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#### from the editor



### A Fall Refresh

For many Wisconsinites, fall is the best season of the year—and this especially rings true in the Northwoods. The crisp, cool temperatures, beautiful changing leaves and, let's face it—pumpkin spice lattes—mean that swimsuit season has wound down and jacket season has ramped up. And, it's the perfect time to sit down by the water, slow down and read a book (or Lakeshore Living!).

Like the seasons, home and garden trends are dynamic and constantly changing. And that's our favorite part of putting together each issue of this magazine—spotting what's new and next for your home and lifestyle. In this edition, we bring you plenty of ways you can spruce up your life, from small to large. Fancy painting an accent wall in your living room emerald green? Designer Alexandra Wood talks about how to effectively select a fabulous shade of green and pair it up with patterns (see page 12 for that). If you need a new handbag for fall, check out our "Meet the Maker" feature on page 15 where you'll meet Morgann McCoy and her A Well Worn Story bag line. And, if you need a few pieces to freshen up your Northwoods abode, our Shoppist column

tells you where to go now—also on page 15. If your kitchen is needing a refresh, take some inspiration from our Transformation feature on page 13. A pair of Madison lakefront condo owners undertook a dazzling before-and-after you have to see for yourself.

If your favorite part of this magazine is our home features—we have those in spades, too. Check out a fresh, coastal-style residence on Lake Du Bay; a, comfortable family-friendly home in Eagle River; and our cover story—a can't-be-missed, beautifully-appointed, Star Lake retreat.

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 Mar

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director @shaynamace



## Calling All 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. Email Shayna@ntmediagroup.com for more information and to submit your home.





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### design | the edit



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### design | the edit





Madison's Green Life Trading Co. was created to help consumers find eco-friendly, reusable options for (typically) disposable items for kitchen, cleaning and bath and body goods. This Low Waste Kitchen Kit has great essentials (like utensils, reusable bags and brushes) to get you started on reducing waste in your home. \$160, greenlifetradingco.com



## tlandsome thousewares

One-OneThousand's Indigo Dye Kit has everything you need to spice up plain ol' Turkish towels, flour sack towels, pillow cases and more. This traditional technique lends a boho, yet classic, vibe to your home décor. The Madison-based company has a creative studio, retail shop and online store. \$45, oneonethousand.net





Darling Décor The Mad Makery's Copper and Oak Photo

The **Mad Makery's Copper and Oak Photo Display** is a fun DIY you can do right at home with easy, step-by-step instructions. The Madisonbased biz offers other kits you can purchase right off of owner Melanie Gehrke's website. Happy creating! \$35, themadmakery.com Try This Tea

The Kombucha Shop's Kombucha Brewing Kit is a fun way to try your hand at brewing the healthful tea at home, which by the way, purports benefits of containing probiotics and antioxidants. The Madison-based business's owner Kate Field was even featured on ABC's "Shark Tank" in 2018. \$45, thekombuchashop.com



### design | inspired interior



#### Green with Envy

Award-winning design firm Sarah Vaile Design created this fabulous living room for a young family with children. When Vaile's clients purchased a vintage brick home, Vaile sought to update the interior significantly, while remaining true to the spirit of the house's history. A cozy yet formal living room was on the top of her clients' wish list. When she met with her clients, they were initially hesitant about her plan.

"My clients wanted pops of green and animal print but didn't think I would suggest painting a whole room green. I pushed them to take a design risk and we are all thrilled with the end result."

# SHOP THE LOOK Boxwood Topiary in oval pot, *\$495*, caitlinwilson.com

Hue Cues

**DESIGNER TIP:** Painting the walls and woodwork the same color in a small space makes everything blend together. Your eye doesn't know where to stop, so the space appears much larger.

**Webster Green**, *Benjamin Moore (HC-I30):* This green works well in different settings from traditional to minimal. It's lovely on kitchen cabinets or in a masculine den.

**Salamander**, *Benjamin Moore (2050-I0)*: This green-black moody hue is gorgeous and is a go-to for many designers. It's perfect for creating a deep richness.

**Green Smoke**, *Farrow & Ball (#47)*: This deep blue-green color is not as bright as a Kelly green but it is more intense than a khaki. It's the perfect dose of green without being overbearing.

#### PATTERN PLAY

Wallpaper is the perfect way to add a punch of color and pattern to your space. Don't want to commit to papering the whole room? Consider papering the back of a bookshelf as an easy and inexpensive way to achieve a similar look and feel.



I. Zig Zag Leaf on Almost White, quadrillefabrics.com

2. Bali Hai Greens on Almost White, quadrillefabrics.com



Produced by Alexandra Wood @alexandrawooddesign

design | transformation

## Dream Design

A couple reimagines a lakefront condo's kitchen into a light, bright oasis.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf



**NO MATTER WHERE** Rochelle Alpert-Sherman and Hank Sherman lived, Madison always felt like home. After living in Appleton and owning a business for 18 years, the couple sold their business, eventually retired and decided to move back to the area where Alpert-Sherman went to college, at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The couple's adult sons also live in the southern part of the state, with one based in Madison and the other living nearby in Milwaukee.

"Having a beautiful view was at the top of the list," says Alpert-Sherman.

The couple set their sights on purchasing a lakefront property, and visited single-family homes and condos all throughout the city. But, they realized a condo near the downtown area was really where they wanted to be and they found and bought a

2,300-square-foot unit in Monona on the water, within walking distance to shops, restaurants, trails and parks.

Rochelle and Hank loved the location and view—but knew the main level needed updating.

(Bottom, above) Before, the kitchen's narrow footprint and walls closed it off from the dining room and living room and it lacked a great lake view. (Top) After, the space was dramatically opened up.





Rochelle and Hank worked with Dwellings throughout the first floor to select furnishings, rugs and lighting. "They really helped us to create the look we wanted, and they understood our vision, which was modernbut kind of a softer modern." says Alpert-Sherman. (Top left) Hank's beloved Salvador Dali prints set the tone in the dining room, as does the Century House minimalist dining table (with nifty fold-out table leaves), chairs from Rubin's and midcentury modern chandelier from Dwellings.

The narrow galley kitchen had a wall separating it from the dining room with only a small opening, and a half-wall also separated the living area from the small eat-in area. The kitchen lacked a great lake view and the space was tight.

"Our goal was to open the kitchen area to the beautiful views of the lake, the capitol and the sunsets, and to give us more space to cook together," says Rochelle.

They met with Tim Parish of Precision Construction to drastically reconfigure the kitchen. The group decided to take down both walls, build in a large island, install new cabinetry, put in new wood floors and add in a gas line for a new gas stove. The space was stripped down to the studs and took five months to finish.

The result was a modern, airy, open and inviting spot where lake vistas greet the couple every morning.

Now, the white cabinetry sings against gray,

glossy subway tile, Cambria countertops and open shelving. Hank and Rochelle can sit at one of their barstools to eat or chat while sipping coffee. After the kitchen makeover, the couple opted to refresh the rest of the main level to match the new look, which included installing wood floors in the condo's entryway, purchasing new living room and dining room furniture (guided by the design expertise of Julie Umhoefer and Jennifer Haley of Dwellings), installing a stackedstone fireplace wall surround and putting in a custom-fabricated, black metal stair railing by AA Welding to access all three levels in the condo.

For Hank and Rochelle, they couldn't be happier with how things turned out. Not only are they in their ideal location, but their condo is a dream to live in.

"My favorite thing is the open view when you're cooking—you can see everything," says Hank. "Before, there was only a little window and you couldn't really see anything, so it really opened up in here." 🏽





The couple stained the golden oak flooring darker throughout the first floor, and removed the tile that was in the front entryway and kitchen to lend a uniform look throughout. To add visual interest in the living room, they also installed a stackedstone wall-to-ceiling accent wall around the fireplace.

### the look | *trending*

#### Shoppist



Cabin Chic

Although home design trends are dynamic, there's always a time and place for rustic, lodge-inspired décor. It's a style that reminds us of getting away from it all. And designers continue to embrace and evolve this aesthetic from its traditional, knottypine roots into everyday looks—like displaying brightly-colored canoe paddles or draping a Pendleton blanket on a favorite living room sofa.

**Roughing It In Style** embodies the Northwoods life, and with 22 years in business, they know the market well. "Sue and Gerry Torgeson, the owners, used to build and contract log homes and they loved comfortable, quality furnishings," explains the couple's son Erik Torgeson, general manager and vice president of the business. "[Roughing It In Style] first started in New Glarus as a small, rustic-themed gift shop. Then they started to get into furniture. They opened a shop in Lena, III., and Madison, and noticed they were delivering to the Northwoods on a daily basis. So around I2 years ago, we built a building in Harshaw, about I0 miles south of Minocqua."

The family also added a Fort Collins, Colo., location five years ago after they garnered a lot of interest from people visiting the store from out west. (The aforementioned Lena, III., shop is closed). And although they're best known for their high-quality furniture, the business also offers interior design services and manufactures reclaimed barnwood furniture and cabinets.

"Since we've been buying and curating pieces for so long, we make sure these things will stand the test of time, and they're items you won't see everywhere else," says Erik. "We carry a mix of refined rustic, down-to-earth rustic and traditional."

The takeaway? The store's pieces are able to seamlessly blend in any home—whether you like the fullon lodge aesthetic, or just a hint of farmhouse style.

"The strength in this look is that there's versatility within it," says Erik. "And when you get furnishings that are high quality and look good, it makes for a nice match."

**Roughing It In Style**, 5079 Highway 5I North, Harshaw. *roughingitinstyle.com* €

#### Meet the Maker



#### Polished Patina

Morgann McCoy's love of sewing started when she was a little girl, growing up in a small town in northern Illinois. McCoy's grandmother and mother both sewed here and there, creating Halloween costumes and doing small garment repairs. But it wasn't until she attended lowa State University where she graduated with a degree in apparel merchandising, design and production that she learned the mastery and skill of pattern-making, draping and making a product from start to finish. She also studied abroad at the London College of Fashion where she learned leather working, and "the seeds were planted to start my own business," explains McCoy.

She started her **A Well Worn Story** line in 2013 and her bags, aprons and home goods are classic, durable and polished, yet exude the patina of a piece that you've owned forever. And that's by design, of course.

"My whole goal is to create products that are high quality, get better with time and last a lifetime. [The item will] be 'well worn,' but get better with age," says McCoy, also referencing her business's name. "I want to encourage people to buy less, but purchase higher-quality items—so I focus on the materials I use and the way I put things together."

McCoy sources and uses only all-natural materials (waxed canvas, cotton and leather) cuts everything by hand and uses hand tools for finishing. Customers can even personalize their product by choosing from eight canvas colors and three leather colors—so their bag has a



bespoke feel. Currently a bag takes about four to six weeks to arrive after it's ordered, due to high demand. "Everything is made to order, so I do things in small batches, as I don't want to overproduce anything," she says.

Customers can buy her bags at two shops in South-Central Wisconsin and at her online shop.

"I love pattern-making, measuring, fitting and creating a product that's actually going to get used and is functional for everyday life," says McCoy. "I want my things to go with everyone's wardrobe and be timeless pieces that people want to use all of the time."

wellwornstory.com

## the look | stylemaker

## Ten Minutes With LISA AFRICANO

The Minneapolis native and owner of professional design firm LA Design North in Wausau talks home style and trends, and her favorite Northwoods haunts.

By Shayna Mace

How did you become interested in the home design arena?

While I was pregnant with my first child, I was approached to help redesign the home of then-mayor of St. Paul, Norm Coleman, and his wife Laurie. Fortunately, the project went so well it blossomed into additional work in design. I followed with some classes at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and found I had a knack for it. I believe I have an eye for beauty and balance, given my strong background in travel, dance and advertising.

## What are your Northwoods clients looking for in their homes?

People want to have a more relaxed environment than where their main home might be, and it can have a rustic, warm [look]. I see rich fabrics (like leather, cowhide and wool), functional furniture that feels good and incredible rugs.

Kitchens have become a lot more fantastic than they used to be ... now that families come to their [vacation] homes yearround. In the winter, they come up for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling, and in the summer for boating and waterskiing. So, these homes need to be able to take a beating. In areas where people are in and out guite a bit, flooring could be a great tile or rustic wood floor. And, these homes are always hosting extra people, so kitchens and dining rooms need to be able to accommodate that, too.

You've also noted that special pieces and collectibles are very important to Northwoods <image>

## homeowners. How do you work those into the décor?

I tell homeowners to try to group items together or make collections, instead of displaying the pieces everywhere and having them take over the house. It makes more of a statement and gives [the items] more of a fresh approach.

## Where are your go-tos for design inspiration?

Travel is huge for me because I love seeing how different areas of the country and world put things together. I encourage people to bring back things from their travels that we can incorporate [in their interiors].

There are some great sources online, but if I can purchase it

locally, I try to, otherwise if it's a national store, I buy it locally. Ferguson offers great lighting and plumbing fixtures. There are also some nice wood products in Rhinelander, like at Enterprise Wood Products, and I like Carpet City. Locally, Scottie's Interiors does a great job, and I also pull from Roughing It In Style quite a bit. I love to travel, and New York City offers ABC Carpet & Home-it's a fabulous store and inspiring. I like Rejuvenation and Restoration Hardware for national stores.

Online, I bounce around a lot. [I like] websites like Houzz and Pinterest for inspiration. The lighting at Lumens is great, and Grandin Road is nice too. 🍞 I love fantastic lighting. It's wonderful when it's well thoughtout for the space.



There's a need to celebrate family and friends, and people want spaces they can hang out in as a group. So [I love] making those spaces great ... and embracing the idea that they're meant to celebrate extra people.

In Wausau there are a couple of great restaurants. Lucci's Back When Café is run by a couple, and they do a great job.





There are lots of places to stop on the Manitowish Chain of Lakes, and it's a little bit more low-key. And inevitably, you always run into people you know.

## Say Cheese!

Nothing says Northwoods fall comfort food like cheesy, indulgent mac 'n cheese. If you have family or guests over, whip up this crowd-pleaser, starring three types of Wisconsin-crafted Sartori Cheese.

Recipe and photograph courtesy of Sartori Cheese

#### SARTORI MONTAMORÉ CHEDDAR MACARONI & CHEESE

4 cups dried macaroni 6 tablespoons butter, divided 1/4 cup all-purpose flour 2 l/2 cups milk 2 teaspoons dry mustard 1 egg, beaten 1 block Sartori MontAmoré Cheddar, shredded 1 wedge Sartori Classic Fontina, shredded 1 wedge Sartori Classic Parmesan, grated, divided Salt and pepper, to taste 1/4 cup panko bread crumbs 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley 1/4 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes, optional 1 baguette, sliced diagonally and toasted

I. Preheat oven to 350°F.

**2.** Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook pasta for a few minutes (it should be too firm to eat) and drain.

**3.** Melt 4 tablespoons butter in a large pot, whisking in flour over medium-low heat until golden brown, 3–5 minutes. Whisk in milk and mustard until smooth and cook until mixture thickens, 3–5 minutes. Reduce heat to low.

**4.** Temper egg by slowly whisking in I/4 cup warm sauce; return to pot. Stir in all cheese except I/2 cup Parmesan. Season with salt and pepper to taste and add sun-dried tomatoes if desired.

**5.** Pour into a baking dish. Melt remaining 2 tablespoons butter with bread crumbs and parsley and sprinkle on top. Bake for I5 minutes. Serve with toasted baguette slices

in Ches

#### Serves 6-8

#### FOR FROMAGE-LOVERS

This recipe is from Kristine Hansen's book titled the "Wisconsin Cheese Cookbook: Creamy, Cheesy, Sweet and Savory Recipes From the

State's Best Creameries" (Globe Pequot Press, March 2019). Hansen profiles the state's artisan cheesemakers, whose recipes for pizza, mac 'n cheese and breakfast staples (all made with their cheese) are also in the book. Creamy, smooth Fontina is a perfect mac'n cheese addition



PARASIE A

at home good eats





### at home | *technology*



FOR EVEN THE SAVVIEST tech enthusiasts, outfitting a home with new technology can be daunting. When designing a house, a technology blueprint can be just as useful as a traditional construction plan. If you're overwhelmed by the process—or you're excited to kickstart it—this primer will help outfit your home with all your technology and AV needs.

#### ASSESS THE EQUIPMENT

While it's hard to imagine technology as personal, selecting the right technology and AV equipment is uniquely individual.

"The starting point is different for everyone, depending on budgets, timeframe and goals," says Andy Blakey, director of marketing at Elite A/V & Automation. "An important beginning is thinking of the end game—what do you want your house to ultimately do? That could be automating the window shades or lights, or being wired for sound."

Lifestyle is integral to selecting the right equipment. "It depends on what's important to the owner—security, lighting control, entertainment systems, et cetera. That dictates priority," says Joe Crary, owner of Crary Construction.

"As a custom builder, we build homes that fit people's lifestyles so we learn how they like to interact with technology, and design a system to fit those needs," says Crary. "That could range from simple lighting control, to a full integration of temperature, window shades, TV or audio systems."

"Home security is [also] a common starting point," says Ken Bowers Jr., vice president of Bowers Construction. "Most people want their homes to be secure, and to [be able to] control it from a distance."

#### SEPARATE MUST-HAVES FROM FAST FADS

With the vast amount of smart home features and AV options, narrowing down the items your home needs can become a black hole.

The rules of moderation apply to home technology. Crary recommends selecting the basic options to be able to upgrade as time goes on, because investing in extensive custom technology systems can be difficult to recoup during resale. Since technology is so fleeting, tech gadgets become easily outdated. "Apps become outdated quickly, so eventually certain technologies, such as smartphone-controlled window shades, won't talk to each other," says Blakey.

Bowers expects to see less television receivers and more smart TVs. "Everything is accessible on the internet," he says. "Electronic hubs with stacks of DVDs used to be the norm. Now, everything can be run through a smart TV with an internet connection."

#### TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Particularly important in new construction, a smart home plan should be drafted up pre-drywall, in the early construction stages.

"There are plenty of wireless options, but nothing is better than running a cable through the walls," says Blakey. "If you want to stream multiple TVs, wireless doesn't keep up as well; it becomes too bandwidth heavy." "So much can be done wirelessly, but having the right hardware in place eases the strain on a wireless network," agrees Crary.

If you're looking to step up the technology in your current home, there are still easy ways to boost what you have. "When upgrading a home, it's easy to fish wire through the attic or unfinished areas of the basement. [And] at the very least, it is simple to do drywall repair," says Blakey.

#### MANAGE THE TECH

Once you've identified your technology and AV needs, implementation can be DIY or through a technology company. Prior to implementing, it is helpful to select an assistant to help control the various tech elements.

"The assistant, such as Google Home or Amazon's Echo, is what makes your house a smart home," says Blakey. "This is just a vocal control point. Google and Alexa don't make

While it's hard to imagine technology as personal, selecting the right technology and AV equipment is uniquely individual.



light switches, window shades, audio systems or home theaters; they simply voice control everything else."

Crary finds the most common smart home functions homeowners typically gravitate to include wireless speakers (such as Sonos), a smart thermostat (such as the Nest) or a smartphone garage door opener.

#### MAINTAINING YOUR SYSTEM

As with any home upgrade, technology does require regular maintenance.

"Many integration companies offer maintenance plans," says Crary. "Instead of being reactive, you're paying for a service provider to be proactive."

"An outside company will ensure the system works forever, and can even do remote updates," says Blakey. 😮

Deanna Kane is an interiors, home décor and real estate writer, who also enjoys taking on her own home renovation and design projects. When it comes to home theaters, many find the open concept living space trend is expanding into this area, too.

"Over the last few years, we've seen less theaters with stadium seats, a sound system, a big screen and dark room. We're now seeing it being brought into the full basement, so more people can watch the movie," says Andy Blakey, director of marketing at Elite A/V & Automation.

Creating an open-area viewing space adjacent to gathering spots provides the option to watch the game, while still being part of the party.

"If you're looking to have a theater for entertaining reasons and not movie nights, putting the theater area adjacent to the bar allows you to still have an 85-inch TV, but everyone can watch it," says Ken Bowers Jr., vice president of Bowers Construction.

"For a private home theater, the room should be isolated acoustically. A dense wall will absorb low frequencies and separation so sound can't travel. Avoid parallel walls, which make sounds reverberate back and forth," says Blakey. "Lastly, involve a tech company as early as possible to address all these issues." THRILLING THEATERS -

Bowers says, "Understanding how the room will be used is key to a successful home theater. Family size and how often you entertain will impact the room size. If your kids are gamers, you may want multiple viewing screens. Find out the answers to these questions before developing what the room will be used for."

When you start planning your home theater, be sure to establish a budget and expectation for what can be done within that range.

Joe Crary, owner of Crary Construction, cautions against spending too much on a home theater. "Think about the long-term. In three years, you may want to change to room to something different based on lifestyle changes. Avoid the most expensive options."





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AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO

Furnishing a Home From Cratch

How to outfit the rooms

in your home, plus, where to

Furnishing a home can be overwhelming, not to mention time-consuming and expensive. With a detailed plan and being realistic with how you will live in the space, the home design process can be fun-thanks to these insider secrets.

#### **CREATE A DÉCOR PLAN**

As with any new endeavor, the first step to a successful home makeover is creating a plan. This will help develop your vision and will make an overwhelming process become manageable.

If you're working with an interior designer, communicating your likes, dislikes and inspiration will help create a harmonious space.

"We align on big-picture vision first, then focus on the specifics for each room. We believe everything in a room has to work together, and no decisions should be made in isolation," says Summer Thornton, principal and interior designer of Summer



Thornton Design. "The wall treatment impacts the window treatment, which impacts the upholstery, which impacts the rug, and so on."

If you're creating a décor plan solo, channel your inner designer to create a cohesive plan before shopping.

"Spend time browsing sites such as Houzz or Pinterest to gather a full spectrum of rooms that you gravitate toward. Then move your endless ideas into folders that have no more than three concepts—this will help you hone in on your vision," says Beth Welsh, interior designer with Interior Changes.

"Look at your options, print photos and look at them together. If it all works, then pull the trigger and buy," says Thornton.

However, furnishing a home doesn't mean buying everything new. Part of the process should be assessing how some of your existing items can fit into a new design plan.

> "Everyone owns pieces they love and cherish. Sometimes a buffet can become a TV console or a bookshelf can be displayed in different ways. You don't need to scrap everything in your life to make a new space—allow the story to continue," says Welsh.

"Creating a plan depends on your lifestyle and budget. The first step should be determining if you can reuse any of your existing pieces," says Emily Ware, merchandising manager and buyer



with Penny Mustard Furnishings. "Then, identify the items you will use the most. The quality is important—you don't want to have to redo it."

Lastly, being honest with how you really live will save you discomfort after the space is complete.

"Be honest with how you live and work in your environment. Many people have an illusion they would work differently if their space is different. For example, if your favorite place to work is the couch, adding a desk probably won't change this," says Welsh.

#### WHERE TO INVEST

At its core, a home is a haven to relax and recharge.



"We retreat to houses to renew," says Welsh. "If you're uncomfortable, you're not getting the best quality of living, so invest in pieces you use the most."

Sleep is the ultimate in recharging. "It's vital to your overall well-being, but mattresses are often overlooked," says Ware. "Invest in the base and mattress, and save on the headboard."

Being able to relax means being comfortable and knowing your new items will be safeguarded from the stress of daily use.

"Allocate your money towards the primary surfaces you use to sit or lay, such as a sofa or recliner, says Welsh. "These show the most wear and tear, and break down the fastest."

As a guide, Welsh suggests a \$2,500 starting point for a great sofa, which should last IO to I5 years.

Ware also suggests investing in solid wood.

"A solid wood dining table won't break down," says Ware. "For custom pieces, plan in advance because they can take 9-12 weeks to arrive."

The items in which to invest should also be a personal choice.

"Invest in the items you love, which will make the room; some rooms need a stunning sofa with special fabric, other rooms need magnificent art, and yet others need a dramatic wall treatment," says Thornton.







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#### WHERE TO SAVE

Not every item needs to be a forever piece.

"Depending on how you use them, decorative end tables are a great place to save," says Ware. "However, if you will use them as a second dining area, it's better to invest more."

Soft, decorative items such as rugs, pillows and throws are items that can be swapped out seasonally, and should all be at the lower end of your budget.

"Shop online for rugs, specifically, for wool rugs. They are durable, [have] fantastic quality and with smart shopping, you can find them on sale," says Welsh. "This is a great way to update the space between seasons."

#### QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN SELECTING PIECES

Knowing what to ask yourself when selecting pieces can easily eliminate items that aren't the best fit, and will help you focus on bringing the right pieces into your home.

Thornton says to ask yourself, "Does this say something? Do I love it? Is it different? Will this still be cool in IO years?"

Ware recommends asking, "'How will it be used, and what function does it need to serve?' Once you're able to answer that, you can make the most out of your budget," she says.

#### **DESIGN TO-DOS**

If you're working with a designer, a personality fit and trust are the most important aspects.

"See if you click on the phone before hiring them," says Welsh. "Once you've made the decision, trust them. Avoid asking others for their opinions; you will risk getting their opinions for their home, not yours."

"Hire someone whose work you admire, make sure they have great references, and then enjoy the ride!" says Thornton.

When you're creating a design plan on your own, Ware says organization and honesty are the most important parts. "Once your ducks are in a row, and you're honest with how you will use the space, it will be an easy and fun process—and you won't worry about if you will like it later," she says. "When the needs are covered, the wants are fun!" **\*** 

### the great outdoors

## THE BEST WAYS TO WELCOME WINTER IN THE NORTHWOODS

Your primer on the area's best active, al fresco endeavors. By Kevin Revolinski

Although it may be temperate now, come winter, the Northwoods is simply magical. And when the snow is flying or the lakes are frozen over, there's always a "flurry" of activities to do. Welcome the snow and head outside to enjoy some of the best outdoor experiences the state has to offer.

### Downhill Skiing

In the Midwest? You'd better believe it. **Granite Peak** near Wausau offers 68 runs, divided in thirds as beginner, moderate and difficult. Outside Bayfield is **Mt. Ashwabay** with a vertical drop of 317 feet, and runs ranging from easy to difficult, the longest being the I,500-foot Super G. An hour's drive north of Chippewa Falls takes you to **Christie Mountain**, suitable for beginners with II easy runs, but also offering more challenging double black diamond cliff jumps.



## Cross-Country Skiing

Host of the **Birkebeiner**, the continent's largest ski race, The **Birkie Trail** in the Hayward area features over 60 miles of trails. **Minocqua Winter Park** is equally worthy: about 50 miles of groomed trails through 6,500 acres of winter wonderland. The **Afterhours Ski Trail System** at **Brule River State Forest** just west of Iron River offers I8 miles of combined classic and skate groomed trails, plus another II miles of ungroomed territory. The **Nine Mile Trail System** near Wausau serves beginners and seasoned experts with over I8 miles of double track with an eight-footwide skating lane. The spacious warming chalet also offers rentals.



## Snowmobiling

Far north in the so-called "snow belt" lies Vilas County and over 700 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, with great places to stop and eat or warm up along the way. Download a county-produced app with a map of the entire trail system to track yourself through it. You can crisscross the county from **Eagle River** to Manitowish Waters, and rentals are available in several towns, including **Eagle** River, St. Germain and Land O' Lakes. Good to know: Anyone age I2 or older needs to complete a Snowmobile Safety Certification course through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources before getting on a snowmobile, and carry their Snowmobile Safety Certificate with them.

## Ice Skating

The 400 Block on 3rd Avenue in Wausau hosts a nice skating rink with plenty of places to warm up with food and drink right across the street. Also part of the aforementioned **Minocqua Winter Park** is the **Chip Wulff Memorial Pond**, which is well maintained and offers skate rentals. Situated at the Corner of Forest Street and Wyoming Avenue in Phillips is an ice skating rink, plus, the adjacent **Phillips Outdoor Hockey Rink**.



#### lce Caves

When the **Apostle Islands National** Lakeshore says the ice is ready, head to **Meyers Beach** with a warm pair of boots. The lakeshore ice caves are one mile from the end of the beach. If the rangers say no, drive the **Ice Road** from Bayfield to Madeline Island and see the ice formations the lake makes along the shore of **Big Bay State Park**.

#### Snowshoeing

If there's snow, strap on the showshoes; if not, you're good to go with hiking boots. The **Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest** has four nature trails with plowed parking lots, plus the **Lumberjack** and **Powell Trail Systems** provide longer distances. If you go off trail, the showshoeing is limitless. The **North Country National Scenic Trail** passes through northern Wisconsin, and a seven-mile stretch of that trail (located in the **Brule State Forest**) is great for snowshoeing.



#### Luxe Libations

Warm yourself up from the inside with a few Wisconsin hot drinks. Made with whiskey, honey, lemon juice and hot water, the Hot Toddy sounds like remedy for a cold. In downtown Wausau, you've got a hat trick in **Mint Cafe**, **Malarkey's Pub** and **Daly's**.

In Bayfield, dine or stay the night at the **Old Rittenhouse Inn** and try some of their hot buttered rum or Wassail punch made with bourbon, cider, cranberry and a blend of spices. For more hot apple cider with bourbon, hot toddy in the bottle, and other creations stop in for a tasting at **Northern Waters Distillery** in Minocqua.

After skiing in Brule, warm up with **White Winter Winery** in Iron River with some warm, non-alcoholic glogg (mulled wine) that can be made "adult" with some of their mead.

'Tis the season for hot chocolate, and **Great Northern Coffee Traders** in Minocqua serves a good mug. Hayward has so many options they host a **Hot Chocolate Crawl** during their A "Lure" of Lights holiday celebration (Nov. 29-Dec. 2I). And snowmobilers—hit **Wolf Pack Cafe** in St Germain. **\*** 

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

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# LuxeLodging

y Shayna Mace | Photography by David Bader Photography

A Milwaukee-based architect finds his own slice of heaven on a former Star Lake resort property.

## Easy Entertaining

Wade Weissmann's kitchen overlooks the water, and the hominess is apparent in the space. The live-edge pine countertops were purchased for a song at a local lumberyard. "It's a nice, soft material, and it feels good to work on," says Weissmann.



For native Milwaukeean Wade Weissmann, the Northwoods has always held a special allure. Growing up, Weissmann's large, extended family would vacation during the summers on idyllic Paradise Lake in St. Germain.

Buoyed by those childhood memories, Weissmann continued to journey up north as an adult to spend time in the area. He also started a lakefront property search that lasted nearly 10 years for the perfect piece of land that he could purchase himself.

"My cousins and I have fond memories of spending time up in the Northwoods. So, fastforward 40 years and my cousin, Jon Schlagenhaft [and I], who was an interior designer in Milwaukee, would rent a house [up north] for a month at a time during the summers. And our search ended when we found this property on Star Lake, which was part of an old resort," the architect explains.

The property was being divided and sold as two large lots and two smaller lots, each with a larger lodge and small guest cabin on it. Weissmann and Schlagenhaft planned to purchase one lot each, and then find family and friends to purchase the other two lots, to make it a "family compound destination," says Weissmann.

#### PLANNING THE DREAM

After purchasing the lots, Weissmann, owner of Wade Weissmann Architecture Incorporated, got to work on the house plans. He and Schlagenhaft tore down the larger buildings on each lot, and rebuilt two new lodges for themselves to use. They left the smaller guest cabins on each property since they had prime positions next to the water—but expanded each building to twice its size. In total, the construction and renovation lasted three years.



### **Personalized Spaces**

(*Top*) The kitchen in Schlagenhaft's former lodge features bear cub taxidermy, scalloped open shelving and all of his favorite collectibles. (*Above*) Weissmann's large walk-in pantry also doubles as a prep area, he explains. "Having this pantry gives us the ability to have three or four people working in the kitchen at once, which is really nice."



In his main 2,600-square-foot lodge, Weissmann went for a cozy feel.

"As a gathering place and retreat, this would have an inherently different layout. You want everybody to feel comfortable here, because we use this place for entertaining," he explains. "So there are a lot of gathering spaces ... and a big kitchen for multiple people to be working and preparing meals together—it's meant to be communal."

Weissmann opted to use a mix of red and white pine in the interior, and cedar on the exterior because of its hardiness. The wood-burning fireplace surrounded by river stone is the main level's focal point.

"Architecturally, I wanted it to have simplicity. It's all about the fireplace and sitting in front of the hearth, since the weather up here usually means cooler evenings," he says.

The simple, white pine floors are "utilitarian" says Weissmann, as he wanted them to lend authenticity to the space. "They're dented, and they have marks in them—and that's what I wanted. I wanted the [lodge's] finishes to reflect an attitude."

Since he uses the lodge year-round, Weissmann worked with Schlagenhaft on the original interior design—and has since added many of his own touches and items he's collected from his travels for a time-worn, sentimental—yet stylish—look. Paintings have been collected from a number of different artists—and there's even a landscape his father painted peppered in. Weissmann also likes vintage brewery artifacts, so his lower level rec room and bar area features retro Schlitz and other brand advertisements.

"Over the years I would actually take different routes from Milwaukee up here so that I could pass through little towns that had different antique shops," says Weissmann. "I've found great antique shops in Manitowoc and Antigo, and every place in between, like Waupaca, Princeton—you name it. And, there are some really good antique shops up here in the Northwoods that I've also utilized."

## **Pieces of Interest**

(*Top left*) The cozy bar in Weissmann's lower level beckons guests in to relax and sip a drink. Vintage brewery memorabilia (like the framed Schlitz ads) celebrate his love for this antiques genre. (*Middle*) A slice of life (including a wild pig taxidermy piece that Schlagenhaft found for him) in Weissmann's lodge. (*Below*) Weissmann's lower level also has a wood-burning fireplace and comfortable vibe.







## Warmth and Light

Schlagenhaft found matching area rugs for each of their lodge's living rooms, so both lodges have the same patterned rug. Weissmann's living room (seen here) is peppered with items he's collected over the years from travels and antique shops. "There were some really great places up here that closed unfortunately. There was one placed called Cabin Fever that had all of this great old camp stuff. There's another place I buy from a lot called Perennial Antiques (that's still open) and the people there are [great] and have fantastic stuff," says Weissmann.

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#### **FAMILY TIMES**

Another hub of activity is the lodge's kitchen.

"Believe me, we cook up here a lot. [So] I designed the kitchen to be very transparent with a lot of windows. We left the trees outside really close to the cabin so that the house feels like it's nestled in," he says.

Weissmann also installed two matching stoves in the kitchen for a larger cooking area. And, the design touches tie it all together. Bronze screening in the cabinet doors (instead of glass) make the space more casual, and perforated tin pendant lights from the Tin Bin exude dancing displays of light. Live-edge pine countertops and custom cabinetry by Burmeister Woodwork Company lend a personalized feel to the space. The walls throughout the first floor are covered in a Ralph Lauren suede paint "to give the walls a rougher, leathery type of texture," says Weissmann.

Although each lodge and cabin on the properties has its own personality, Weissmann says Schlagenhaft's lodge (seen on pages 26 and 27) was the embodiment of his exuberant life—and his lodge still looks the same today (although it's now owned by a family friend). Unfortunately, Schlagenhaft and his partner died in a plane crash in 2008—so the full scope of his interior designs for all of the spaces weren't fully realized. But Weissmann says that he still has Schlagenhaft's original fabric selections and eventually, he's going to outfit his own lodge with curtains and drapery to add polish. And although his cousin isn't here to share the properties with him anymore, Weissmann says Schlagenhaft's memory reigns large—and plenty of wonderful family times are still enjoyed today at all of the lodges and cabins.

"There are a lot of building materials and artifacts that are in this place that are bits and pieces from my career and my life," says Weissmann. "I like the casualness here. Although this place as a whole is precious to me, there's nothing precious in here—and I like it that way because I like it shared, and this place is happy when it's full of love and togetherness." "







## The Great Outdoors

(*This page, top*) Weissmann's spacious screen porch is a peaceful place to start or end the day. An interior designer friend gifted him the rustic camp lanterns. (*This page, below*) The architect's lodge at night is breathtaking. He opted to inject "camp red" exterior window trim accents. (*Opposite page, top*) Since he wanted two full bedrooms and bathrooms plus a main living area in his guest cabin, space was at a premium. So he chose to put the sink areas outside of the bathrooms "to give a lot more floor space." (*Opposite page, below*) The other guest bedroom is a peaceful retreat.



# Refined, Rustic Style IN EAGLE RIVER

A young family revamps a 1970's ranch from top to bottom for more openness and plenty of panache.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by RKPhotoArt

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For Erik and Samantha Torgeson, life is all about family. With three young children, their day-to-day is focused on their kids—and managing Roughing It In Style, the store Erik's family opened 12 years ago, 10 miles south of Minocqua.

The couple met years ago attending college at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, but with both of them having family commitments up north (Samantha's family owns a marina in Eagle River) and Erik's position as general manager and vice president of Roughing It In Style, the time was ripe to move to be closer to all of it.

The couple originally settled in Minocqua in a small ranch house. But when they decided to start a family, they found the house was too close to a busy road—so they started searching in Eagle River, to be close to Samantha's family. They also wanted to be on the water. They connected with Judy Barr of RE/MAX Property Pros to start a search for a waterfront home—but one that needed a "little TLC to get to its full potential," explains Erik.

Barr found a 1970's ranch with 100 feet of frontage on the channel between Eagle and Otter lakes. The couple walked through it and knew they hit the jackpot.

"The bones of the home were really good, but the interior was quite a project—but we were up for it," says Erik. "We looked at it as a way to learn some of the building trade things we'd always wanted to learn. Luckily, we had family in the area that we could stay with while we remodeled it."

With outdated features like popcorn ceilings, a closed-off galley kitchen, a "salmon-colored, carpeted" bathroom, white linoleum kitchen cabinets and more—the couple was eager to get to work.

Erik says two hours after they closed on the home "we had a dumpster in the driveway and we had a crew with 12 friends with sledgehammers and we were like, 'OK, let's do this,'" he says. During the four-month renovation in
#### Family Time (Opposite page) The couple

was looking for an interesting backsplash and found this gray river rock that the couple's brother-in-law helped Erik install. "We ended up running it all the way up the wall-it's a really fun feature," says Erik. The kitchen's open shelving features wrought-iron brackets forged by a Wisconsin blacksmith. (*This* page, top) The small alcove in the kitchen used to be a coat closet that the couple opted to open up—and they still use it for hanging coats—but now it feels more spacious. Erik bought the cigar store Native American sculpture from a wood carver that visits the area about once a year. "It's just a natural spot [for it to be] right there," says Erik.







#### Lower Level Comforts

Warm shades of brick red, mustard yellow and navy blue reflect the couple's love of rustic style-but lends an updated edge to the aesthetic. The bar is outfitted with English campaign-style chairs and a leather-and-fabric combo sofa is traditional, yet refined. (Opposite page) The couple particularly loves the mosaic-style reclaimed barn wood walls and trim throughout the space. (Opposite page, bottom *left*) Samantha picked up some handwoven baskets from a trip to Ecuador that now hang in the bar area.

which they lived with Samantha's parents, Erik would work all day at the store, come home and go to work on the house. Samantha would put the kids to bed, then come over to work on the house until midnight, too.

"It was a little crazy," admits Samantha.

#### AWE-INSPIRING RESULTS

But the results have been worth it for the family. Although they didn't change the footprint of the house, they removed a few walls and moved the location of a few windows. And of course—they updated all of the finishes throughout the home.

Now, the main floor features a great room that connects seamlessly to the kitchen. Before, Erik says there was a tight doorway that led into the kitchen—and the small space had a patio door that looked right into the neighbor's home. They removed the walls that cut off the kitchen from the living room and also the patio door. Then, they added a set of windows to let light in. Erik says the kitchen virtually doubled in size after they added a horseshoe-shaped island and lots more cabinetry—plus—the openness of the space makes it feel much larger.

"In the previous kitchen, if you wanted to be a part of the conversation and you were cooking ... you would have been cut off from everybody else. We wanted to open that up so that we can be together as a family," says Erik.

Luxe materials dress up the new space—like the custom reclaimed barn wood cabinetry (crafted by Roughing It In Style's partner company Reclaimed Rustic Woodworks out of Phillips), dark granite countertops with a "rustic edge" and cool, flat river rock backsplash throughout the whole space. And the couple left no detail











unnoticed—like the pantry door inlaid with corrugated metal and all of the kitchen hardware that was hand-forged by a Wisconsin blacksmith.

Luckily the living room already had some built-in character via the wood beams in the ceiling that the couple left as-is. They added in barn wood planks on the ceiling to reinforce the vibe, then outfitted the room and dining area with furnishings from—where else?—Roughing It In Style. Working with the store's interior designers, the couple chose the hickory dining table, custom upholstered end chairs, metal twig-like chandelier and other odds and ends throughout the room—like the metal feathers that hang on the wall.

"Sometimes the hardest part about working at Roughing It In Style is not spending your paycheck on all of these things," jokes Erik good-naturedly.

In the lower level the couple didn't change much besides sprucing up the space's décor. The wood-burning fireplace was swapped out for a gas insert to provide extra heat in the winter. The bar was already there, but the couple recovered it in reclaimed barn wood. They also added in a fun mosaic accent wall of reclaimed barn wood, which is a favorite of both of theirs.

The couple is grateful that they've found a comfortable, waterfront spot for their young family—and it was certainly a labor of love for all involved.

"We have a lot of family members with varied skills. We definitely had a lot of people helping us make this dream come true," says Erik. €

# MIDWEST KICS

LAKE GENEVA JANUARY 4 Badger High School

#### MILWAUKEE FEBRUARY 8-9 Wisconsin State Fair Park

**CHICAGO FEBRUARY** 22-23 Arlington Park

MADISON MARCH 7-8 Alliant Energy Center



## Coastal Chic ON LAKE DU BAY

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One couple's love of the waterfront life led them to find their own piece of paradise in the Wausau area. By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf





When Diana and James Costigan moved back to Wisconsin after living in Florida for 34 years, they welcomed Midwest life with open arms again. The couple had settled in Oconomowoc, just west of Waukesha, and after a few years started looking for a vacation home on a lake. But, they didn't really know where they wanted to look.

"James knew he wanted a good lake with a lot of walleye, and we looked around Tomahawk and had settled on that's where we'd be. But, we realized it was about an hour more than we wanted to drive [from Oconomowoc] so we kept looking and stumbled upon this home—and it's paradise," says Diana.

Located on Lake Du Bay South of Wausau, the lot has six acres and 330 feet of frontage. Diana says when they walked in the home in 2016 they liked the home's footprint—and she knew she could put her stamp on the house.

"We just fell in love with it. The minute we walked in it, we knew it was our house," says Diana.

#### LOVELY LIVING

The Costigans knew they wanted to remodel the home to bring it up to date, so they met with Bob Osowski of Premier Home Craftsman to design their new vision. The couple decided to open up the narrow gallery kitchen on the main level. Upstairs, they wanted to close one entrance off to the jack-and-jill bathroom that connected the two master bedrooms and reconfigure it into a large master bath. They also combined two closets to make one large, walk-in master closet (complete with built-in shelving).

The main floor, which is the showpiece of the home, is now one wide-open space, thanks to



"My kitchen and great room are my favorite rooms," says Diana Costigan. Right outside of their kitchen is a lovely sunroom that they can lounge in year-round, too. The couple left the cedar paneling on the walls and ceiling in this room to tie into the cedar paneling on the ceiling in the living room.

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opening up the former galley kitchen. A brick fireplace flanks one wall in the living room (that the couple kept), and a large built-in bookcase (crafted and "masterfully executed" by Pete Swita of Swita Cabinetry, says Diana) holds court on another wall that houses their collection of books, mementos and photos of their five adult children and nine grandchildren. The wall facing the lake has floor-to-ceiling windows for the couple to enjoy the view.



Other thoughtful design details were incorporated, thanks to Diana's interior design background. The couple removed the carpeting and replaced it with handsome walnut flooring. They also kept the existing cedar wood detail on the ceiling and chose to accent it by weaving in a navy blue wall behind the bookcase, selecting a blue Smith Brothers sectional and hanging two rope-accented pendants from Wayfair in front of the fireplace to punctuate Diana's "coastal, lake-y" vibe she was going for. The painting on the fireplace was a gift from her daughter, Melissa and son-in-law, Tim.

#### CURATED CUCINA

Now that the kitchen seamlessly connects to the living room, Diana says this is her favorite spot in the house—thanks in no small part to the design expertise of Swita.

"Pete listened to everything that I wanted and put it all together for me. He did a magnificent job. I would say it's the perfect kitchen for me, and I love everything about it. It's great for entertaining and cooking, and there's plenty of room for everybody to visit while meals are going on. And it never feels crowded!"

Diana says she wanted a large island that could accommodate family and guests, and her nine-by-seven-foot Cambria-topped island does the trick. She played with dark and light in the kitchen, opting for a light top and dark stained lower cabinets in the island. Her upper and lower perimeter custom cabinetry is painted Sherwin-Williams' Dover White, and the



(Opposite page, top) Although they did minimal design changes in the dining room, one of the show-stopping updates they made was to add the boardand-batten millwork detail on the walls. (This page, top left) The couple's spacious master bathroom is a luxurious spot to relax and recharge in. (This page, top right) The couple's guest bathroom features a double vanity and opulent damask wallpaper. (*This page, bottom right*) The pictures that hang above the couple's bed were purchased in the Montmartre district, during a visit to Paris.



surrounding Cambria countertops are a solid, dark gray color. She also loves the prep sink in the island for functionality, small coffee bar tucked around the corner from the kitchen and the teardrop-shaped pendant lights from BBC Lighting that hang above the island.

Another delightful part of the floor plan the couple loves is the cedarpaneled four-season sunroom, located off of the kitchen (see page 45). It provides another relaxation space to view the couple's bird feeders and the lake. "That's where I have my coffee every morning," says Diana.



When the family hosts larger get-togethers, their formal dining room, located off the home's entryway, comes in handy. The couple made small tweaks in this room, opting to remove the walls that previously closed it off from the entryway, as well as add in traditional board-and-batten detail to lend gravitas to the space. Diana's love of blue reigns supreme in here with the deep navy walls and zigzag rug from Wayfair. A farmhouse-style circular light fixture from BBC Lighting and a modern bird painting by friend Ray Gallo finishes off the room.

#### **RECHARGE AND RELAX**

The home's upper level is a sanctuary from the hustle and bustle of family lake life. Because the Costigans reconfigured the jack-and-jill bathroom into a master bathroom, they now have the room they need, and a spa-worthy master bathroom to boot. In the new space, marble flooring and the walk-in tiled shower complement the classic soaking tub. Gorgeous gray millwork adds a traditional, lived-in touch to the space. Diana's love of coastal blues pops up again in the master bedroom bedding and wall color.

Now that the Costigans opted to make this their full-time abode this past June (and sold their Oconomowoc home), they couldn't be happier with their new, full-time lake life.

"After living in Florida for as long as we did, I wanted to bring that coastal, lake vibe to this house—and I think we did," says Diana. "It's like a little utopia here right now, and we're just so happy with it all." \*

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**FLOAT YOUR BOAT** In this sweet image, two young boys, probably brothers, sit in a boat with an outboard motor. They're ready for some water fun in this undated image, taken in Boulder Junction. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (IMAGE ID 7862)

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