanted a first-floor master suite, space for entertaining and reclaimed wood floors. The home also needed to "look old," says Marcy. "I wanted the character of an older home. Not necessarily a farm house, but [we wanted to use] materials like reclaimed wood floors and beams."

"They had a pretty clear vision that they wanted [somewhat of] a farmhouse look, but they wanted to marry the farmhouse with today's exteriors," explains Burg. That meant selecting a chocolate brown/gray siding paired with sage green window trim and a brick façade accent portion.

"We added posts and beams in the front made out of reclaimed barn wood and then put a piece of reclaimed wood above each window, like they would do years ago," says Burg.

Inside, the home conveys the farmhouse theme straightaway in the entry with heavy wood reclaimed beams, gorgeous 100-year-old wood floors and weathered wood trusses in the soaring great room with 21-foot ceilings.

"Those were also [saved] from a barn," says Burg about the trusses. "There are even markings on those beams with chisel marks. When they would







build a barn, they would chisel each beam with a specific mark, so you would know exactly where it goes in the framing.”

Burg loves the lived-in detail in the wood floors, too. “The floors are a mix of hardwoods, repurposed from barns. They are from a company out of Illinois, who also installed the entryway beams and ceiling trusses.” The floors have saw marks and even bits of paint on them from the barn’s exterior, points out Burg.

In the living room a large Pottery Barn rug, Penny Mustard leather couches and wood-burning floor-to-ceiling fireplace add coziness to the family-oriented space. On either side of the fireplace are built-in bookshelves filled with pieces from Marcy’s eclectic art collection, like the many dolls she’s collected and has been gifted over the years from relatives, art fairs and antique shops. The vintage trunk that serves as a coffee table was refurbished by her mother who “was really good at refinishing furniture and had an excellent eye for antiques,” she says. On the reclaimed barn wood mantle sits birdhouses from the Lakefront Festival of Art and an angel print from the Milwaukee Art Museum. A graphic weaving from Marcy’s aunt and uncle holds court on the right-hand side of the fireplace.

“When we designed the bookshelves, these were the kinds of things I wanted a place for ... my dolls and some books and I really wanted a place for the weaving. It all fell into place.”

(Above) A portion of the second floor is an open loft area which overlooks the great room, where the Dunlaps can get a birds-eye view of the vintage barn beam trusses. Marcy is also a skilled weaver, and her loom is set up in the sunny, airy loft area. She likes that she can leave it set up all of the time and projects are confined to upstairs when guests come over.



When visitors come over to the Dunlap home, it's obvious it's filled with family memories and special pieces. In the entryway the framed artwork by daughter Sarah and the light fixture from Elektra Lights & Fans in Wauwatosa sets a stylish scene. In the front hallway hang three paintings by the Dunlap's kids when they were younger that are professionally framed and look art gallery-worthy.

PERFECTLY-LAID PLANS

Both Burg and Marcy love how the first floor turned out. "The way the whole first floor is laid out is perfect," says Burg. "It's ideal for an empty nester since you could spend all of your time on the first floor, and the layout is really great for anyone."

Since the Dunlaps have five grown children and one grandchild, plus Marcy has nine siblings, they frequently have family gatherings here—which made the main floor's layout even more important. The kitchen is adjacent to the living room and has a 5-by-10-foot leathered granite island that adds a luxe touch to the home's farmhouse style. Marcy liked the vintage-look pendants so much in her previous home that she chose the same ones for above her kitchen island.

The Viking gas stove with grill was a splurge, and is crucial for cooking and entertaining. "I did want a really good stove. This one gets hot enough for when I make toffee at Christmas!" says Marcy. Reclaimed bricks from a Chicago brickyard frame the range area and softly echo the rustic vibe.

The alder cabinetry and trim throughout the kitchen (and the whole home) was done by Wood Specialties. Two other must-haves for the couple included a coffee bar area with beverage cooler and a small bank of cabinets next to the back door topped with a granite slab for grill prep. It also serves double duty to hold extra dishes during large family meals, since the dining room is right here, too.

Marcy likes that the dining room is tucked away a bit from the main living area—especially because it's filled with treasured family memories, like a gallery wall with photos of Jim and Marcy's parents as babies and of course, their own children. A small alcove (specifically carved out by Burg) houses an antique buffet for extra storage that Marcy's mom found and refinished. Marcy also likes the long wooden pew she scored from St. Bruno's Catholic Church in Dousman under the gallery wall that she pulls up to the dining table when they have extra guests.

"It was in the mud room at our old house. When we moved, it's great here because I put leaves in





The Elektra Lights & Fans light fixture that hangs above the bar is actually a hanging pendant with seven Einstein bulbs. Marcy got the idea to install the reclaimed barn beam above the bar and wrap the seven cords around the beam for an eclectic, artsy look.

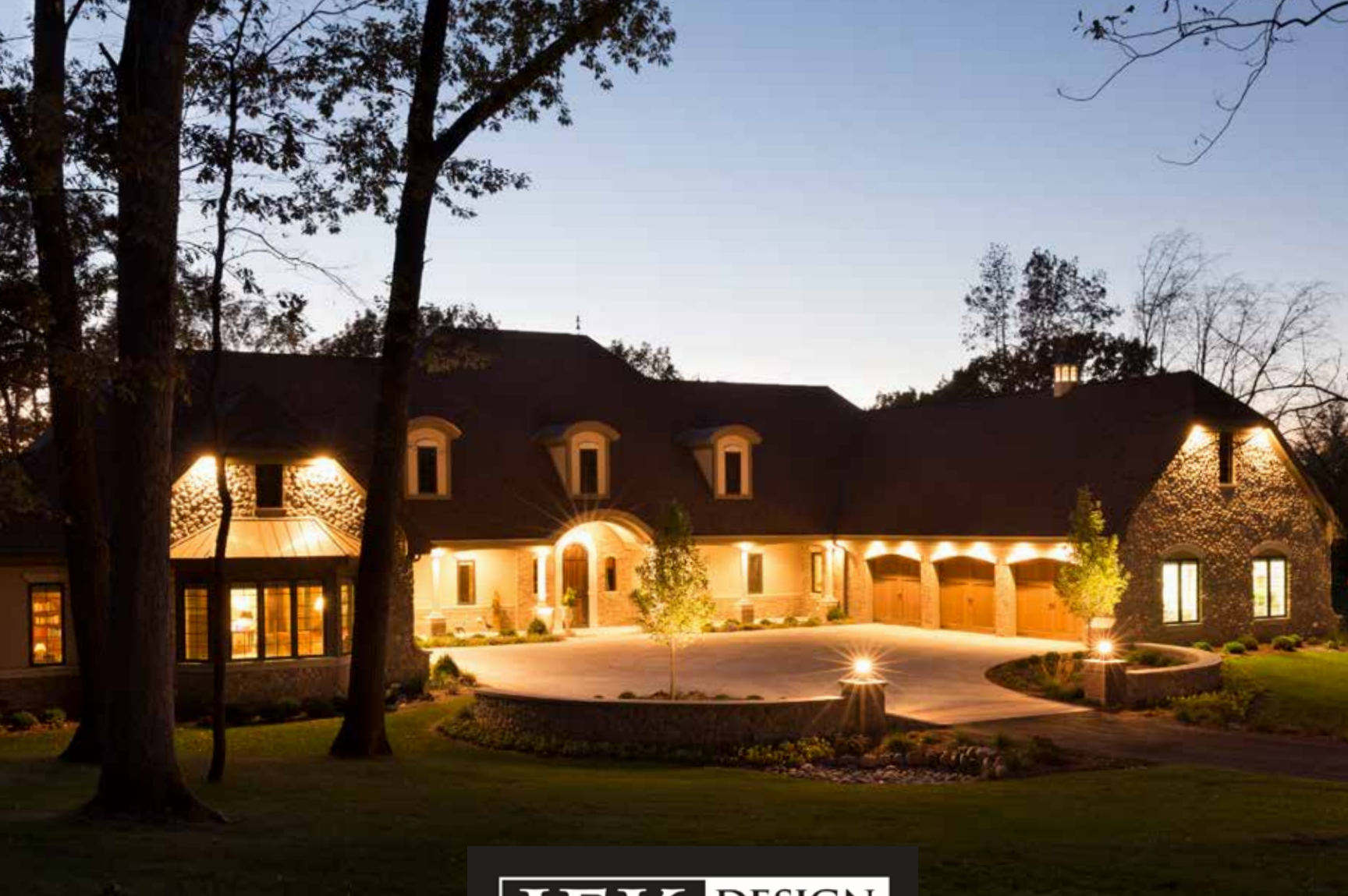
the table and then we have additional seating,” says Marcy.

Around the corner from the kitchen is a spacious mud room with hexagonal porcelain tile floors, built-in bookshelves (that hold family photos and doubles as storage) and a pale mint green sliding barn door that Marcy found at a junkyard and painted.

One of Marcy’s other favorite areas is the finished basement that has plenty of entertaining room, a bedroom, small play area for kids, future wine cellar and beautiful finished bar. The bar is patterned after the home’s farmhouse feel with the same reclaimed Chicago bricks forming columns around the bar, reclaimed wood bar (which uses the same wood that’s on their first floor) with granite countertops and a show-stopping light fixture made out of repurposed barn beam wrapped with an Einstein bulb pendant light.

With a large family and guests to entertain, the Dunlaps are happy with how their house turned out and it shows in the personal touches. Marcy loves their peaceful surroundings, too.

“When I’m in the kitchen I love to be able to look out of the window and see the lake with all of the natural light in that area,” says Marcy. “In the summer we throw our windows open and you get a great breeze. It just makes me feel good. I’m happy here.” 🍷



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Full of Charm *(and Family)*

Moose Lake proves to be an idyllic setting and a getaway every day of the week for a family of five.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf

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The kitchen transitions seamlessly into the dining room and living room. Flatt and Kowalczyk knew they had to make the whole space feel as one, so Sherwin-Williams' Loggia paint shade was used in the main living areas. A Wisteria dining table and light fixture from BBC Lighting add style to the space.

"Every lake here has its own personality," says Laurie Flatt.

And that personality is what drew the family of five to Moose Lake from their Hartland home. "The kids were getting older, and we had always wanted to be on the lake," explains Flatt. "Our dear friends have been living on this lake since 2002. So, our kids grew up coming here, and we always loved it here. And [Moose Lake] is such a hidden gem. It's a kettle, and about 61 feet deep in the middle. The water is crystal clear."

Laurie and her husband Steve spotted a 1950s cabin for sale that was part of the old Hasslinger Resort, that had since been broken up into land parcels. "It was red, and it kind of looked like the Seven Dwarves' house," says Flatt. "It was like two cottages were connected with a kitchen and living room between them, so each side was a mirror of the other. But we saw so much potential in it ... so we decided to remodel it and sell our house."

However, when the Flatts submitted their renovation plans to Joe Orendorf of Joe Orendorf Custom Homes, he told them it would be very expensive to renovate and they were better off building anew. So they had the old structure recycled (yes, there's a company that recycles whole homes called Recycled Inc., says Flatt) instead of demolished. "It takes three weeks versus one day, but then once you've recycled everything, you get a tax report on the value of everything recycled. So, that helped our taxes—but [the materials also] didn't go in the landfill. It's a wonderful program," says Flatt.

In the meantime, the family lived in the 600-square-foot guest cottage that was in the front of the property while the home was taken down and a new one rebuilt. The couple also started working on plans with Orendorf.

FOR THE FAMILY

The Flatt clan is close, and Flatt knew the house plans needed to echo that.

"I wanted [the new house] to be open because it doesn't matter if we have five TVs in the house, everybody's on one sofa together with the one TV, or in the kitchen!"

The couple made sure the main level had an open floor plan for that reason, and also included some luxuries that Laurie hadn't had in a house before, like a sunroom, big kitchen and a large laundry/mud room. Once everything came together a year later, it was then Laurie's task to make the house a home. Which is her forté, since she owns real estate staging company Casa La Bella. She also worked closely with one of her former employees and friend Jill Kowalczyk, owner of Jill K. Designs, on the interior design.

"Laurie wanted a cottage feel on the lake. She also liked French country [style] as well, and you can see that throughout the house," says Kowalczyk. "And she wanted to take advantage of the lake view, so there are no window treatments, and beautiful trim work and moldings around the windows."



Flatt's home always looks show-ready because she owns a home-staging business. (Above, right) The light fixture is by Quorum from BBC Lighting. "We use this a lot in staging. It comes in different finishes, and it's really transitional and goes with a lot of different styles," says Flatt. (Below, left) The antique cow head is a cheeky décor addition. "My kids are mortified by it, but I love it!" says Flatt. "I put a Santa cap on him at Christmas and it makes me smile."



Flatt employs a French country look in the bedroom with an upholstered headboard, classic lamps (from Harvest Home), ornate light fixture and paisley bedspread from Pottery Barn. (Below) The master bath affords plenty of room to get ready and relax.



Kowalczyk and Flatt achieved that getaway feel by selecting a neutral color palette of white, warm gray and beige to unite the entire house. “Laurie likes to change up the décor—like she changes her sunroom seasonally and she’s always changing the soft décor, so having the neutral background was important,” says Kowalczyk.

Flatt’s favorite room is the all-season sunroom that overlooks the lake. The bright, sunny space has her stamp all over it with rustically-inspired finds, many of which are from Harvest Home in Pewaukee—one of Flatt’s top local shops. The vintage chair with flour sack-upholstered cushions from the Elkhorn Flea Market is a particular favorite of hers. The gas fireplace (another must-have for Flatt) adds coziness to the spot in the fall and winter.

“I’m out here every day. On weekends the girls and I are in here drinking our coffee and talking. And they like to study in here. It’s used a lot,” says Flatt.

Another gathering spot for the family is the kitchen with its eight-by-four-foot quartz-topped island. Dark gray cabinetry underpins the island and provides a nice contrast to the white upper and lower cabinetry (all by Wood Specialties). A simple sleek white subway tile backsplash unites the space and a vintage-style Ferguson faucet and apron sink lend the kitchen farmhouse style—albeit with modern touches and amenities. Those contemporary luxuries include small prep garbage receptacles in the island for kitchen scraps, an oversized refrigerator and custom drawer organizers. Behind the kitchen wall is the butler’s pantry with more cabinetry, counter space and coffee bar.



(Top, left) The brick fireplace was a must-have in the sunroom for Flatt. (Top right) Doing laundry isn't as much of a chore in the home's laundry/mudroom, equipped with a utility sink, cabinetry and island for folding clothes. (Bottom) Pup Moose was named after the lake.



Another much-loved area of Laurie's is the spacious mudroom/laundry room in the corner of the house. There are cubbies next to the garage door for a convenient drop zone. The room has a quartz-topped island that Laurie can fold laundry on and store cleaning supplies in. She even sits at the vintage desk in the corner, lights a candle and journals sometimes while waiting for her laundry to be done.

FULL OF CHARM

There's no question that Flatt is a master of creating a Zen-like atmosphere. In the living room, quiet shades of gray, beige and white with pops of blush pink tie together the comfortable seating area with Wisteria furnishings. Built-in bookshelves hold mementos like the kids' artwork and family photos. A coffee table crafted out of an old stable door (also found at the Elkhorn Flea Market) and fitted with legs adds vintage charm to the space. A floor-to-ceiling fieldstone fireplace signals that this is a place to be together in.

Off of the living room is the couple's spacious master suite. The bedroom is masterfully outfitted in soft shades of blue with metallic accents in the decorative mirrors from Wisteria and nightstands.

The master bath is Flatt's sanctuary and features dove gray cabinetry, a large soaking tub, standup shower and a small alcove with vanity that Laurie does her makeup in. Gorgeous tile from The Tile Shop outfits the space, and a glamorous light fixture from BBC Lighting adds some bling.



Sure, the inside of the home is wonderful, but the Flatts spend a lot of time outside on their deck, lower patio, flagstone sitting area overlooking the lake—and in the lake, too. The family likes to swim and paddleboard.

The kids have their own space in the home's lower level. Daughters Claudia and Ella both have bedrooms and full bathrooms and a lounge area for hanging out. Flatt is planning on turning a third bedroom space into a bunk room for more guests.

Outside, the home has a beautiful upper deck and lower patio strung with café lights that gets used regularly. Two swings that were made by Mike's dad Bob hang at the ready for end-of-day chats with her daughters. It doesn't hurt both spots have a great view of the water.

Even if all five of the Flatts aren't living in the close quarters of their 600-square-foot guest cottage anymore, Flatt loves the sense of togetherness her home provides. And Kowalczyk knows they achieved what they set out to do in the property.

"She wanted a relaxed, comfortable retreat, and I think that's what she got," says Kowalczyk. "It's just a peaceful, serene place to be." 🍂



A large, rustic-style porch with a stone fireplace, wooden floor, and wicker furniture. The porch features a high wooden ceiling with exposed beams, a large stone fireplace on the right wall, and a long wooden table in the center. Wicker furniture with white cushions and patterned pillows is arranged on the left. Large windows and a glass door provide a view of the outdoors.

A Chic Retreat

A peaceful property on Silver Lake melds a rustic aesthetic with a modern-day floor plan and amenities for a welcoming space.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Tricia Shay Photography





For Kim and John Seipel, their connection to Oconomowoc's Silver Lake is not only familial, but historic. John grew up nearby in Dousman on Pretty Lake, and in high school was a dishwasher at Chuck's Supper Club on Silver Lake.

"I always remembered it was the clearest lake," says John.

One morning back in 1996 while reading the paper in their Mequon home, Kim noticed a cottage for sale. "Kim said, 'there's a house for sale on Silver Lake—that lake you always talk about in Oconomowoc,'" says John. So the couple drove over that day to take a look at it. They ended up purchasing the quaint property as a second home for them and their three children.

After nine years, the couple decided to make the full-time move out to the lake and bought a larger home as a primary residence. They sold

the cottage to one of John's brothers. In 2015, a coveted property went up for sale across the lake.

"We [had] always loved that property," explains Kim. "This was our favorite property on the lake. When it came up for sale, we were really excited."

The early-1900s green-and-white cottage was historic, with five bedrooms, a small kitchen and one bathroom. It was filled with Pabst Brewing memorabilia, as the previous owner was married to a Pabst executive. The couple took the plunge and bought the home, with plans to either renovate the existing cottage or build anew. They sold their other home to their daughter, who lives across from them on the lake now. John has another brother who also owns a home on the lake, too. (See the familial lake connection?)

After living in the home for a year, the Seipels decided the home needed too much work to





renovate, so they met with Colby Construction Company Inc. to start fresh. “We thought if we’re going to build something new, let’s build it right,” says John.

“And their customer service was amazing and unmatched—they were really great to work with,” agrees Kim.

A FRESH FUTURE

The couple first met with architect Paul Schultz of Sunarc Studios in Oconomowoc to flesh out the home’s design.

“We didn’t want a huge house—we wanted a livable house. I didn’t want a show house, [or] a house where ... there are rooms you don’t even use. We wanted a functional house. This is our forever home,” says Kim. “And, I wanted to bring the outside in. We [have] windows everywhere because we have this beautiful view. We wanted to be able to see the lake from almost every room and our architect did that, except for one room.”

The couple’s other requirements included a first-floor master suite and plenty of room for guests. Pete Feichtmeier, owner of Colby Construction, was tasked with making the couple’s vision a reality.



(Above) Kim loves her laundry room that’s tucked away in the front of the house. The soapstone counters provide a lot of folding space, and the apron sink is utilitarian and stylish. The Seipels incorporated transom windows throughout the home, and reused the glass from the old cottage to outfit them. “We salvaged what I would call ‘wavy glass’ from the old cottage when it was torn down,” says Colby’s Feichtmeier. “We used it as glass in the transoms. It’s a great detail, and a connection to the old house.”







(Above) The simple sleek master bathroom has marble countertops and sparkling light fixtures. Kim's touch permeates in here too: she selected all of the hardware from Neu's Hardware Gallery and had the mirrors custom-made with reclaimed barnwood she found at the Elkhorn Flea Market. Not shown is the shiplap detail (made out of corian) by the soaking tub and in the shower.

"At the end of the day, we felt like we understood [the Seipel's] vision and had an open mind to do some things for them that were out of the box," says Feichtmeier.

The great room, which includes the living area, dining room and kitchen is the showcase of the home, says Feichtmeier. "The tongue-and-groove ceilings, beams and paneled walls are unique for this market."

The hand-hewn ceiling beams are an important design detail in the great room—and one that the Seipels put a lot of thought into. John says the beams were made from trees that were cut down on The Golf Courses of Lawsonia and hand-crafted by Amish woodworkers. Much of the shiplap throughout the home was also provided by the woodworkers, too. It perfectly complements what Kim calls her "modern farmhouse" style.

Kim says she was heavily influenced by Joanna and Chip Gaines of HGTV's "Fixer Upper" fame. Natural elements, like a repurposed barn wood coffee table (made by an artisan at the Elkhorn Flea Market), tin ceiling tiles and an antler chandelier (purchased in Arizona) add a healthy dose of coziness to the grand room with its vaulted ceiling. Restoration Hardware Outlet furnishings like the chocolate brown leather coach and buttery-soft suede

armchairs play nicely with bits of greenery peppered in throughout the space, along with the vintage-look Persian rug under the coffee table.

The kitchen melds flawlessly with the living room, echoing the creamy white palette with dark soapstone counters, white tiled backsplash and open shelving in the corners that hold decorative pieces, like a ceramic bread box and a creamer shaped like a cow. A second marble-topped island from Pottery Barn holds court in the kitchen to double as a hangout spot or prep area. The couple also opted for a coffee bar with beverage fridge so guests could easily grab an espresso in the morning or bottle of water if they're heading outside.

Tucked next to the kitchen is an adorable breakfast nook with a cupola ceiling. A Restoration Hardware Outlet table and chairs sit at the ready for a leisurely meal, and Target pillows punch up the style in here. A single pendant lamp shines down from the shiplap-covered cupola. Next to the breakfast nook and adjacent to the living room is the breezy screened-in porch—a favorite space for both John and Kim.

"We get the best sunsets," says Kim. John says he likes to sit out here with his grandkids to chat.





(Left) The porch has cable railings so the beautiful lake view is unobstructed. (Above) Kim's love of rustic details are showcased beautifully upon entering the house. The sliding barn door hides the kitchen pantry straight ahead. Upstairs in Kim's office/loft area, a branch chandelier looks elegant and right at home.

Most of the other spaces of the home have Kim's touch too—like the tranquil guest room with shades of blue, light wood furniture and a delicate wire chandelier. Another guest room uses reclaimed barnwood on a feature wall and has a buffalo-check comforter, rustic wood bench, faux fur throw and pillows, and mounted plaster deer and moose heads for fun.

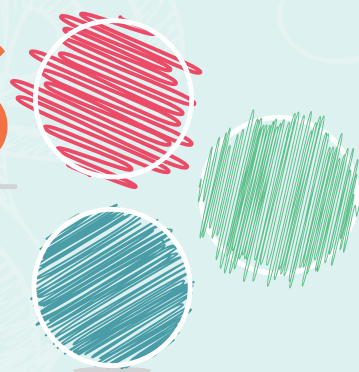
The one room that's all John is his office on the main floor. The pine board and batten panels on the walls (provided by the Amish woodworkers), ceiling beams, built-in bookcase, wood-burning fireplace (with porcelain tile detail) and family photos convey a sense of warmth and togetherness—much like John and Kim. John wakes up early and spends his mornings in here.

"We have a lot of family and host a lot of gatherings, and we wanted a space where everyone could gather and spread out—that was our vision," says Kim. 🍷



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WATER WAYS A man and a dog stand on a dock and a boater paddles nearby in Ice House Bay on Okauchee Lake in 1913.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (IMAGE ID 43630)



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