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from the editor



A Warm Hello

Welcome to our second issue of Lakeshore Living Northwoods! We had such a great response to our fall/winter 2018-19 inaugural edition—so thank you for all of the kind notes and phone calls we received about that issue. We're happy to know that so many of you appreciated the content and felt like it was a great reflection of the Northwoods community.

Now we're approaching the best seasons to be on the lakes here, when we can go on a crisp spring walk without a jacket on, take a lazy pontoon boat ride on a cloudless day or dip our toes in the water. Meals can be eaten out on the deck and nighttime fire pit hangouts can be enjoyed with family and friends. In this edition, we're bringing you more ways you can enjoy your Northwoods escape in and out of the water. Like Kristine Hansen's "Party Like the Pros" piece on page 14 full of expert advice for prepping for all of your summer soirées. And if you love room makeovers, you'll appreciate our brand-new Transformation feature on page 10, where we showcase a fabulous before-and-after project. Our first feature kicks off with a pair of Madison homeowners who turned a little-used breezeway into a beautiful three-season sunporch that added much-needed functionality to their

home. If you are itching to get out and about, check out The Great Outdoors feature on page 24 where writer Kevin Revolinski shares the 10 best-kept secrets to summer in the Northwoods. A floating "boatique" or the best place to watch the stars? Yes, please.

And if you want to tour more beautiful lakefront homes—we've got that covered, too. Check out a comfortable, family-focused Presque Isle Lake residence, an inviting Little Star Lake abode and our cover story, a Pelican Lake home that's charmingly decorated and filled with family memories.

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!

Shy Man_

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director @shaynamace

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Very Versatile

Layering neutrals through fabrics, paint and furniture creates an elegant and timeless feel to any room. Designer Shelley Johnstone Paschke of Shelley Johnstone Design, designed this incredibly chic and stylish dining room, shown above.

"Fabric-adorned walls, linen-printed drapery treatments and vintage Chippendalestyle rattan chairs add warmth and a more casual feel to the space. I chose these elements to create a timeless room that is inviting and beautiful," says Johnstone Paschke.

Personally, I like to design neutral spaces with pops of color through accessories that are anything but boring. The end result is an elegant room that will never go out of style. - Alexandra Wood, owner of Alexandra Wood Design (@alexandrawooddesign)

PATTERN PLAY

Small doses of punchy colors and bold prints add an unexpected layer when paired with classic neutral patterns.

- 1-Schumacher Brentwood Stripe in Neutral, fschumacher.com
- 2-Schumacher Lotus Garden in Jade, fschumacher.com
- 3-China Seas Java Grande in Tan on Tint, quadrillefabrics.com
- 4-Samuel & Sons Rhodes Épinglé Velvet Border in Raspberry, samuelandsons.com



design | inspired interior - SHOP THE I OOK -----



easygoing beige that works well with many undertones.

Revere Pewter, Benjamin Moore (HC-I72): This paint remains a top pick by designers because of its warmth and adaptability in a space.

Borrowed Light, Farrow & Ball (#235): Complement your neutral walls with a painted ceiling! Dubbed the perfect light blue, this color works well in rooms with natural light and is hands- down a favorite for interior ceilings.

design | transformation

Light and Bright

A couple turns a little-used breezeway in a 1940's Madison abode into a stunning, airy, three-season getaway. By Shayna Mace | Photos by John Urban/Sweeney Construction Corporation



HOMEOWNERS TODAY want whole-home functionality—not rooms that get little use or attention. Which is exactly what Madison homeowners Jt and Claude Covelli were seeking in their history-tinged home in the Orchard Ridge neighborhood. The home had a narrow screened-in breezeway that connected the farmhouse-style house to the garage, but the couple found they had little use for it because of its rectangular layout—and they could never use it during cooler months.

"There was no part you could be where people weren't coming through. There was a flat roof with a porch above it and we never used that. It became evident that we could have something that would suit our needs if we were going to stay here, so we started looking. We wanted something more usable than a screened porch," says Jt Covelli.

The couple landed on Sweeney Construction, and after sharing Houzz and Pinterest boards and going back and forth on designs with Linda Sweeney, vice president and architectural designer with Sweeney Construction, the team settled on an expanded, three-season space with vaulted ceiling, skylights and windows on three sides that overlook Jt's lovely gardens.



Before, the narrow, screened-in breezeway was rarely used besides walking to and from the garage. The flat roof had a porch on it as well. (*Top left and right*) Jt worked with designer Wendy Strang to select some of the furniture from The Home Market and Brown & Beam. The upholstered furnishings are from The Nest in Sun Prairie. They're slipcovered in durable yet stylish Sunbrella fabrics to withstand temperature swings and wear and tear. (*Bottom*) With the seamless exterior design, passersby can't even tell that the new room wasn't part of the original house design.











A front entrance makes it easy for guests to walk right into the sunporch (*top*). The garage's brick exterior was tied into the interior of the new room and eventually covered with a "German schmear" whitewash technique (*bottom*). "I wanted to blur the lines to feel like you're on a porch, but also right in the garden. It's really changed a lot of things in my mind about the way we live here, and it's fun," says Jt.

MAGIC MAKEOVER

Now the 300-square-foot space offers an entire extra room for the Covellis to read, hang out and eat dinner in, and for family to visit in. By expanding the room's footprint from the original II½-foot-by-II½-foot space to go over an existing deck, the new three-season room (or sunporch, as the couple also calls it) also seamlessly ties in the new structure with the existing home and garage with matching barn-red exterior and white trim.

"It all blends so seamlessly—keeping the integrity of the home was a key element in the design. [It's] like [the room has] been there since the home was built," says Jeff Dargas, who does sales and estimating for Sweeney Construction.

Double-hung windows and transoms by Marvin Windows convey an East Coast vibe, and creamy

white shiplap walls and whitewashed brick (covered with a "German schmear" technique) plus exposed white wood beams on the ceiling and illuminating skylights make the classically elegant room seem like it's always been here—even though it's only about two years old. The floor is wood-look porcelain tile with radiant heat underneath. The room also has baseboard heating so it's kept at a comfortable temperature year-round that's warm enough to use for three-quarters of the year.

Tucked in the original breezeway space is a rustic farmhouse dining table that the couple dines at frequently in warmer weather, and an oil-rubbed bronze Hubbardton Forge circular light fixture from Madison Lighting hangs above the table.

Special artwork hangs throughout the conservatory, like a painting by Jt's mother-in-law and a piece by Door County artist George Shipperley that infuses the space with hominess.

"This room is a game-changer for us—it's amazing," says Jt. "It has so much light—it makes us happy." €

the look | trending

Meet the Maker



Lovely Leather

Although Mindy Rohr's background is in elementary and special education, like many makers, her heart felt a calling to create. After becoming a stay-at-home mom a few years ago, Rohr started playing around with leather pieces to make earrings while her kids napped.

"I've always loved statement earrings and felt like I could walk out of the house if I have a great pair of earrings on," says Rohr, who lives in Wausau.

Rohr decided to try her hand at creating jewelry, so she took her leather pieces and started watching videos of other makers, reading articles and doing plain old trial and error to see what worked. She started making earrings for friends for gifts and by request.

In 2017, she founded **Adorned Accents** to create the earrings, necklaces and bracelets she loved to make. Rohr uses leather as her main material, as well as brass and polymer clay for accent pieces. Items have a minimalist, boho bent with earrings shaped like petals and leaves, dangly tassels and simple brass hoops with leather half-circle details.

"[My] aesthetic is an eclectic mix of pieces that vary from season to season with every piece going back to meeting our lightweight, effortless criteria. We gather inspiration from natural forms and shapes through experimenting with different jewelry findings to create pieces that range from relaxed classic to feminine boho to understated romantic," says Rohr.

Adorned Accents is sold on Etsy as well as local maker markets in the area (find her next at the Tansy Hill Barn Bazaar in Wausau on May I8). Rohr also started working with The Local in downtown Wausau (see right), which has been a great outlet for her work. Eventually, Rohr wants to expand



the business as well as incorporate charitable projects into her portfolio. Recently she created a custom leather bracelet with part of the proceeds going to a local family whose little girl had therapy needs.

"I love knowing that women can wear these pieces and feel unique and special wearing handmade jewelry," says Rohr. "I want them to walk away with a piece that they can quickly throw on and if that's [one of] the only things they got to do that day to get ready was throw on a pair of earrings—they can still feel beautiful."

etsy.com/shop/adornedaccents

Shoppist



A Curated Collection

The maker movement isn't going away anytime soon, and **The Local** owner Alison Magnuson is doing her part to make sure it's firmly represented in downtown Wausau, where her charming shop is located.

"It's always been a dream of mine to have a shop. I was a stay-at-home mom for a few years and when I was doing that, I [also] started making items and opened an Etsy shop. I realized we had a need for a shop [like what The Local would be] because there were so many people I started connecting with whose work wasn't being seen or heard of because they didn't have a local outlet," explains Magnuson.

Carrying about 50 Wisconsin makers and artists' work, Magnuson partners with each to carry bath and body items, jewelry, baby goods and home décor pieces. Magnuson says the majority of vendors have been with her from the beginning, and she keeps adding more. Some of the makers and artists also teach workshops at The Local, too.

"It's an amazing feeling that [many of these artists] trusted us even before the doors opened here and saw my vision," she says.

Baby items like onesies, bibs and hats by Crafts by Krysta are a hit, as are The Bath Tramp's natural body products like cold-processed soaps, body butters and bath bombs. Customers also love Wicked Good Vibes Wisconsin outdoorsthemed apparel.

The Local has become so popular Magnuson is opening a second location this May in Weston, about 20 minutes away, that will carry an expanded assortment of Midwest maker items.

"In the big picture, I'd like to have a few locations, because I just love being able to get the makers' stories out there," says Magnuson. "People say they get inspired when they come in here ... seeing these [makers] following their dreams and passions."

420 3rd St., Wausau, 715-298-0896, *thelocalwi.com*

— Calling All ______ Northwoods Homeowners!



Do you have a home in the Northwoods area on the water that you'd love to see in Lakeshore Living Northwoods? Or if you're a builder, designer or contractor that's worked on a Northwoods getaway, we're always looking for stunning homes to feature on the lakes.

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at home | gatherings



Warm weather equals more frequent parties and gatherings especially if you live on the lake with those scenic views. But if you want to spruce up your next soirée, who better to ask than the pros when planning your next party? After all, party planners and event organizers have likely endured—and recovered from—event snafus.

Start by taking care of yourself first. This is not the time to try out a Julia Child recipe or embark on home renovation or landscaping projects. David Caruso, owner of Dynamic Events by David Caruso in Milwaukee, encourages clients to focus on "simple, easy and delicious." "Don't plan for more than you can handle," he says. "No one's going to have fun at the party if the host isn't having fun. Use items in your current household inventory to spruce up your table settings." And don't forget to stock up on ice, garbage bags, napkins and cleaning agents for spills, he says.

Picking a theme helps streamline planning. This will make all subsequent decisions easier. If you opt for a Tiki party, you won't be swayed by farm-chic Americana decorations and can start on that tropical fruit platter.

Make as much food as possible ahead of time or recruit help. Got a shy person at the party with a knack for grilling? Designate him or her as grill master. Lean toward grab-and-go items with a chalkboard outlining the menu. These should either fit on a small plate or be portioned into small containers "that people can take off the food station and eat from," Caruso says. Along those lines, he likes to wrap cutlery sets in a

Big-Batch Drinks

Drinks you can make ahead of time and in largescale format save you from setting up a full bar or designating a bartender. Mallory Wedel, owner and lead designer of Elevate Events in Madison, likes Geoffrey Zakarian's rum punch recipe with basil and watermelon, which you can make ahead of time or in batches (see right page for recipe). In general, to determine how much alcohol you need, consider the time of day, says Wedel. An afternoon soirée might have alcohol as a secondary option, while an evening party will up the drinks consumed. By plugging in the guest count, types of drinks and the party duration, Evite's Drink Calculator tells you just how much alcohol to buy (evite.com/pages/ party/drink-calculator).

And you can't go wrong with Wisconsin craft beers. Wines in an ice bucket allow guests to help themselves. Studio Winery's tasting room in Lake Geneva lets you sample five wines for \$8—or the tasting is free with a two-bottle purchase. Lemonade is a perfect refreshing nonalcoholic alternative and can be amped up with fresh mint or basil leaves. Caruso likes to put edible flowers into ice-cube trays for a burst of color in drinks. napkin and tie with a bandana or ribbon, and prop in a galvanized bucket, so guests aren't digging around for a spoon.

Charlie Lorenzi, president of Celebration on Wells Catering in Lake Geneva, suggests doing most of your food shopping at the Thursday farmers' market (if you live in Lake Geneva, or, venture to your local farmers' market). You can even pick up fresh flowers to set out on tables. Making the shopping fun and more like an outing than a chore might coax you into relaxation, not stress.

When cleaning the interior of your home, says Mallory Wedel, owner and lead designer for Elevate Events in Madison, know that "folks will always congregate around the food and drink supply, so make sure you aren't setting those items out in a spot that could create a bottleneck."

Don't be shy about sticking to a budget for décor. Nobody has to know how much you spend and on what. Buying items that you'll only use for the party means either cluttering your home after or loading up the car for a Goodwill run. "You don't want to go out and buy a bunch of games and then have to store them in your garage and basement," says Caruso.

Dollar stores are your friend when you want to build out the theme through paper napkins and other accessories. Caruso also scores inexpensive but fun items at Michael's, Walmart and Target's Dollar Spot (near the store's entrance).

Most likely your party will be all ages. "I like having a few things

Rum Punch

Courtesy of Geoffrey Zakarian and the Food Network

Ingredients:

8 cups (64 oz.) white rum
4 cups (32 oz.) watermelon
purée (see below)
3 cups (24 oz.) orange juice
1 cup (8 oz.) lime juice

Watermelon purée

5 cups fresh watermelon, cubed
5 oz. orange-flavored cognac liqueur, such as Grand Marnier
15 fresh basil leaves, shredded
Muddle the watermelon, liqueur and basil in a glass

until you reach a thick and slightly chunky purée consistency.

Directions:

Mix and stir the rum, watermelon purée, orange juice and lime juice. Serve over ice in chilled cocktail glasses.



at yard parties that are interactive. Even things like croquet and beanbag toss," says Caruso, "are friendly for all ages and abilities." Siblings can pair up or a younger guest be matched with an older guest. Got a pool? The latest craze are inflatable flamingos and unicorns, which can net you some social-media traction if that's what you are angling for. Another game that's easy to create from scratch is DIY Lawn Twister.

"Give them something to talk about," advises Caruso. "Having another layer to your party gives it a certain entertainment value." "

Kristine Hansen lives in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood. Once, she hosted an outdoors party during a rainstorm—but everyone stayed under the tent and didn't leave, proof that it was a good party.

Good Eats

Your party should ideally serve a main dish, a side dish and dessert.

Lorenzi likes the convenience of crudités (sliced or whole raw vegetables with a vinaigrette or dipping sauce) as a side dish, based on whatever's in season. This satisfies vegan, vegetarian and health-minded diets. Other side dishes he says, are bruschetta (cut and toast baguette slices the day prior) using farmers' market tomatoes, or, deviled eggs or hard-boiled eggs with a side of radishes. "Get them really, really cold and put them out last," he says about the eggs.

"Spinach artichoke dip is a tried-and-true standby in our home," says Wedel, "and is a great way to give your guests some options (pair with veggies or pita chips). Plus, it works great in the slow cooker." Avoid appetizers that require lots of heating or cutting or put you in the kitchen for an extended period. "You also want to be sure that you plan your menu so that you're not waiting to put everything in the oven 15 minutes before guests arrive. Do your best to stagger cook times, or serve only a few warm options."

Mini-size brats from Wilson Farm Meats in Elkhorn go well with dilly beans, says Lorenzi. Another easy main dish he suggests is grilled tenderloin topped with dry mustard and served with horseradish cream sauce.



at home | *lifestyle*



Bringing the Indoors Outside

2019 backyard design trends encourage homeowners to make their outdoor oasis one with comfortable finishes, functionality and major style. By Deanna Kane With outdoor entertaining season on the horizon, shifting your home design aspirations to the exterior may be the energy shift you need to get through the last legs of winter. For entertaining aficionados, make 2019 the year you create an additional living area—al fresco.

From resort-worthy pools, to outdoor fireplaces, to backyard kitchens that will make your main kitchen jealous, it is truly possible to create an entertaining haven outside of your home's four walls. This summer, it's all about bringing the comforts of the indoors, outside.

STAYCATION HAVEN

With nearly limitless possibilities in pool design, skip the airfare and hotel hassles, because there is no reason to book a summer vacation—you can have a dreamy pool at your own place if you have the room.

"We build many custom pools," says Mike Murillo, sales director for Barrington Pools. According to Murillo, this level of custom design ranges from inpool sitting areas, to tanning spaces and infinity edges. If you still don't believe you can skip the summer vacation, Murillo says swim-up bars are trending features that give backyard pools an extra edge.



To elevate the basic to the exquisite, it's the details—functional and finishing—that make all the difference in a backyard pool.

"Using LED lighting in pools is energy efficient, as well as convenient," says Rene Huston, president of Patio Pleasures. "Large, in-pool LED lights can work with home automation systems. Turning

at home | *lifestyle*



on the lights can be as simple as asking Alexa to light up the pool."

For finish details, Murillo focuses on using Italian porcelain tile for the deck surface, and uses Pebble Tec interior finish as an alternative to plaster pool floors.

Additionally, to spend less time maintaining the pool and more time enjoying your guests, saltwater



pools are an alternative to chlorine, as they require less maintenance. "Many of the new pools being installed are saltwater versions," says Dawn Shaw, co-owner of Shaw Building & Design, Inc.

As the afternoon sun turns into cocktail hour, Murillo also sees fire bowls decorating outdoor pool areas. With this level of luxury combined with the comfort of home, a backyard staycation is calling your name.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Thoughtfully selected outdoor lighting can elevate the space and lend a warm, ambient feel to the area. Lighting provides additional dimension to the backyard, long after the sun goes down.

"We continue to see outdoorfriendly string lights with Edison bulbs, as well as soft lighting throughout the backyard to give the area an inviting feel," says Shaw.

Incorporating a soft warmth throughout the backyard brings a sense of comfort. "A light bulb that resembles a flame is a low-voltage landscape lighting alternative. Fire elements bring a sense of intrigue to the area, and since it is low-voltage, the lighting is inexpensive and relatively easy to install," says Huston.

HYGGE IN THE OUTDOORS

An outdoor fireplace can extend your time outdoors, whether it's spending cool summer evenings outside, or carrying your backyard season through the fall, courtesy of the fire's warmth. But, one negative of an outdoor fireplace can be the post-fire smoky smell that lingers on clothes and hair. According to Murillo, many people are turning to gas fireplaces instead of wood, to avoid that telltale fire smell.

Creating a Private Retreat

Even the most dedicated entertainer needs a retreat sometimes. There are unique ways to create additional privacy, such as deco panels made of Australian eucalyptus trees. "These can be used as privacy panels, in addition to other purposes such as a kitchen backdrop or to hide pool equipment," says Huston.

Private backyard refuges also come in the form of a separate structure, such as a garden shed, but not used solely to store equipment. Garden sheds are becoming more prevalent as a refuge to pursue leisurely activities, such as gardening, according to Huston. Fire tables can be a lower-maintenance alternative to a full fireplace, while still providing the warm ambience.

"Outdoor fire tables are a quick and convenient way to ignite a fire, especially if you are entertaining," says Huston. "The range of fireplaces [you can find] incorporates so many tastes and styles, from a shiplap farmhouse vibe, to cement."

OUTSIDE MEETS INSIDE

Summer in the Midwest is fleeting, so taking advantage of the limited window of outdoor living is a priority for many. Thanks to the ability to design a full-service kitchen outdoors, there's no need to give up indoor comforts.

"The backyard vision often starts with a pool and hot tub, and expands to include an outdoor kitchen," says Huston. "Wood pellet grill units are becoming more prevalent, as well as more standard amenities such as refrigerators and built-in seating."

"Anything indoors can be outdoors," says Murillo. "Backyard kitchens can be outfitted with dishwashers, warming drawers, kegerators, refrigerators and anything else you would include indoors."

As the kitchen is the heart of the home, the basis of an outdoor kitchen is no different. "It really comes down to how can people best entertain and maximize time with family and friends," says Huston.

Creating your outdoor oasis—whatever that may be—will be well worth it. There's something about the outdoors that makes you slow down, focus on face-to-face conversations and live in the moment.

"We live in a fast-paced world and creating an outdoor environment helps us come together and eliminate distractions," says Huston. "A well-designed backyard can create that endless weekend atmosphere. By including an outdoor kitchen, a fireplace and gathering family, friends, you can really create those connections. It's also a great way to naturally de-stress." 🏽

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



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at home | *the workbook*



Blending Form and Function for a Well-Designed Home

Make these easy tweaks to your home's interior for subtle, stylish results. By Deanna Kane

If your itch to spring clean extends to giving your living space a facelift, it can be easy to fall into a rut of selecting the functional features that meet your basic needs. While there are inevitable home items that are necessary to create a livable space, the options to elevate the aesthetics of these essential home features, such as lighting or storage, can take your space from builder-grade to custom. Including these practical features facilitates an overall more comfortable way of living; however, these unavoidable selections don't need to sacrifice style.

"Just because something is functional does not mean it can't be pretty," says Eileen McGee Wetzel, interior designer with Story Hill Renovations, LLC. "Minimal updates to your house can make a huge difference; there are small things you can do to every room to elevate the home."

INSPIRING ILLUMINATION

Upgrading light sources is one of the easiest way to make a visual impact. "We love making a bold statement in a foyer or over an island," says Wetzel.

However, it's the standard, functional light sources that can often be overlooked.

"A ceiling fan is an excellent cost-effective option for homes with minimal air flow. They do not have to be basic; updating a ceiling fan can create a bold statement and dress up a functional eyesore," says Wetzel.

Another area to upgrade is highly functional recessed lighting. "Installing wood clouds on the ceiling instead of can lighting adds a fun architectural element, and also lowers the ceiling to make the room feel cozy," says Jerry

Schmidt, sales director with Dream House Dream Kitchens.

Light switch covers are another functional feature that can be easily overlooked.

"We should kiss goodbye the toggle light switches and dial dimmers. With the resurgence of vintage fixtures, we are seeing more decorative plate covers and even bringing back push-button switches," says Wetzel. "These are great if you want to bring a little vivacity to utilitarian fixtures."

"To fully blend the outlets and switches into the home's design, I would recommend going to a company such as Legrand, and swapping out those old plates and switches for a modern take," says Wetzel.



(*Top left*) A built-in buffet with glass-door top cabinets can lend smart storage to a dining room, butler's pantry or pass-through. (*Top right*) A stylized wall register is a step up from ordinary. (*Bottom right*) Cabinets that extend up to the ceiling give the illusion of more height. A pasta filler above the range makes cooking easier. (*Below*) A well-organized mudroom makes life easier for everyone with cubbies for each family member, a bench for changing shoes and bonus storage up top.

ARTFUL AIR SUPPLY

Upgrading basic house necessities can be what separates a cookie-cutter model house from a custom-designed home.

"Upgrading standard heat registers and air vents to a version in a honeycomb pattern or bright brass is inexpensive and takes your home from generic to branded without a high price tag," says Wetzel.

"We are not seeing our clients settle for typical metal grates on floor and wall registers," says Scott Lowell of Lowell Construction. "They are choosing designer grates made of cast iron by companies such as Reggio Register. The grates can be left as natural cast iron, brass or aluminum, or painted to match the walls."

This level of customization even extends to marble flooring. Air vents can be fabricated in marble to blend in seamlessly with bathroom floors, according to Lowell.

SMART STORAGE

Storage is the number one request when remodeling a home, according to Wetzel. She suggests easy ways to incorporate storage features throughout the home, such as fabric boxes or storage ottomans to hide clutter. Another option is to replace standard-issue plastic laundry baskets with decorative fabric bins. They are less of an eyesore when they inevitably end up left out in the open.

Bathroom drawers are notorious for becoming a graveyard of tangled cords and appliances. Upgrading one of these drawers to a grooming drawer can alleviate the mess caused by accumulated appliances, as well as countertop clutter. According to Schmidt, grooming drawers



house canisters for hair dryers and curling irons, and also include in-drawer outlets and metal inserts to put the appliance back when it is still warm.

"These drawers really help with heat and cords," says Schmidt.

BONUS FEATURES

Intelligent add-ons like a pot filler installed behind the range top allows for easily filling large pots, according to Schmidt.

This feature can make preparing meals infinitely easier, minimize mess in the prep space, reduce the strain of carrying heavy pots and cut back on clean-up time.

Instead of letting phones, tablets and laptops accumulate on the kitchen island, charging cabinets are a highly practical feature to incorporate in a home's desktop space. "Charging cabinets in the drop zone can be customized for every family member; everyone can have their own slot to charge their individual device in one central location," says Schmidt.

"From a designer's point of view, these elements are eye candy. They are little pieces of good design in unexpected pieces that will inevitably make you smile and feel more at home," says Wetzel. "

at home | *technology*



What to Seek **(and Skip)** in Smart Home Technology

The latest in what's new, what's outdated and what to forgo.

By Deanna Kane

It's likely at least one aspect of your home is automated—a convenience that makes the chaos of daily life a little easier. But unless you are fully immersed in the world of technology, automating an entire home can be overwhelming. As home automation becomes the norm, home design professionals are becoming as well-versed in home technology as they are in scale, finish selections and HVAC.

"As professionals, it's our responsibility to educate clients on what is available, because many clients won't know what to ask for. It's up to us to show them what is possible," says Eileen McGee Wetzel, interior designer with Story Hill Renovations, LLC.

Whether à la carte home automation is your preference or you're ready to take the full plunge, there is smart home technology available for every level of tech enthusiast.

SECURE ENTRY

After several days with a video doorbell, such as Ring, you'll wonder how you survived without it. This device allows you to monitor all front-door activity on your phone. If you are unavailable to answer the door, you can talk to the individual who rang the bell via the app. This is especially convenient if you are not home, and do not want that person to know.

"Video doorbells are an easy way to see who is coming and going. As a bonus, the Ring Video Doorbell lets neighbors share video clips with other Ring members, acting as a neighborhood watch system," says Rene Mirabal, director of special projects with Fearing's Audio Video Security.

Whether you own a rental property, a family vacation home or a primary residence, keyless entry hardware can reduce misplaced keys, forgetting to lock the door or the risk of someone having a key who shouldn't.

Keyless entry is also available for the deadbolt, such as the Schlage Connect Smart Deadbolt.

Home Tech Safety Tips

Just because home automation is becoming the norm, that doesn't mean it's immune from security issues. "Smart technology is vulnerable; the majority of internetconnected smart devices have security vulnerabilities," says Wetzel. Her tips to stay secure include:

- Look for devices that require usernames and passwords.
- Once the system is installed, the first step is to protect yourself. Set a strong password, change the password regularly, use a secure router, create a separate network for your system and hide that network.
- Update the firmware on the router and software on a regular basis.

"While home automation is our inevitable future, I strongly recommend caution and research before jumping in. Designers and consumers need to educate themselves on the products and the risks involved," says Wetzel. "Be aware of how the provider collects and stores data, and how you can be affected by a DDoS attack or a power outage."

STAYING CURRENT

With a constant influx of new technology, it can be easy to get caught up in the latest piece of flashy equipment. While it is inevitable the product will need to be updated eventually, it is most important to stay current on its security.

"It's not a matter of updating the product, such as the light switch or thermostat, it's about updating the firmware to make sure you are secure," says Wetzel.

Home security and safety systems are particularly important to check and update regularly.

"Wireless sensors for doors, motion detectors and smoke alarms have batteries that must be changed regularly. These are often unique types of batteries that are not easily available. It's also important to do regular software updates on smart home devices, as these updates often include security and performance enhancements," says Mirabal. As you leave the house in the morning, simply lock the door with your voice on the way out.

"Remote smart home access is endless, provided you have internet available," says Dawn Shaw, co-owner of Shaw Building & Design, Inc.

Outdoor lighting is a function that not only offers aesthetic elements, but safety as well.

"Smart lighting is becoming more common on new homes. Wi-Fi enabled light dimmers and switches are easy to install and offer many benefits," says Mirabal. "For example, you can program your porch lights to turn on automatically at sunset and turn off at sunrise," says Mirabal.

HOME COMFORTS

"In the remodeling business, we have many requests for smart thermostats like Nest or ecobee," says Wetzel.

A smart thermostat, such as the Nest Learning Thermostat, turns itself down when you are away, and learns your temperature preferences to build a schedule around your lifestyle. A newer add-on to the Nest thermostat family is the Nest Temperature Sensor, which works with the thermostat to control the temperature by room. For example, if you need it warmer in the nursery and cooler in the living room, the temperature sensor will adjust accordingly.

Lighting is another area that can be automated. The ecobee Switch knows when you're home, thanks to motion sensors. If you leave the house in a hurry, it will turn off the lights after you. The Switch can also create the illusion you're home, by randomizing the lights when you are away.

"Wi-Fi-enabled smart lighting can auto-dim when the movie starts, or can turn lights on randomly when you're on vacation," says Mirabal.

So where is it best to lag behind on home technology trends? Televisions. "We often see clients wanting to purchase the newest TV that just came out. Technology changes rapidly, so we recommend buying a new TV when you are ready for a newer technology, such as upgrading from an LED to an OLED display," says Mirabal. 🏽



the great outdoors



By Kevin Revolinski

Shop On the Water

Sisters, founders and co-captains Larenda Casey and Eleasha Bailey have sailed the Wisconsin pontoon tradition in a different direction: a floating boutique called **Dock 'N Shop**. Find them mooring in various places on the Chain O Lakes in Manitowish Waters. The "boatique" sells beachy and Northwoods-themed apparel like hoodies, sundresses and accessories for women, men and children.

A Fish Fry With a View

Tuck in with some Shepherd's Pie or a Friday night fish fry at the **Dublin Sports Bar & Grill**, an Irishthemed bar and grill on North Twin Lake in Conover. An expansive outdoor dining deck overlooks the water. In summer listen to live music under the pines or pull up in your boat to watch a movie on the bar's giant outdoor screen.



DO FEED THE ANIMALS

Nature fans will love **Wildwood Wildlife Park** in Minocqua. The petting zoo offers contact with some of the stars of Wisconsin's forests—woodchucks, skunks, opossums—as well as creatures a bit more exotic—kangaroos, giraffes and leopards. You can also help serve lunch to some of the residents. This may be the only place where it is advisable to feed a bear.

Big Bay State Park

COUNT THE STARS

Up North is ideal for stargazing thanks to the absence of big cities and ambient light. Madeline Island's **Big Bay State Park** faces northeast out over the waters of Lake Superior, with the closest city lights behind it 19 miles to the south in Ashland. The sky can be as clear as the waters, and this is a sure bet for seeing the Milky Way like it was just beyond your fingertips. The park also offers camping and some paddling opportunities. Bring your camera tripod for some star photos.

🖉 Paddle, Camp, Fish

It's a three-for-one on the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters

Area. Ninety-five percent of the land around these designated Scenic Waters on the Tomahawk River is undeveloped. Paddle around the IO6 islands and along 73 miles of shoreline where eagles compete with anglers for the daily catch. The lake is well stocked with walleye, northern pike, muskellunge, and large and smallmouth bass. Camping is free at 37 first-come, first-served rustic sites. *



SEE THE PYRAMIDS

Waterskiing is a Wisconsin pasttime but the professionals take it to another level—often with a pyramid! Since 1950 the **Min-Aqua Bats** have entertained on Lake Minocqua. Stop in at The Aqua Bowl for free shows on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evenings throughout summer. Alternatively, the **Plum Ski-ters Water Ski Show** is on Wednesday and Saturday nights off State House Point Road on the north shore of Plum Lake in Sayner.



Travel Back in Time

Visit Rhinelander for seven historical sites in one destination. Once a center for the timber industry, it's no surprise that the home of mythical Hodag features a replica of a logging camp. Also see a fire museum, boating and outboard motor museum, a restored Soo Line train depot, an antique sawmill and schoolhouse, and a Civilian Conservation Corps barracks. This entire **Pioneer Park** Historical Complex is located along Oneida Avenue.

Hit the Trails

Two National Scenic Trails—the **Ice Age Trail** and **North Country Trail**—pass through northern Wisconsin, and hiking abounds in protected lands. For a waterfall and a scenic overlook, check out Morgan Falls and St. Peter's Dome, just south of Ashland in the Chequamegon National Forest. The former is a 70-foot chute of water tumbling into a gorge; the latter is an exposed rock outcrop high above the forest with a view that reaches to Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands. One trail connects the two and round-trip it's 3.8 miles.





RIDE THE WHITEWATER Get your adrenaline rushing like the water itself. Forming part of the border between Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the Menominee River offers some of the best whitewater rapids in the Midwest. Piers Gorge, the star of the show, kicks up Class IV or greater rapids. Wildman Adventure Resort runs guided rafting trips that accommodate eight to IO people, or you can sign on for the three- to four-person Wild Ride rafts.

Cool Beaches

Lake Superior beaches are beautiful but the water can be chilly. The sheltered Chequamegon Bay, however, is often an exception. **Maslowski Beach** in Ashland offers a shallow, sandy swimming area with a playground and changing rooms. Bring your bike and ride along the **Waterfront Trail** which passes the beach and continues along Lake Superior's shore. Maslowski Beach is also a popular stop for thirsty travelers: an artesian well in a small kiosk releases a steady stream to fill your water bottles.

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



FORGING A FORGUNG A FORGUN

After scouting the perfect property, a couple builds a family lake home escape chock-full of thoughtful details.

By Anne Morrissy | Photography by Shanna Wolf

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(Above) Bruce Gabrielse returned from a hunting trip to Idaho with the imposing elk trophy, which then served as the inspiration for the design of the fireplace. (Bottom right) When extended, the dining room table can seat up to 14 people. (Bottom left) Barb and Bruce Gabrielse in their dream home. (Opposite page) The kitchen cabinets are custom-made from knotty alder, designed to complement the warmth of the copper hood over the range.



100





Bruce and Barb Gabrielse stood outside on a frigid winter day several years ago scanning the surrounding forest with Ken Schels, a wood artist from Eagle River—they were trying to spot the perfect tree. At the time, Bruce and his wife Barb were in the process of building their dream log home on Little Star Lake in nearby Manitowish Waters, and they had a vision for the home's interior, one that included the artful transformation of a tree trunk into an interior element in their entryway.

The impressive wood art column that resulted from that cold day in the woods is just one of many, many details that personalize the Gabrielses'

home today. Since the start of the project, the Gabrielses relied on a very clear vision they shared for their future home. They spent years conducting extensive research, often working directly with suppliers, tradesman and artists and going through many rounds of planning with their architect and builder before breaking ground.

The couple had initially begun vacationing in Hayward when their four children were very young, visiting from their home in Fitchburg, in the Madison area. In 2003, they purchased their first home in the area on Little Star Lake, choosing a small cabin that perfectly suited the needs of





The home's great room and entryway feature many custom details, including a massive full-depth stone fireplace, a full-log column (made from a tree Barb selected personally) and 4-by-10-inch hand-scraped logs for the interior walls. (*Top and above left*) The screened porch boasts a fireplace and is the site of many meals in warm months. (*Above right*) In colder months, the sauna is a popular room.

their young family. As their children got older and thought about starting their own families, however, the Gabrielses began to dream of a larger log-style home that would accommodate more people.

So in 2012, they purchased a lot with 240 feet of lakefront footage on Little Star Lake with the intention of breaking ground on their dream home in 2015. This generous timeframe gave them three years to research, dream, plan and analyze. For the Gabrielses, this extended timeline helped to accommodate their unusually thoughtful and deliberate methods. Using their extensive research to come up with a list of must-haves, their next step was to contact Jim Meier Builders. Meier introduced them to Sheri Jensen of Designs By Nature, a log home architect in Minocqua, and together they all worked to draw up plans for the Gabrielses' dream home.

The design that Jensen and Meier helped them finalize had everything the Gabrielses were looking for and more. "We had been desiring to build a home because our family was growing," Barb explains. "So in the design of the house, we have large open spaces, yet the bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms because we wanted to create privacy for our adult children. We designed it with a lot of open gathering spaces for us, family dinners are a priority, and the whole family enjoys cooking. But we also wanted private spaces where the kids can go into their own rooms. That's especially important when you have 10 or 12 people here at once."



The design they settled on contains 6,800 square feet, including six bedrooms and five-and-a-half baths, a screened-in porch, a large deck, a sauna, an outdoor kitchen and patio, and four fireplaces, including one massive floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace in the main living room, among



(*Top left and right*) The home's five guest bedrooms each adopt a different theme; the bunk room and the ski room are pictured. (*Above*) The home's master bedroom features a fireplace with a heart-shaped stone.



many other amenities. Inside, the walls in the main living area are 4-by-10-inch hand-scraped logs and the floors are hand-scraped hardwoods. The custom kitchen features all Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances and custom knotty alder cabinetry.

On the exterior of the home, the 5-by-10-inch logs and natural stone facing lend a sense of timelessness to the design. When planning out the site, the Gabrielses particularly wanted to preserve the wooded nature of the lot, so they worked with Jensen and Meier to position the home on the property in such a way as to maximize the light and the views while minimizing the removal of trees. "When we staked the house on the property, we were very deliberate, and we took our time to make sure we were getting it right," explains Bruce. "We were very careful where we placed the house." They were just as thoughtful about the landscaping and outdoor living space, opting for Pennsylvania Blue Stone pathways to the boat dock and the swimming pier, as well as a fire pit overlooking a wooded view of the lake.

Today, the Gabrielses' patience and thoughtful approach have resulted in the perfect home for their needs—they now enjoy their dream home with kids, their spouses and two grandchildren (with another on the way). One aspect of the project they didn't expect was the friendships they have forged with the many people who helped them to build the home. "We really have created lifelong relationships," Barb says. "Our home was the result of great creativity, hard work and many dreams fulfilled."





Loving the Log Cabin Look Thinking of building your own dream log home?

Thinking of building your own dream log home? Barb and Bruce Gabrielse share some of their favorite research sources:

Media, websites and apps: Barb says she particularly relied on the Pinterest app and the Houzz website for ideas and inspiration, as well as log home magazines (like Lakeshore Living!).

Direct to the source: Many suppliers and distributors like Kohler, Sub-Zero/Wolf and Madison Lighting welcome clients to experience the products first-hand at their showrooms around the Midwest. The Gabrielses preferred to see the products in use whenever possible.

Local artists/craftsman/designers: The Gabrielses chose to work with local, family-owned businesses like Kwaterski Brothers Wood Products, Inc., Hensen Cabinetry, CB Masonry, Ederland Landscaping and HomeXpressions Furniture, Design & Décor, and drew inspiration from portfolios of previous work. ♥

Designing the Dream

After building Northwoods homes for clients, a pair of builders decide to construct their own off-duty house on Presque Isle Lake.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf





When you've built hundreds of custom homes, you dream about features you want to incorporate in your own vacation home, too. Such was the case for Dawn and Greg Shaw, who own Stoughtonbased Shaw Building and Design. The couple had been visiting friends in the area for about 11 years, and in 2014 they decided to pull the trigger and build their own second home. Fittingly, the abode is also a great meeting spot for clients interested in building their own Northwoods properties.

"The home is built on the top of a slope, and we knew we wanted a walk-out basement. The five acres give quite a bit of privacy, and it's a smaller lake, so there's a lot less traffic and use of the lake," says Greg.

In fact, Presque Isle Lake only has nine homes on it-the closest

neighbor is about a lot and a half away—so it's truly a private getaway.

"We weren't looking for a specific look, but a lifestyle," says Dawn. "[We wanted] a place to gather with and entertain family and friends in a relaxing and cozy space."

FOR THE FAMILY

Being that the couple are builders, they were quite strategic in not only how they concepted and designed the home from the floorplan to the materials used, but also in the home's inviting feel. For them, the home is a reflection—literally—of their work and family life, so it was vital that their happy house had a heart.

"It was important to use all of our living space on the first floor so


(*Opposite page*) The home was sided in LP SmartSide, which is a durable product. "We wanted to have the exterior as maintenancefree as possible," says Greg. "For us and the clients we work with, they're coming up here to have fun and the last thing any of us want to think about is painting our house! So we wanted to avoid that exterior maintenance if possible." The home's cedar shake (which is less hardy) are protected by the home's overhangs.







that if we choose to retire here, everything we need is on the first floor—that was important to us in the layout," says Dawn. "For the look, we wanted a home that was somewhat rustic, and we wanted the exterior to be as maintenance-free as possible. We incorporated some stone and cedar shakes in the exterior, with the remainder of the exterior being maintenance-free."

On the main floor is the great room with cathedral, 18-foot ceilings, adjoining kitchen, master bedroom and bathroom, and a powder room. By design, this area can accommodate the couple's large family with ease—a recent gathering saw the home hosting 13 adults, a grandchild and six dogs.

The home has a nice balance of natural woods throughout the entire great room's walls and ceiling, and touches of drywall on some of the walls. The mix of materials imparts a bit of a modern feel versus an older, cedar cabin feel. "[This is] the best of both worlds," says Dawn.

A smattering of wood species such as pines and cherry are used in the home's ceilings, and hickory flooring is throughout. A few walls and a door also use reclaimed barn wood. The kitchen features handmade wormhole cherry cabinets, which gives them a rustic finesse. The Amish-crafted cabinets were finished with a black spray around the edges to give them a unique look.





The couple chose to pepper in some glass-front cabinets inlaid with seeded glass, which lends a vintage feel. Lights on the top and bottom of the cabinets illuminate what a custom kitchen feels like, adding happy mood lighting for family gatherings and food preparation.

Dawn also chose a light stacked-stone backsplash, leathered granite countertops and a polished granite island top from Nonn's Kitchen Bath & Flooring in Madison. The distressed black island base punctuates the room for a splash of modernity. On display on top of the cabinets is art the couple has collected from their world travels, which reinforces their personal touches in the space.

The couple's art is also sprinkled throughout the entire main floor—including a copper dish above the fireplace by a Minnesota artist and two small Scottish Highland cows on either side of the fireplace.

Adjacent to the kitchen is a traditional dining table with Mission-style chairs and a cool Persianinspired rug from Madison-based Sergenian's Floor Coverings. The rug is a nice counterpoint of bohemian style mixed with warm, classic furniture. The round, wrought-iron light fixtures above the dining room table are from Madison Lighting—and the shape is one Dawn chose to employ throughout the home.

"The wagon wheel over the fireplace in the sunroom gave me the theme of round, so I used that round shape in a lot of light fixtures throughout the house," she says.

That welcoming feel extends to the sunroom, the couple's favorite room in the house. It has an



(Opposite page, top) Comfortable leather furnishings let the Shaws sit and relax while socializing with friends or watching the fire. To the right of the sectional, a barn door leads into a jack-and-jill bathroom. (*This page*) The master suite is a respite for the couple, with a balcony leading out from the bedroom onto the large deck. The cable railings allow maximum views of the water. The warm master bathroom outfitted with custom Amish cabinetry has a generous soaking tub for chill-out sessions.

indoor/outdoor look to it with tiled floor, cozy furnishings and fireplace. The large wagon wheel above the fireplace Dawn refers to was a find from a shop in Boulder Junction. The family frequently hangs in this room to catch lake views or play games and cards. It's the perfect space for the Shaw's kids, their spouses and their kids' friends to connect in—who also use the home frequently, too.

"Our kids love it up here—they feel comfortable," says Dawn. "Their friends come, and it's quiet and secluded and they can do family stuff. In fact, the only time the TV is on up here is when there's a Badger game on!"

When the weather's great, the screened-in porch is another ideal hangout spot with rattan-look furniture, a barn wood accent wall and a colorful woven hammock hanging against the reclaimed barn wood accent wall was picked up by the couple in Colombia while visiting their daughter.

Where to Go

When the couple was constructing their home, they spent quite a bit of time eating out and exploring the area. Dawn shares some of their favorite haunts in the Boulder Junction area.

- **» Gooch's A-One Bar & Grill:** "It's the closest establishment from our house to eat at. They have lovely owners and food, and the owners have become great friends of ours."
- **»** The Ice Shanty Drive-In: "[We go there] all summer long their ice cream is amazing, and we know that owner well."
- » Aqualand Ale House: "This is a bistro in town and it's one of our go-tos for meals and to meet friends."





A large deck outside the screened-in porch extends the entire length of the home, and the deck railings are outfitted with steel cable to maintain an unobstructed lake view.

The Shaws are happy with the look of the home, but most importantly, they appreciate the design of it.

"To me, it's all about a well-designed home," says Dawn. "It also needs to be cozy, warm, inviting and usable. And trust me, we use all of this home!"

That comfort is what brings the couple back here almost every other weekend, on holidays, and longer, 10-day stretches about four times a year.

"It doesn't matter what time of year it is here," says Greg. "I love the winter, the summer and the fall. It's just gorgeous up here any time of year." 📽









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CP55*

A Pelican Lake getaway offers a respite for a busy family to have plenty of gatherings and spend quality time together.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf





These days, a lake home is so much more than just an escape over the summer. For many Northwoods part-time residents, their vacation homes are becoming a year-round destination—hikes in the fall, snowmobiling and holidays in the winter, and enjoying the outdoors and the lakes in the spring and summer.

Such is the case for Renee and Jay Jepson's second home on Pelican Lake in Antigo. Renee says the family is there weekly throughout the year, with extended stays over the summer. The couple and their two kids, Kayla and Jack, like that the home is just under a three-hour drive from their West Bend home.

"We're up there as much as possible," affirms Renee.

Their connection to the area started when Jay was just a boy, when he used to fish on Pelican Lake. It continued when Jay came up to the lake for years to visit friends—and then after Jay and Renee married, they bought their own cottage on the lake on their current property in 2002.

"It was a house that needed quite a bit of work, so we cleared the yard and fixed up the house for a few years to make it work for us—the way we live and play," explains Jay. "We knew we weren't going to keep the existing home forever as it needed a lot of repair. Then in about 2010 we decided we didn't want to keep putting money in an older home, so we decided to design a newer home on the property and tear down the old one. In 2016 we tore down the old house and began to build our dream home."

The couple wanted a home that could host guests comfortably, and be a respite from their busy dayto-day lives back at home.

"We're very social, and do lots of things with a lot of people. It was important for us to create something that gave people privacy when they were staying with us, yet give us privacy," says Renee. "Thus the guest bedrooms are downstairs and the master bedroom is on the main level. Because we entertain with other families, we also wanted to be sure we had an area to be together. The original home didn't allow that, therefore we designed the upstairs family room and kitchen to be very open. We do a lot on the water and snowmobile a lot, and that gear takes up a lot of space. We built into the design a place for all of the equipment and gear. So we wanted to design something totally different than what we had."

The main level's kitchen, living room and dining room all blend together seamlessly and employ grays and browns for a neutral backdrop. On top of the kitchen cabinetry is Renee's collection of Rowe Pottery (out of Cambridge), which is an assemblage of her own items and some that were passed down from her late mother-in-law.





(*Top left*) Renee retrofitted an old TV armoire into a bar cabinet for fun. (*Top middle*) The family's dining room table is an old farmhouse piece that's been passed down four generations and sits 12 people comfortably. (*Bottom left, right*) The kitchen has a combination of laminate and white quartz countertops for a modern feel.









A GRAND PLAN

However, the family faced an immediate challenge upon the start of designing their home. Pelican Lake is a spring-fed lake, and some of those springs run through their property—so they had to work with Northwoods Excavating LLC, a local company, to ensure that the water was effectively managed.

"We had to make sure that we directed the water around the house," says Jay. "The local excavator was able to get that done so we could build a nice home on the property that has a lot of water in front of it and to the side too."

The couple chose Ripon-based Pollesch Construction to design and build the home. In the design, they wanted to marry touches of a traditional Northwoods home with a modern, contemporary feel—or, "nostalgic contemporary," as Jay calls it.

Traditional accents are heavily used throughout—including in the stone fireplace surround (which also pops up in the kitchen), dark vinyl plank flooring, stacked-stone accent wall and reclaimed barn board used on the great room ceiling. Reclaimed barn beams were used in the kitchen, fireplace mantle and downstairs railing.

Using the reclaimed barn wood was a serious labor of love for the family. "[It] all came from the same barn that was local to where my parents lived," says Renee. "A lot of work went into that project. The farm itself dates back to 1892 and the [barn] was made mostly out of tamarack and fir from the surrounding land. Part of the barn had fallen over and the owner asked my dad if he wanted [some of the lumber]. We spent an entire summer transporting, sorting and stacking it; pulling all of the rusty nails out of it, cleaning the wood, then [sealing it] with polyurethane. Someone made a comment about the ceiling recently and my son said, 'Yep, that's the summer we did all of the wood work!'"

The couple effectively blended that classic cabin style with updated décor in the light gray wall color, mixed-material furnishings (like the fabric couch, leather ottoman and rattan accent chairs), gray-wash kitchen cabinets and white built-in bookshelves next to the fireplace.

"I wanted those white bookshelves because the things on display have a meaning or value to us of some sort, so I wanted a place to be able to see all of it," says Renee.

MAKING MEMORIES

But the memories aren't just confined to upstairs. Step downstairs and the entire lower-level entertaining area is an homage to the family's time on Pelican Lake—many of which started when Jack was just two years old (see images on pages 42 and 43). Framed photos of family and friends are in chronological order starting from left to right. Peppered in between the photos are decorated wooden paddles and toilet seats from friendly competitions during summer and winter "Olympics" the family held.



(Top left) A pair of Grandin Road rattan chairs hold court around the family game table. (Top right) Renee employed shiplap accents in the guest powder room for a nautical touch. (Bottom *right*) A vintage metal lamp is stacked on top of two old trunks in the lower level. (Bottom *left*) The couple inlaid a cubby with the reclaimed barn boards that holds firewood on the main level.





"On weekends when we needed something different to do, we'd occasionally create those events," explains Renee. "We used boat paddles, blow-up mattresses, water balloons-whatever-we just wanted to do something fun with the kids. The upstairs of the old house didn't have a bathroom, so that's why we picked the toilet seats on the wall. The games were on a point system, and medals were awarded for first, second and third place. The toilet seats were chosen to be the 'medals' due to the lack of a bathroom. It's odd, I know-but they were an important part of the Olympics! The winner was able to hang their seat the highest on a wall of the old house. The kids like seeing them and reminisce about the games. As the quote on the wall says, 'We didn't realize we were making memories, we just thought we were having fun.""

Vintage water skis hang throughout the space too—including a pair used in the hanging light fixture over the pool table that a set of friends had custom-made for the Jepsons. Coincidentally, the type of ski used in the fixture was the first pair of skis Jay learned how to water-ski on, unbeknownst to their friends-another cool, personalized touch to the room.

Guests and family can also belly up to the bar made out of an actual old 19-foot-long ski boat for a drink or snack. Hanging pendant lamps that look like buoys hang above the bar for an extra-special nautical nod. More memorabilia hangs behind the bar of favorite places and family memories. Handwritten on the stairs behind the bar is the exact latitude and longitude of the home.

It's a fitting touch to this special place that the family treasures year-round for decompressing from daily life, laughter and fun.

"Our daughter lives in South Korea now, but every time she comes home all she wants to do is get to ~ \exists the house up north and hang out—it's established such strong memories for her. And our son has $\frac{2}{3}$ just grown up with [the house] being a part of his life," says Renee. "We kind of let go of all of our $\frac{5}{2}$ responsibilities here with work, and it's nice." 👻



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last look

ON ISLAND TIME This aerial image of Minocqua was taken on July IO, 1949, and clearly shows why it's called "The Island City." A portion of the town is located on what is an actual island, shown here. Want to see the action in the area today? Visit Minocqua.org, where you can view a live webcam year-round of the sights of this scenic spot.

IMAGE COURTESY OF WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (IMAGE ID 6527)





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