

Lakeshore Living

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR NORTHWOODS HOME

Cozy Charm

Up North Chic in a Fence Lake Retreat

Cheers!

Excellent Food
+ Drink Pairings

**8 Great
Kitchen Trends**

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Mirror Lake



Crystal Springs



Go North

Welcome to our inaugural Northwoods edition! Nei-Turner Media Group started Lakeshore Living in 2014 to showcase beautiful homes in the Lake Geneva area, as well as create engaging and useful house and garden content that's Midwest-focused. We added a Madison edition a year later. Most recently we added the Lake Country (Waukesha County) area in 2016. We decided to add the Northwoods region into the mix in 2018 because it's such an important and treasured vacation (and full-time) lake destination and there's plenty of home inspiration to be had up north, too. We focus on the Wausau area on up, including Minocqua, Lac du Flambeau, Rhinelander and more.

I have many cherished memories growing up of visiting family friends and vacationing on both Little Star and Island lakes in the Manitowish Waters and Boulder Junction areas. I learned how to water-ski on Little Star Lake, watched Min-Aqua Bats ski shows on Lake Minocqua (and eaten nearby at The Thirsty Whale) and remember gaping at the bullet-riddled walls at Little Bohemia Lodge. These indelible memories have made the Northwoods a special place for me.

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 in Lake Geneva, Madison and Waukesha. And Northwoods homes and cabins offer their own unique style that's a hybrid of charm and comfort.

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 16. 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 18 and 20, respectively.

And of course, we bring you a full slate of stunning homes, including an artfully-appointed abode on Presque Isle and an eclectic A-frame on Manitowish Lake. Our cover story on a stunning spread on Fence Lake is pretty awe-inspiring, too!

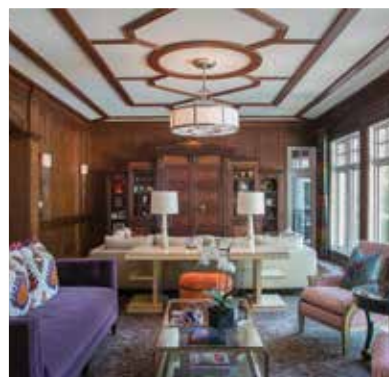
Thank you for reading! If there's ever a topic you're interested in seeing in our pages, don't hesitate to drop me a note. And if you or someone you know has a home that would be great to feature within our pages, please email me at Shayna@ntmediagroup.com.

Enjoy the lake!

Shayna Mace, Editor

Seen on Instagram

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Lakeshore Living

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— SHOP THE LOOK —



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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.)

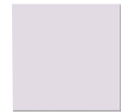


HUE CUES

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

Meet the Maker



It Makes Scents

The heavenly smell of soothing lavender and uplifting lemongrass waft from Tara Parish's quaint Middleton farmers' market booth on a sunny Tuesday afternoon in early fall. 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."

Peruse her website (holiday gifts, anyone?) where she offers \$7 flat-rate shipping for her goodies. shadetreenaturals.com

Shoppist



Through the Ages

Home décor trends come and go, but one theme that remains consistent is accenting a space with items that have a backstory or gravitas—like displaying a loved one's vintage school pennant or a treasured collectible from childhood. And **Ages Past Antiques** in Minocqua can help capture some of that nostalgia and need for a connection to the past.

At this almost 9,000-square-foot, 12-year-old antiques mall, vendor booths are carefully stocked and merchandised, and owner Michael Bauer is a seasoned retail vet—after all, he and his wife Tracy Grigus own three other stores in the area and he has been in the retail business for 30-plus years. His **Step Up** and **The Shade Tree** shops in downtown Minocqua sell gift and home décor items and books, respectively. He also operates **No Boundaries**, a clothing and gift shop in Boulder Junction.

Having grown up in the area with family still nearby, Bauer knew this is where he wanted to be. He likes being his own boss, and loves the thrill of buying, merchandising and selling items. At **Ages Past**, learning the history of items that come in and seeing new things every day is what keeps him engaged with his customers. New pieces come in almost daily, which keeps it fresh for customers.

He carries about 20 to 25 vendors year-round, and items span from the late 1800s to the 1960s. (Although Bauer says he has a few fossils in the shop, too!) Some notable treasures that have come through his doors have included a 75th reunion pin for the Battle of Gettysburg that was passed down through family, and Ralph Capone's gun—who was Al's brother.

"That's the part of the antiques business that's really cool—seeing all of the different, unique things from the past," says Bauer.

Ages Past Antiques, 8714 Hwy. 47 S, Minocqua.
715-358-9775, agespastantiques.net

Ten Minutes With KATHERINE GRAMANN

The Hartland, Wisconsin, 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.

Your family also has a cottage on Three Lakes, which is near Eagle River and also an hour from Manitowish Waters. What do you love about those areas?

Yes, I grew up on the water there. [Those areas] are my second home. Being in Three Lakes and having the cottage and being a water baby up there is basically where my true love for the lakes was born! [And] Manitowish Waters is just so lovely and very, very supportive of [my business].

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. 🌿



When you're on lake time, you know it. It's something that helps melt everything else away. It's so easy for me to invest time and energy in something that feels good for me because I'm so connected to it.

I love Fika Bakery & Coffee in Three Lakes. The owner Jackie and her husband and daughter are always there. She makes everything by hand, every morning. She does her best to only use in-season produce. Right now [it's] cranberries and apples.



We like Pike's Pine Isle Lodge on Medicine Lake in Three Lakes. We are not a family that likes to leave our cottage once we're up there—but we will leave for Pike's pizza!



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!



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.

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

Ale Asylum Oktillion, Madison

Central Waters Brewing Co.
Oktoberfest Lager, Amherst

Door County Brewing Co. L'automne,
Baileys Harbor

Lakefront Brewery Pumpkin Imperial Ale,
Milwaukee

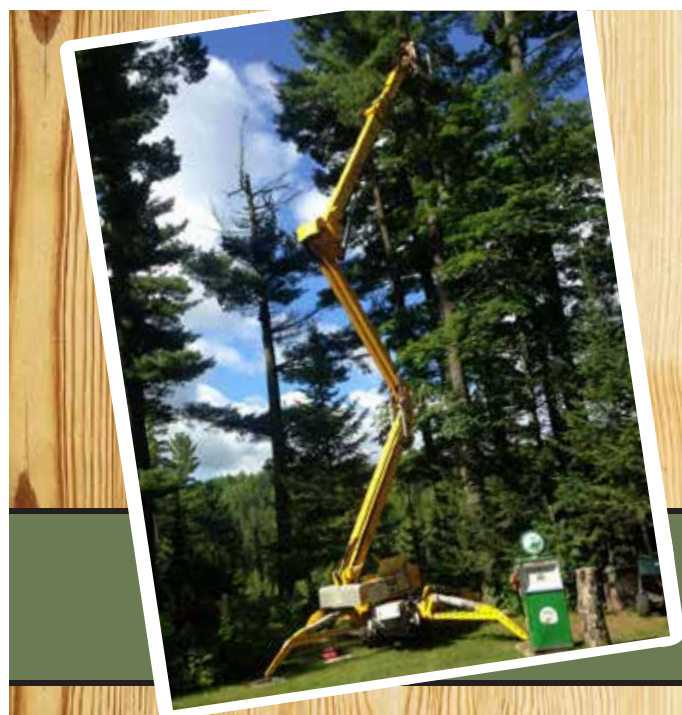
New Glarus Brewing Staghorn
Oktoberfest, New Glarus

Sawmill Brewing Co.
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Tyranena Painted Ladies Pumpkin
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Kristine Hansen is a freelance writer who calls Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood home.



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Join the Club

Supper clubs are inextricably linked with the Northwoods way of life—here are 14 great ones to try.

By Mary Bergin

When a puzzled out-of-stater asks about supper clubs, questions often involve exclusivity: What is the membership fee? If I'm not a member, can I still go in? If I live out of state, am I welcome? Of course up North, we know better.



One thing that distinguishes a good supper club from other restaurants is its welcoming nature; the feeling that everybody belongs and nobody leaves as a stranger. This is your destination for the night, not a hop between activities, especially in the Northwoods, which is home to many traditional and generations-old supper clubs.

The night starts and ends with cocktails that you likely wouldn't drink at any other time or place. Most popular before a supper club meal is a brandy Old Fashioned. The classic bookend, for dessert, is a Grasshopper, Brandy Alexander, Pink Squirrel or other ice cream drink. One might be big enough for two to sip, spoon and swoon over.

Menu specials of a fish fry on Fridays and slow-roasted prime rib on Saturdays are typical, too. So is starting the meal with a complimentary nibble of something, such as cheese spread with crackers at the bar.

The Plantation Supper Club, near Woodruff, serves diners Cheesys (cocktail bread topped with an onion-mayo mix and melted Swiss) gratis. **The Chippewa Inn**, near Hayward, delivers a relish tray of marinated olives, port wine cheese spread, pickled herring, liver pâté, cherry peppers and raw veggies.

Entree portions are ample, and doggie bags common. Owners of the **White Stag Inn** near Rhinelander take pride in keeping much the same as when their grandfather bought the business in 1955. That means charcoal-broiled steaks, one choice of potato (baked) and salad (a plain wedge of iceberg lettuce) topped with secret-recipe dressings that also are sold by the quart. In the White Stag's entryway is a sign that declares, "If you have reservations, you're in the wrong spot," and that's business as usual for some, but not all, supper clubs. An exception is the 60-seat **Smokey's** near Manitowish Waters, which presents a mix of gourmet entrées—such as veal marsala—and customary fare.



Make Mine Sweet

Wisconsin's unofficial state cocktail hands down is the Old Fashioned. The classic recipe begins with the muddling of a maraschino cherry, orange slice, sugar cube and splash of bitters. Then comes ice, but what happens next depends on the bartender, and customer whims.

Brandy is the liquor typically used. Expect to decide on "sweet or sour" because lemon-lime soda (for sweet) or a sour mixer tops the drink off.

Although Angostura bitters is the universal favorite to enhance an Old Fashioned, aficionados get picky about cocktail garnishes—but that's a story for another time.

Locations vary wildly. Consider the rural **Lanny's Fireside** near Conover, **McGregor's Blink Bonnie** near St. Germaine and **Swearingen's Al-Gen Dinner Club** near Rhinelander. Some supper clubs operate in resorts, including **Hintz's North Star Lodge** on Star Lake, **Pitlik's** on Sand Lake and **Chanticleer Inn** on Voyageur Lake (all near Eagle River).

Bullet holes from a 1934 gangster fight are a matter of pride at **Little Bohemia** in Manitowish Waters, a filming site for the 2009 "Public Enemies" movie starring Johnny Depp as John Dillinger. Although **Marty's Place North** in Arbor Vitae is closed for the season (visit it when it reopens in spring 2019) it too has rich history behind the property, which was once a farmhouse and resort. The round gazebo in the middle of the main dining room is the central focus. Allegedly, a benevolent ghost even hangs around the place still, according to restaurant lore.

Each supper club is one of a kind, right down to what decorates their walls and shelves. That might mean vintage family photos or kitsch from bygone eras. Many supper clubs began as simple roadhouses or taverns that happened to sell food. In fact, a shack behind **The Guide's Inn** in Boulder Junction stored moonshine in the 1920s.

Regardless of setting and history, chances are good the supper club owner will get to know loyal customers by name and find a way to make time for them—even when working the kitchen on a busy Saturday night. That personal touch fosters a sense of connection and community, which is a big part of what distinguishes the supper club from other types of restaurants—and no state embraces the concept more than Wisconsin. 🍷

The Midwest, environmental sustainability and regional food quirks are specialties for longtime Madison freelance writer and columnist Mary Bergin. "The Wisconsin Supper Club Cookbook" is her fifth book.



Cool Club

Located on Patricia Lake, **Norwood Pines Supper Club** serves up classic dishes amidst an atmosphere of knotty pine paneling with scenic lake views and surrounding red pine trees. The Minocqua gem has a formidable Lazy Susan of apps to kick off your meal, then move on to the North Atlantic cod Friday fish fry, an "Oscar" (your choice of veal, chicken, tenderloin or shrimp topped with asparagus, lump crab meat and drizzled with Hollandaise sauce) or other choice entrée. Don't forget the Old Fashioned!



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.

If timeless trends seems counterintuitive, there is a reason particular design elements continue to be reinvented. "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.

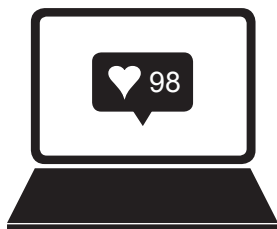
The Classic: Apron sink

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.

Prep Work

Houzz (iOS, Android; Free)

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; Free)

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; Free)

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; Free)

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; Free)

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; Free)

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; Free)

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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*The Seven Best
Ways to Enjoy*
**Fall Outdoors
in the
Northwoods**

Sure, sitting by the fire inside is great—but be sure to enjoy the area’s scenic views this season by trail or water, too.

By Kevin Revolinski

Fall is a gentler, slower time in the Northwoods. Vacationers are back home, and full-time residents and second homeowners have nestled in for the season. And, there’s no better time to be here to enjoy these great al fresco activities.

BIKING

Former railroad tracks turned to trails offer a low-grade and packed stone surface for easier riding through some very scenic terrain but without all the ups and downs. Wild Rivers State Trail stretches 104 miles from Rice Lake up to Superior. The 83-mile Mountain Bay State Trail connects Wausau to Green Bay. In Minocqua, rent a bike from Chequamegon Adventure Co. and pedal 18 miles south on the modest Bearskin State Trail to County K near Harshaw and you’ll cross 13 train trestles. Alternatively, find beginner-level single-track for mountain bikers at LAMBO Zip Trails or intermediate trails at Raven Trails, both in Minocqua.



HIKING

The North Country National Scenic Trail connects New York to North Dakota and Wisconsin currently has 132 miles of it completed through some of the wildest woodlands and lakes in the north, from where it enters from Michigan near Hurley to where it crosses into Minnesota near Superior. The segment through Copper Falls State Park offers waterfall views. Over 600 million years ago the Penokee Mountains, west of Hurley, rose higher than today’s Alps. Humbled to hills by geological time, the Penokees offer a hike along a forested ridge with rock outcrops and scenic overlooks. In Ironwood at Joe’s Pasty Shop, pack some traditional pasties for the trek. Bigger appetites may prefer a post-hike pizza at Liberty Bell Chalet in Hurley.

This page: ©Mike Tittel/Minocqua Area Chamber of Commerce



FISHING

The Northwoods have thousands of fishing holes in all sizes, from a Great Lake to spring-fed hidden gems only reachable by canoe. Vilas County alone has 1,300 lakes and is home to Boulder Junction, the Musky Capital of the World. Rent a boat complete with fish finder at Boulder Marine Center and explore 14 lakes just in the township. The 3,864-acre Trout Lake is the biggest and deepest, great for walleye, musky, and bass. In contrast, about 2,000 feet east lies much smaller Allequash Lake, totally undeveloped and full of crappie, bass, walleye and northern pike. But all the lakes have a little of everything—check in with local guide Bob Bertch to find those sweet spots.

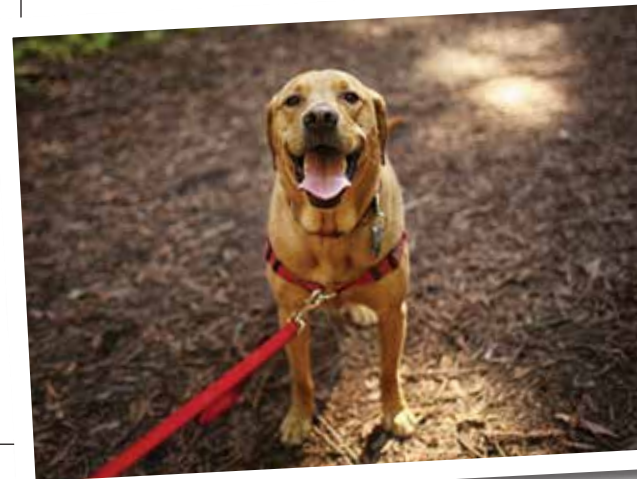


PADDLING

When colorful reflections abound (and eventually fade), it's time to hit the water one last time for the season. The Turtle-Flambeau Flowage is like a mini-Boundary Waters, offering 19,000 acres of pristine waters and 212 miles of shoreline to explore. Paddle-up rustic campsites—some of them on your own little island—are first-come, first served and free. Hawk's Nest Canoe Outfitters in Manitowish Waters can hook you up with kayaks or canoes here or on the upper Wisconsin River in the Eagle River area.

CAMPING

Pack your tent or load the camper for the best season for camping. If bigger and busier is your thing, state parks such as Copper Falls or Tommy Thompson State Forest provide electric and rustic sites with shower facilities and flush toilets as well as firewood vendors onsite. For the true backwoods experience, seek out one of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest campgrounds: rustic camping with pit toilets, a water pump, and only a picnic table and fire ring at each site. In campgrounds such as Chipmunk Rapids or Lost Lake, and several others just off Highway 70 west of Florence, you may be the only campers in a circle of a dozen sites.



FOR CANINE PALS

Most state parks, as well as the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, allow you to bring your dog along. The standard rule is to clean up after them and keep them on a leash of eight feet or less in recreational areas. Leashes are also recommended in remote areas where one might encounter wildlife. The municipal forest in Superior has a dedicated dog park and Wisconsin Point, a long sand bar jutting out into Lake Superior, has nearly three miles of pet-friendly beach. Heading east from there to Ashland, stop at White Winter Winery in Iron River with its dog-friendly front porch where you can enjoy some of their mead (honey wines). Dogs are welcome in Ashland at AmericInn, Bay Area Pet Spa & Resort, and Maslowski Beach, a shallow and warmer bit of Lake Superior on Chequamegon Bay, with a popular artesian well for filling water bottles (and doggie bowls). 🐾

Kevin Revolinski is a Wisconsin outdoors writer and author of FalconGuides' "Paddling Wisconsin," a guidebook to the best paddling throughout the Badger State.

A photograph of two dogs standing in shallow water, likely a lake or pond. The dog on the left is a reddish-brown, long-haired breed, possibly a Weimaraner, with its fur wet and matted. The dog on the right is a black and white speckled breed, possibly a Pointer, also with wet fur. Both dogs are looking towards the camera. The background shows thin tree trunks and some foliage, suggesting a wooded area near water.

Lake-Loving Dogs

There's an old adage: "In my next life, I want to be a dog." And these Northwoods canines prove that indeed, they all lead a dog-gone good life.

Photography by Shanna Wolf



Karma
Standard Poodle

Family: Molly Rose Teuke and Michael Murphy

Name Game: "She had it when we adopted her," explains Teuke. "And, she is good karma!"

Favorite Lake Place: Two Sisters Lake in Oneida County.

Canine Pastime: Chasing a ball.

Pet Peeve: Being told to pipe down when guests arrive. Teuke jokes: "What, I'm not supposed to alert the pack?!"

Favorite Food: Popcorn tossed through the air.

Fetching Fact: Karma can do the moonwalk backwards when a ball comes her way.



Renny
Standard Poodle

Family: Mary and Rob Brodhead

Name Game: They just liked the name, say the Brodheads.

Favorite Lake Place: Two Sisters Lake in Oneida County.

Canine Pastime: Boating in his MasterCraft (which he lets Rob drive).

Pet Peeve: Chirping from the smoke alarm when the battery is low.

Favorite Food: Steak from a Blink Bonnie doggie bag.

Fetching Fact: Renny once had a career as a therapy dog. "[He's] the sweetest dog on the face of the earth," says Rob.

Gichi Golden Retriever

Family: Krystal Westfahl and Tina Breister

Name Game: "We are water lovers in our family, especially the big lake—Lake Superior or *Gichi Gami*, as it's traditionally spelled," says Westfahl. That was the inspiration for naming their new puppy—especially after he dove right in the water!

Favorite Lake Place: The family spends most of its time at Clear Lake in the summer. They also canoe in the Boundary Waters canoe area in northern Minnesota and Gichi loves to tag along on rides.

Canine Pastime: Retrieve things—especially a ball or stick.

Favorite Food: Popcorn ... he gives a puppy dog look until his owners give in and throw some on the floor for him.

Pet Peeve: He hates it when his brother, Dobby, pulls on his tail when he's ready to fetch a stick or ball.

Dobby Mix of Great Pyrenees, Labrador Retriever, German Wirehaired Pointer and terrier

Family: Krystal Westfahl and Tina Breister

Name Game: "Dobby is the house elf in the Harry Potter series. As any Harry Potter aficionado knows, Dobby is released from his servitude by receiving a sock. Our Dobby had a very bad habit as a puppy of eating our socks!" says Westfahl.

Favorite Lake Place: Any lake that his family goes to. "Dobby wasn't a natural water dog. It took him some time to get used to the idea of the water ... [but] ... he has become quite an accomplished swimmer. I think he still would rather roam the shoreline hunting for frogs then taking a swim," says Westfahl.

Canine Pastime: Hunting for critters along the shoreline.

Favorite Food: Anything. "As a puppy, he was found abandoned and in that time developed quite the knack for finding food. He will eat anything including vegetables and anything you drop," says Westfahl.

Fetching Fact: Dobby is better at picking blueberries than his family. You have to be quick or all the bushes will be picked clean before you get to them!





The Art of Lake Life

**A Presque Isle
property becomes
a haven for a
couple to enjoy
life on the water,
filling it with
family heirlooms
and works of art.**

By Anne Morrissy
Photography by Shanna Wolf

The first time Gary and Barbara Plouff saw the land upon which their Northwoods dream home now sits in Presque Isle, they had to hike in on snowshoes.

“This area we’re in is called Frontier Lakes Preserve,” Gary explains. “It includes two lakes on a huge property—approximately 1,300 acres. One person owned all of this land, including the two lakes, and he sold it off to a developer about 25 years ago, who came in and cut in roads and divvied up parcels of land around both lakes.”

So about 23 years ago, the Plouffs, who were living in Pewaukee in southeastern Wisconsin at the time, came up to look at the land with an eye toward someday retiring to the area. They arrived after a spring snowstorm, an unforeseen variable that necessitated the snowshoes. But according to Barbara, it was “the beauty of the lot” that convinced them to buy.

“I grew up in northern Wisconsin. I remembered lakes where there were very few homes on the lake and it was so quiet with only the calls of the loons in the evening. We bought this lot because it reminded us of that time.”

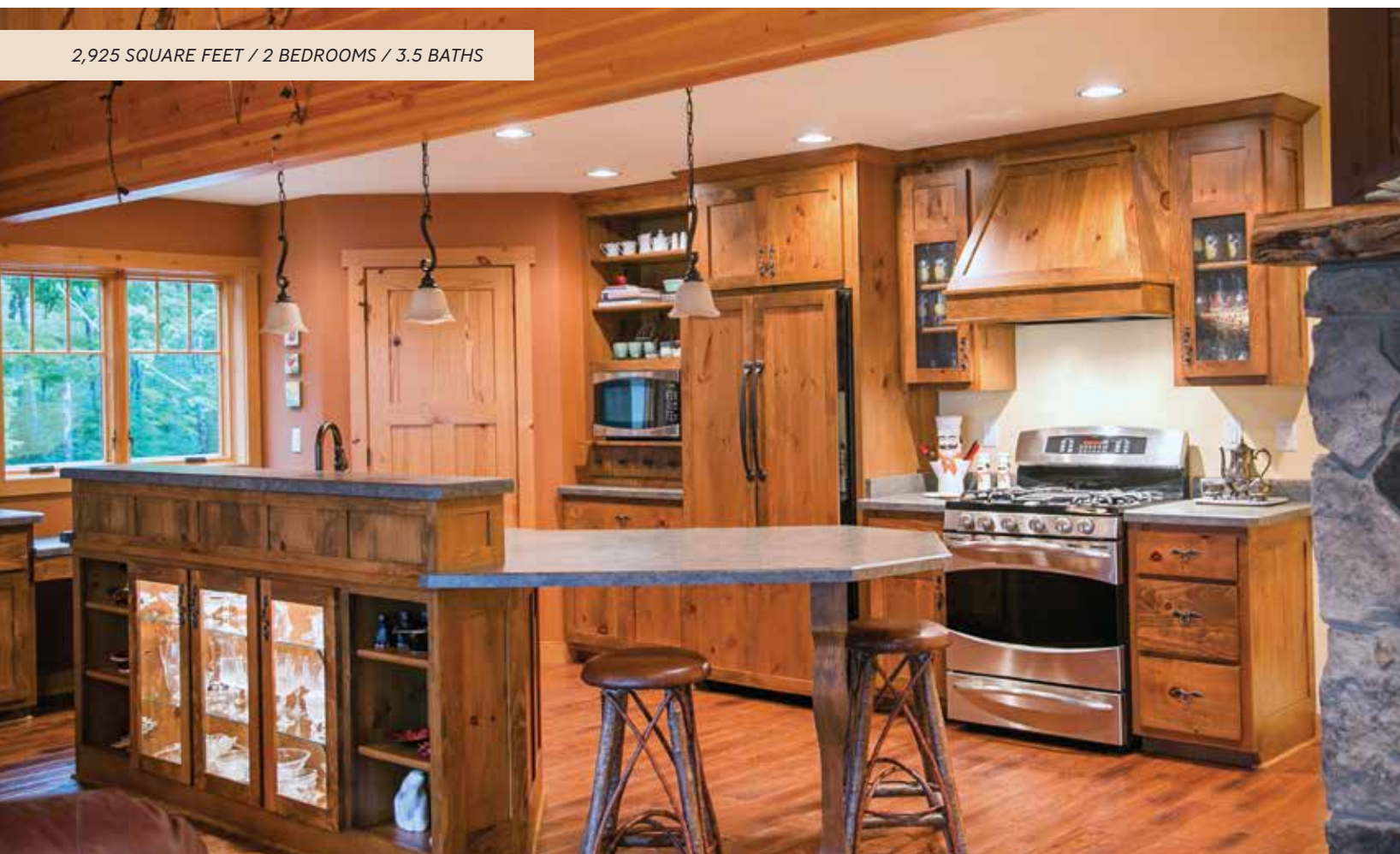
About seven years ago, they decided they were ready to make the full-time move, and began designing the perfect home for their land. Both Gary and Barbara, a retired commercial architect, were heavily involved in the process.

“I wanted to go back to my childhood and the older homes I knew then,” explains Barbara. “So it’s a simple house based on the Craftsman style.



The screened porch room, with its vaulted ceiling and cedar-wrapped walls, is one of the Plouffs' favorite rooms in the home.

2,925 SQUARE FEET / 2 BEDROOMS / 3.5 BATHS



Where I grew up, there were many older homes with different additions over the years, which led to different colored roofs. I wanted that feel of an older home for this one, even though it was new.”

They worked with Stoughton-based Shaw Building and Design, Inc. to flesh out their ideas. “Gary and Barbara had a real vision of what they wanted,” says Dawn Shaw, who co-founded the company with her husband Greg. “It’s great to see that—it makes our job easier.”

PERFECTING A PLAN

One of the most important elements for the Plouffs was to get the view just right. “How the house was going to sit on the property was a visual concept of Gary and Barbara’s,” Shaw explains. “It became obvious we were going to have to cut into the hill in order to achieve it, and also to make that driveway usable, particularly in the wintertime.”

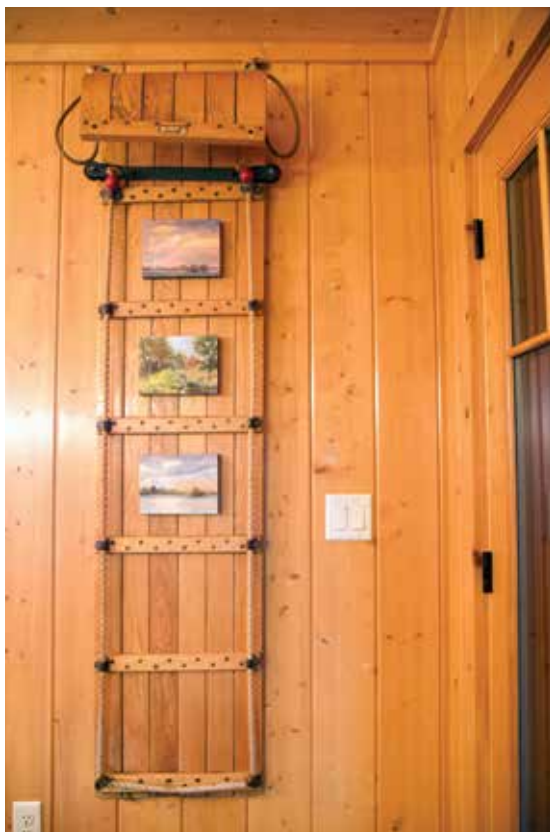
Barbara agrees. “The biggest challenge is that the house is built on a ridge,” she says. “That’s why there are so many levels to the house. We wanted to cut down fewer trees, and building into the ridge worked out really well.”

Though Barbara describes the house as “small in scale,” the inside of the home feels warm and spacious, thanks to the knotty pine paneling, hickory floors and exposed glulam beams. Both Gary and Barbara say the screened porch room is one of their favorites. “We wanted a real, true screened porch room. But the winters are long here, so I also made the living room look like a porch,” Barbara explains. A large stone Acucraft wood-burning fireplace is the anchor of the living room. “I usually make a fire every night in winter,” Gary says. “It’s just great when you’re sitting by the fire and you’re able to look out over the snow-covered lake and see the snow lightly falling and the fire crackling.”



(Top left) An antique table originally belonging to Barbara's great-grandmother and a hand-painted chair by artist/architect Paul Schultz (top right) give the screened porch a touch of history and whimsy. (Below right) Barbara had the antique mahogany grand piano refurbished in the living room. (Opposite, top) The ceiling and walls in the great room are finished in wide-plank knotty pine. In the kitchen the cabinets were custom-built by an Amish cabinetmaker. (Opposite, bottom) The stone Acucraft fireplace in the living room serves as one of several heat sources for the home.





Barbara says one of her favorite rooms in the house is her art studio, with its north-facing light.

“That room has its own exhaust fan and its own heated air supply,” she says, as well as “daylight fluorescent lights and a large area with two work stations.”

Barbara’s art, created over a lifetime, is displayed in many of the rooms of the house, alongside works by Wisconsin artists, many of whom Barbara and Gary have befriended over the years.

“Many of the things in the house are family heirlooms or things we created,” says Barbara.

The focus on artisan craftsmanship extends even to the roomy, state-of-the-art kitchen, where a five-burner GE self-cleaning convection range and a KitchenAid French door refrigerator hold court. “All our cabinets were made by an Amish cabinet maker from Schmucker Handcrafted Cabinetry in Loganville, Wisconsin, about an hour northwest of Madison,” Gary explains.

The overall effect of the home is time-worn and well-loved, despite the newness of the home, which is just how the Plouffs wanted it. Enjoying retirement, Gary and Barbara hope to stay in this spot for a long time.

“Already in the plans is a place where an elevator can go in if the stairs get to be too much someday,” explains Shaw. “If this is going to be a retirement home, it needs to be one you’re really going to be able to live in for the long-term.”



(Top left) Barbara hand-painted a mirror in the guest bathroom incorporating both painting and drawing in the style of artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh. (Top right) In the master bath, Barbara painted trilliums around the clawfoot tub because she's always enjoyed their presence in the Northwoods. A built-in bookcase makes creative use of a hallway beyond the kitchen (bottom left) and on the top floor, exposed glulam beams create a soaring sense of space (bottom right). Barbara's artwork is displayed on an easel in her art studio, where a portrait of her by the artist Verne Thieme also hangs (opposite top). An antique toboggan originally belonging to Gary's father has been repurposed to display Barbara's plein air paintings (opposite bottom).





After many years of planning, sketching and dreaming, the Plouffs are extremely pleased with the result. “This house is just what we wanted,” says Gary. “We love the great lake view. You’re sort of rooted in Northwoods history ... but also with all the modern conveniences as well.” 🐾

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.

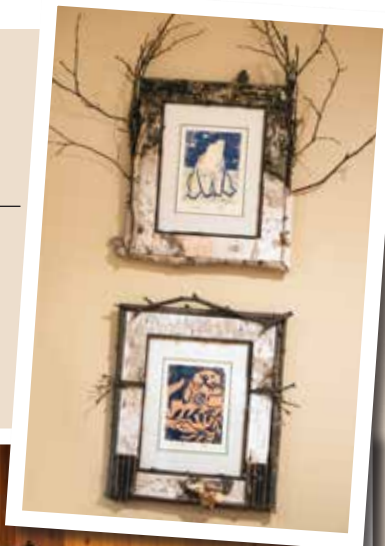
Creative Collections

To achieve Barbara and Gary’s personalized decorating style, try this mix:

Family Heirlooms Several of the items on display in the Plouffs’ home were handed down from previous generations, including a late 1930s/early 1940s Zenith radio that originally belonged to Gary’s grandfather, an antique painted table originally belonging to Barbara’s great-grandmother and vintage mukluks that belonged to Barbara’s mother during the 1950s, when she lived with Barbara’s father in Alaska. A collection of fishing lures originally belonging to Gary’s father and Barbara’s grandfather also has a prominent place.

Refurbished Antiques To complement and enhance their collection of family heirlooms, Gary and Barbara also collect and refurbish antiques, including the 100-year-old mahogany grand piano with ivory keys and the 1940s tablecloth on the antique table on the porch. Gary also refurbished a vintage toboggan that originally belonged to his father, hanging it vertically on a wall to serve as a creative display for artwork.

Original Artwork In addition to the significant amount of Barbara’s original artwork on display throughout the home, the Plouffs also collect works by local Wisconsin artists. An oil painting of onions by Ken Bronikowski hangs in the kitchen, and a work by photographer Robert J. Kuski of Green Bay is displayed above the tub in the master bath. The Plouffs purchased several pieces from Antler Creations Northwoods Gallery in Minocqua, including the hand-carved and painted wooden walleye in the living room, the custom handmade log-and-twig stools at the kitchen counter, the handmade log-and-birchbark desk chair in the kitchen, a custom-made lampshade and a hand-carved musky.





The view of the lake is one of the reasons the Plouffs were originally drawn to the lot. The snowshoes that Gary and Barbara used to hike to the land when they first saw it now have a place of honor on the wall of their home (*opposite page, top left*).



Making Memories



An eclectic Manitowish Waters A-frame welcomes family in to cherish each other's company and get off the grid.

By Shelby Deering | Photography by Shanna Wolf



The totem pole stands tall and proud in the backyard, overlooking the waters of Manitowish Lake. It might look as if it's just a nod to Northwoods traditions, but it's more than that. It's an important piece of family history—a symbol that's close to Keven Schmidt's heart.

Schmidt's life is woven with long, storied histories. He founded his Madison-based company Dream House Dream Kitchens, a full-service remodeling and design company, in 1986. He has three grown children, all of whom are involved in the business. And his second home in Manitowish Waters simply brims with rich, vibrant family memories.

"My parents had a totem pole at their cottage," Schmidt says. "For about 35 years, I had the family totem pole. It disintegrated because it got old. I had pictures of it, and I had the same exact pole made again six years ago. The plaque from the old one, which says 'Schmidt House,' is on it. I just hope my kids have it for a long time after me."

His parents' cottage was located in Manitowish Waters, which is how his love for the area started. After spending childhood weekends on the lake, Schmidt returned to build cottages and second homes for clients. That's when he spotted an A-frame home built in the 1960s.

He purchased it for the stunning views and 400 feet of shoreline plus additional frontage.

"I originally bought it to tear it down," he says. "But then I made the mistake of starting to work on it and I fell in love with it because it was small and old and it started turning out cool."

Schmidt has plenty of family in the area, including an uncle who visited the home soon after it was purchased.

Schmidt says, "Before I started working on it, my Uncle Bud walked in and said, 'Why would you tear this down? Anybody can build new.' It stuck in my mind, and that's when I started working on it. I thought, You know what? What could this be?"

It was built in 1963, designed by a Chicago architect for a family who went up north for the month of July. In the summers, they would play tennis on the court that still resides on the property. And in the winter, they'd make special trips from Chicago to hit the slopes—Schmidt discovered photos left behind in the cottage of the family downhill skiing together.



It's all about the details in this family cottage. The kitchen has been accented with maple cabinetry and granite countertops, while a nearby island, rendered in mahogany and maple, serves as the headquarters for cozy family meals. Cabin décor looks right at home in the cottage, like the *Roughing It In Style* furniture that sits in nearly every room.





When he began the renovations, Schmidt started with replacing the windows because they tended to leak. The interior was stripped and gutted to allow for new design elements.

“We were building another cottage, and we harvested some pine trees from the property,” Schmidt says. “We had a machine create the wall paneling, and that’s all the paneling on the inside.”

Schmidt adds that there was an original accent that was kept throughout the renovation process—the fireplace.

He says, “It’s a three-sided fireplace, and you can’t build those by code anymore. Even though we redid everything around the fireplace—new kitchen, new appliances, new electrical, new lighting fixtures—I said, ‘We’ve got to keep the fireplace.’”

Featuring stones that were pulled right from Manitowish Lake, the fireplace pairs flawlessly with the other visual aspects of the home. Schmidt designed the home alongside his late wife, Terri, a designer and partner at Dream House Dream Kitchens. She passed away in 2016, and Schmidt shares that she was “very, very talented.” Her keen eye for design and the memories she created there with her family continue to permeate this beautiful home.

When Schmidt and his family began vacationing at the home in 2006, they arrived with their treasures in tow. The décor represents “25 years of jumping in the Suburban and going to have a beer somewhere and looking at every antique store along the way,” Schmidt says.

There are hand-carved totem poles inside that echo the venerated totem pole that sits outside, a carpenter’s bench from the 1930s, old fire extinguishers turned into lamps and much more.

“Nothing’s expensive,” Schmidt says. “It’s pretty eclectic, but it’s fun.”

There’s also a fair share of family heirlooms on display, like the wagon wheel table that sits in the great room.

“That was actually built by my dad in the 1960s for his cottage,” Schmidt says.

It seems fitting that family memories are made in the midst of these heirlooms. Schmidt says that there’s only “one rule” at the cottage—“everybody has to show up for the week of the Fourth of July.” His children and their partners all come up north for some summer fun, and the family also tries to assemble for Labor Day and



Rest and relaxation are clear themes in the cottage. A reclaimed wood headboard, found at Roughing It In Style, sets the scene for a serene night's sleep. Natural materials were used in the powder room, like the stone bowl sink. Two plaid armchairs in the great room serve as the perfect perches for afternoon reading.





Memorial Day. Christmases are spent skiing and going from house to house among Manitowish Waters family members.

Schmidt truly relishes the home during the wintertime. Since the wood paneling was stained with a red hue, he says that when the fire's going, it casts shades of red and yellow onto the interior, which creates "an amazing glow." The family cooks chili together. And Schmidt often comes up on his own to design and soak up the peace and quiet.

"I don't have TV, and I don't have internet. I don't have a telephone other than my cell, so it's really all about the quietness," he says.

He equally enjoys the hustle and bustle of family in this home, designing it with visitors in mind.

Schmidt says, "The bedrooms and the bathrooms are key because everybody needs a bedroom and everybody needs a bathroom. We have three bedrooms and three bathrooms so that each bedroom has a bath. Every bedroom has a dresser and built-in suitcase stand. When somebody comes, they can hang their clothes up and put their suitcase into a spot. We set it up so that it goes click, click, click and

they're in. We've designed it so everyone can just come and go."

But there doesn't seem to be a lot of "going" in this cottage. In fact, the Schmidt family has a tradition that requires not moving at all, and they call it "holding court."

As they sit in a circle in the great room, the Schmidt family chats over cups of coffee and the roar of the fireplace, talking about ways they can make Dream House Dream Kitchens even better or reliving fond family experiences. At night, coffee changes to glasses of wine and even more stories are shared.

Schmidt purposely designed this home to not feel like a full-time home, saying, "My whole thing is that when you walk into the cottage, you know you're in a cottage. You're away from home. It doesn't feel like your house." Basking in the glow of the fire and family memories, the cottage indeed feels more like a special sanctuary than a vacation home. 🍷

Shelby Deering is a lifestyle writer from Madison, contributing to regional and national publications like Experience Wisconsin and Country Living.



The three-sided fireplace, original to the home, is the centerpiece of family chats that go long into the evening. The reproduction totem pole, which first stood in front of a cabin owned by Schmidt's parents, will be enjoyed by future generations to come. A small guest house, complete with a kitchenette and two bedrooms, sits alongside the tennis court, ready for summer memories.



Cozy Charm on the Water

A Fence Lake retreat becomes a full-time abode for a family of seven to spend lots of quality time collecting, crafting and creating together.

By Shelby Deering
Photography by Shanna Wolf



Warm family moments are shared in the great room, punctuated by red buffalo check chairs. Many of the family's favorite pieces were discovered at Kristin Lenz's favorite furniture store, *Roughing It In Style*. The unique twisted wood mantle (which came with the house) was created by artisan Matt Madsen—Lenz's kids fondly refer to it as "the breadstick."



On any given winter night, you'll find the Lenz family cozied up in their great room, circling around the fireplace to play checkers, piece together puzzles and tell stories. It's the perfect picture of what a cold, snowy night should look like in the Northwoods, and Kristin Lenz is grateful to spend these evenings with her husband, Brian, and their five children nestled in their Minocqua log cabin. She also shares her experiences and vintage décor finds on her popular blog, White Arrows Home.

Resting along the shore of Fence Lake, the Lenz family purchased the cabin in 2013, intending to use it as a vacation home. And although they loved their house in Fond du Lac, the family could no longer ignore the call of the lake and the woods, and eventually decided to make it their full-time home.

"We would come up with our kids about every other weekend throughout the whole year, and we would get sad because we didn't want to leave," Lenz says. "We said, 'You know what? You only live once, so let's go on an adventure.' We have loved every minute of this decision."

Lenz and her family are continually amazed and humbled by the natural beauty that encircles their cabin. A friendly fox ambles along the road that leads to their home, while eagles nest nearby.

Porcupines are found sitting on the front porch, and black bears are never far.

"I love being this close to nature. I honestly can't imagine not living surrounded by the forest anymore," Lenz says.

NORTHWOODS LOVE

The home was originally built in 2002, rendered in sturdy Montana pine logs and designed by Rocky Mountain Log Homes, a Montana design firm. The stunning property includes 300 feet of shoreline, dotted with neighboring white pine, birch and maple trees. When Lenz first walked into the home, she was spellbound.

"I still have that feeling every time I walk in the house, just in awe of the view. In the winter, it's like being inside of a snow globe," says Lenz.

Since then, the cabin has become the centerpiece of the Lenz family's warm and fuzzy moments. Every morning, a red radio is switched on in the kitchen and the sounds of country and polka fill the house. The family loves to savor big breakfasts together—pancakes, eggs, bacon, coffee cake. And at night, the kids are reluctant to go to bed, begging their dad to tell "just one more story," all while a pine scented candle burns in the background.



The cabin contains nooks and crannies filled with meaningful objects. There's the custom-made bar, constructed using antique architectural pieces. A boat, transformed into a shelf, holds vintage guidebooks and outdoor titles. One of her grandmother's teacups sits playfully alongside locally-made bourbon. And a powder room displays Lenz's cherished red cross-country skis.



These classic family scenes fittingly take place amid Lenz's Northwoods-inspired vintage décor, which she describes as "nostalgic camp style."

She shares, "Nature is one of my inspirations. I love being inspired by what's right outside our windows. I'm also inspired by old camps from the Adirondacks and by the history of the Northwoods."

Lenz adds, "Plaid has always been my favorite color," and it's prevalent throughout the cabin. The red buffalo check furniture takes center stage in the great room, pairing with Lenz's collections of plaid thermoses, picnic baskets and coolers.

She'll often venture outside to bring in decorative items—pine cones, birch branches—and she asks the kids to gather up natural treasures during their walks, too. Their finds are then proudly displayed in bowls and vases throughout the home.

Lenz's penchant for thrill-of-the-hunt activities is also witnessed through her vintage shopping excursions. It all started in high school, when she began collecting furniture pieces, like the ornate armoire that currently resides in the dining room.

She lists the items that she's continually "questing after," such as her beloved picnic baskets, plaid camp blankets "to have out by the fire," anything with Paul Bunyan and Smokey the Bear and things that are related to Wisconsin.

Lenz says, "I love Wisconsin—old Wisconsin maps, vintage Badger collectibles and pennants."



(Left, above) The cabin is a haven for Lenz's antique treasures, like the old record player in the sunroom—Johnny Cash and Ella Fitzgerald records are nearby and ready to be played. (Left, below) Her daughter's bedroom is Northwoods sweet in Pottery Barn linens and a red cross pillow discovered at the Duluth Junk Hunt. (This page) Her son's rustic bunkroom is the perfect place for sleepovers.





Kristin's Vintage Shopping Tips

"Start collections with pieces found for around \$15 or less. That way, every time you shop, you come home with a treasure!"



"Enjoy the hunt. Each time I'm about to walk through the door of an antique shop, I get an adrenaline rush and wonder what treasure will find me inside. I usually know right away if it's coming home with me or not. I've never had buyer's remorse."



"Find your tribe. I have a group of girlfriends that I love to go junking with. We keep our eyes out for things on each other's wish lists."

Voyaging far and wide to track down her antique finds (she loves to travel to vintage markets, like the Duluth Junk Hunt), she says that some of her favorite pieces were found very nearly in her own backyard.

"My favorite [vintage shop] of all is called Perennial Antiques, and it's just south of Minocqua in Harshaw," she says. "It has gorgeous lodge and camp décor."

She says that she has a "circle" that she does at least every other week to see what's new at her top vintage shops, like Ages Past Antiques, First Impressions and Gaslight Antiques, all located in Minocqua.

"I like to see what's new and what catches my eye. I always say that antiques and vintage pieces find me. I walk in, and I get that feeling of excitement. It must be what fishermen feel before they make a catch," Lenz says.

Although she displays many of her vintage items year-round, Lenz says that she changes out some of her décor with the seasons and "layers in" seasonally-appropriate objects. She especially delights in decorating her home for winter, aiming to make things look and feel snug and cozy.

"I think the way that you place furniture can make things cozy, like having a spot for people to be away from the group to read or take a nap and then also providing a spot where everyone can sit together and talk," she says. "I always put blankets over the ends of chairs. I bring in just enough throw pillows. And I love lamp light in the evenings. That makes things cozy as well."

Lenz's love for her home only grows in the winter, when the cabin becomes even more warm and welcoming.

She says, "I love gathering in our great room, and in the winter, our fireplace is going non-stop. It's when wonderful family memories are getting made." ❄️

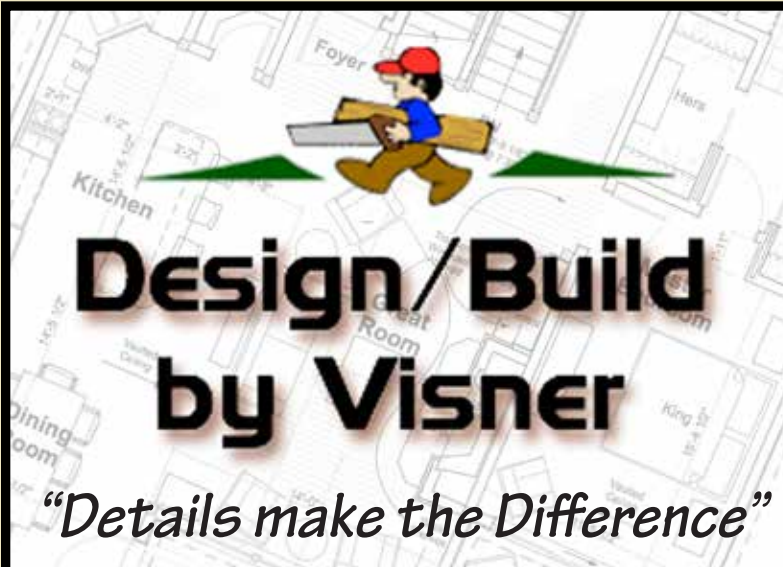


Lenz's family is all about the outdoors, and so are their pups, Honey and Scout, pictured alongside more Northwoods décor. "I usually have my front porch decorated," Lenz says. "I try to pay attention to the weather so I can bring things in when I need to."



BUDDY BONDING Taken sometime between 1949 and 1951, this image shows six campers (two not shown) on the shoreline in the town of Hazelhurst where Joy Camps was based. Joy Camps was a summer camp for girls that operated between 1930 and 1955, according to wpr.org. This image was originally in Joy Camps' official photo album, which described for parents the "ideal" summer camp experience that Joy Camps offered.

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