

Lakeshore Living

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR LAKE GENEVA HOME

The Perfect Fit

A Design Dream on Geneva Lake

**MAKE HOME YOUR
HAPPY PLACE**

4 Mood-Lifting Room Makeovers
Perfect Paint Colors
Cultivate a Backyard Oasis

**Orange
Pop**

TAKE THE PLUNGE

P. 12

HAPPILY AT HOME

Thank you all for staying home and keeping our healthcare workers and first responders safe.

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Photo by Shanna Wolf

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D. Wickstrom, N. Barrington, IL

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B. Cutler, Long Grove, IL



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A Ravishing Refresh

First of all, I hope that you are safe, happy and healthy. These last several months have been some of the toughest we have encountered in our lives, and there's no question that all of us have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Whether it was a missed graduation ceremony or celebration, not being able to see family members for an extended amount of time or even the simple pleasure of not being able to visit a favorite place, we understand and empathize with you. Which is why I hope that Lakeshore Living can provide a little bit of an escape, through beautiful pictures and engaging stories, of topics that are fun to read about.

While we're at home a lot more these days, it's made some of us think about refreshing our homes a bit. There's something so satisfying about seeing the potential in a space that you know can look better or flow more functionally. We tapped our designer network, and in this edition, we bring you four amazing makeover projects from three of the four different communities Lakeshore Living covers: Madison, Lake Country and Lake Geneva. One of the makeovers was a large undertaking: A Fort Atkinson A-frame home underwent a six-month revamp to reveal a lighter, brighter and more user-friendly kitchen and great room. On the opposite end of the spectrum, we also showcase a smaller-scale makeover. The designers took a simple breakfast nook (shown on the cover) and redecorated and reimagined it a bit without changing anything structurally. Read about all of the before-and-afters, starting on page 52.

As always, this issue is bursting with other ways you can invigorate your home and life, too. It's prime time to give your lawn and garden some TLC. Our "Lawn and Garden Care 101" guide on page 24 lends you pointers for not only what to do now, but what to do year-round to keep your landscape healthy. And, once you have your backyard in tip-top shape, you'll want to enjoy it — even if it's just a night in with family. We consulted with Madison-based party-planning expert Chloe Starz for tips on how to put together a cheeseboard that's a work of art, and then we threw in what beverages to serve and tableware to use. Catch that on page 32.

We also have three home tours that you won't want to miss, including a revamped family cottage on Delavan Lake, an architectural masterpiece on Geneva Lake and a designer dream house, also on Geneva Lake.

I'm heartened to think about when things will get better, and life *will* go back to normal, eventually. We hope this edition of the magazine will be a fine companion for you as we get through these difficult times together. Stay well.

Enjoy the lake!

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director
@shaynamace



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Lakeshore Living

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR LAKE GENEVA HOME

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Lakeshore Living magazine is a publication of Nei-Turner Media Group, Inc. Gary E. Nei, Chairman; William Turner, President; Barbara Krause, Publisher. 400 Broad St., Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

Complimentary copies of Lakeshore Living are available at advertiser locations and select businesses. To order a copy by mail, send \$6 to the address below, or call 262-729-4471.

To receive email updates about Lakeshore Living magazine, send your email address to krouse@ntmediagroup.com.

Lakeshore Living magazine is published annually by Nei-Turner Media Group, Inc., 400 Broad St., Unit D, Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

COMMENTS? We welcome your inquiries. Email us at shayna@ntmediagroup.com.

FOR ADVERTISING rates and information, call 262-729-4471, ext. 104, or deann@ntmediagroup.com.

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Cabana pet bed, from \$104, whomhome.com

Mudpie dog tail treat canister, \$35, Cornerstone Shop



Honeycomb stainless steel pet bowl, \$8, and Top Paw Gulp pet bowl, \$10, PetSmart; Mud Cloth pet bowl, \$17, fringestudio.com;



Harmony slanted marble print stainless pet bowl, \$12; Petco.



Lurvig cat house, \$55, IKEA



Up Country Heart of Gold collar, \$23, and lead, \$24, Paws for Treats

PERFECT PET STYLE

Pamper your furry pal with super-stylish accessories.

Photography and styling by Shanna Wolf



Mudpie Chow food canister, \$35, Cornerstone Shop



Fab Funky porcelain dog bowl, \$30, Marigold



Palermo pet bed, \$114, wayfair.com



PLAYFUL

(Clockwise from top left) Best Dog ceramic treat jar, \$28, [fringestudio.com](#); Little Birdie Love My Dog throw pillow, \$36, [Marigold](#); Huxley & Kent bow ties, \$7 each, and Fab Dog doughnut dog toys, \$25, both from [Paws for Treats](#); white dogs pet bowl, \$13, [fringestudio.com](#); BFF pet bowl, \$17, [fringestudio.com](#); Up Country elephant leash, \$24, [Paws for Treats](#).

SERENE

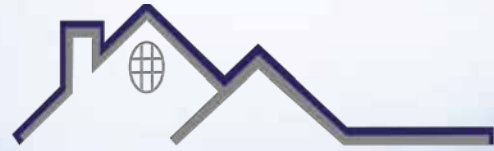
(Clockwise from top left) Bark n Bag organic denim pet carrier, \$75, [Paws for Treats](#); Caturday pet bowl, \$13, [Petco](#); cat saucer, \$13, [FringeStudio.com](#); celestial dog treat jar, \$31, [fringestudio.com](#); Casper Memory Foam pet bed, starting at \$125, [casper.com](#); Mudpie Eat Drink ceramic dog bowls, \$45 each, [Cornerstone Shop](#).



NAUTICAL

(Clockwise from top left) Up Country Sailing Fleet lead, \$24, [Paws for Treats](#); Reddy insulated pet bowl, \$20, [Petco](#); Tall Tails fish pet toy, \$21, [Paws for Treats](#); French Blue Stripe bandana, \$26, [thefoggydog.com](#); Hunter canvas anchor, \$18, [Paws for Treats](#); Crater Lake pet bed, starting at \$99, [Pendleton](#).





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{ Orange Crush }

With a portfolio ranging from homes on Chicago's North Shore to vacation homes in Florida and Martha's Vineyard, Page Louisell of Page Louisell Design knows how to create sophisticated and livable interiors for her clients. "We transformed the third floor of an old Victorian home into a play space for the family's three young children. We fully updated the bathroom vanity, but kept the old cast iron tub and gave it new life with a fresh coat of orange paint. The color selections were chosen by the homeowner himself — he loves orange, and we thought what better place to do it than in the play space?"



Pattern Play Add a pop of color through textiles. A pillow in a citrus orange pattern or a tassel adorned on a chair are great ways to pull this color into your decor.

Ceylon Orange on Tint, quadrillefabrics.com
 Citrus Garden in Primary, fshumacher.com
 Anney Chair Tassel in Terra Cotta/Melon, samuelandsons.com

— SHOP THE LOOK —



Palm Beach classic mirror, \$535, shopsocietysocial.com



Carriere Freres orange blossom candle, \$50, carrierefreres.com



Worlds Away tissue box, \$92, houzz.com



Island tray, \$60, amandalindroth.com

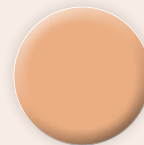
Hue Cues



CARROT STICK, Benjamin Moore (2016-30): This bright and crisp orange is great for accent pieces, kitchens or play rooms where you want to pack a punch.



STARTLING ORANGE, Benjamin Moore (2016-10): This striking and super saturated hue is perfect for cabinets or where you want to make an accent statement.



TOOTY FRUITY, Benjamin Moore (089): This light orange hue with peachy undertones is a great way to add color to a space without overwhelming it.

Produced by **Alexandra Wood**
 @alexandrawooddesign



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Photo by: AJ Brown Imaging



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Home Networking



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Outdoor Entertainment



Motorized Shades



Lighting Control



Wellness



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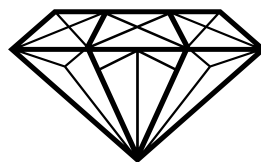


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What to Wear Now

Embrace the rest of summer with these easy, breezy outfit ideas.

Styling and photography by Shanna Wolf

One and Done

From graphic prints to stylish stripes, your head-to-toe look is complete.



Day to Night

(L-R) Molly Bracken tropical print dress, \$60, **Tres Belle Boutique**; Moondance raglan dress, \$78, **Bloomingbyrds**; Joules Fifi print shift dress, \$110, **Tres Belle Boutique**; She + Sky printed smocked jumpsuit, \$79, **Edie**; Lysse Anchor Stripe jacket, \$159, Lysse Anchor Stripe pant, \$124, both from **Bloomingbyrds**; and Jen & Co. vegan leather backpack, \$79, **Edie**.

Finishing Touches

(L-R) EMU Australia Kadina slide, \$40, and Sam Edelman Audrea slide, \$120, both from **ShoShoo**; Sofft Basima wedge sandal, \$120, **Jayne**; and Sam Edelman Daniella sandal, \$120, **ShoShoo**.

His + Hers Weekend Wear



Suncloud Voucher polarized sunglasses, \$55, and Kuhl Aerifyr hat, \$30, both from **Clear Water Outdoor**.



Patagonia Cotton Ball Gators shirt, \$69, Fiber Flora shirt, \$79, and Toad & Co. Boundless shorts, \$70, all from **Clear Water Outdoor**.



Pink Pineapple anchor sweater, \$139, **Water Lilly**; Koorungal Macoola sun hat, \$40, and Cotton Bleu stripe pocket short, \$49, both from **Bloomingbyrds**.



Extended Break reversible swimsuit, \$149, **Clear Water Outdoor**.



Brightly Twisted tie-dye scarf, \$96, **Bloomingbyrds**; and Greyson Lake neoprene tote, \$96, **Jayne**.



Peter Millar Tropical Swim Short and Sailboat Swim Short, \$98 each, both from **Haberdapper**



Lilly Pulitzer Emilia sunglasses, \$48, **Water Lilly**; and Mia Ela woven sneaker, \$59, **Bloomingbyrds**.



Olukai Kahi sneaker, \$120, **Clear Water Outdoor**.



Johnnie-O Boardwalk sandal, \$78, **Haberdapper**.



Superga platform sneaker, \$80, and Bayton Hawaii sandal, \$70, both from **ShoShoo**.



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Meet the Maker



Treat Yourself

Many small-business ventures are started because someone with an entrepreneurial spirit saw a need in the market. Such was the case for Emma Zwissler, founder of clean skincare line **The Sunday Standard**. After battling hormonal acne much of her adult life and trying countless prescription medications, Zwissler started to dig into the root causes of what wasn't working.

"Many ingredients found in conventional beauty products are synthetically-produced chemicals that are known to be toxic and disruptive to the endocrine (hormonal) system," says Zwissler. "These harmful ingredients can wreak havoc on your hormones, leading to increased acne breakouts and other imbalances."

Tapping into her product development background, the then-Milwaukee-based entrepreneur started a small skincare line in 2016 as a "creative outlet" — and was surprised at how effective the oil blends were for her skin. She sold her products at craft shows and events and learned that customers desired clean, natural skincare. In 2018, she relaunched her business under the new name The Sunday Standard, which is a nod to Sunday being a "self-care day. But it's Sunday self-care for every day of the week," she notes.

Her curated line has four products: an oil cleanser, a clay mask and two facial oils. Spirulina, or blue-green algae, is a key component in her products because it's a "superfood powder that contains a full spectrum of nutrient-rich vitamins and minerals ... making it a powerhouse addition to your daily skincare routine," says Zwissler. Other ingredients she uses include borage seed oil ("a really good source of gamma-linolenic acid that helps promote healthy cellular turnover"), blue tansy oil ("it soothes and calms the skin"), green clay and essential oils. Zwissler's products are backed by the knowledge she gained with a degree from Formula Botanica, an online accredited organic skincare school, and a certification in natural preservation methods.



"Our products are formulated with blemish-prone skin in mind and work to repair damaged skin from the inside out by promoting barrier repair and cellular renewal, eliminating blemish-causing impurities and restoring balance," explains Zwissler, who's now headquartered in Chicago. "One customer comment that always sticks out in my mind sums us up. [They] called our product line 'luxurious and effective,' which, if I could pick two words for customers to describe what we do, those would be the ideal."

shopthesundaystandard.com

Shoppist

Summer Saviors

Snag these products from Wisconsin brands and retailers to keep your look sizzling when temperatures soar.



RESTORE & REPAIR

"Our Rosehip & Sea Buckthorn Night Oil is my go-to oil after long days in the sun," says The Sunday Standard's Emma Zwissler (see

left). "It contains buriti oil, which is perfect for restoring and revitalizing sun-drenched skin. [It's] full of antioxidants which help to reduce and stop free radical damage from the sun." \$74, shopthesundaystandard.net



VIRTUOUS VEIL

Qêt Botanicals out of Cross Plains makes botanical skin, hair and body treatments. "All of our Day Serums ... have UVA/UVB

oils (raspberry, carrot, cranberry) in them that act like a protective veil because of the high levels of antioxidants that fight the free radicals that cause premature aging," explains Qêt's founder, Lisa Brill. "It's different than a sunblock as it doesn't reflect the rays, but rather fights those free radicals with the antioxidants and vitamins." \$65, qetbotanicals.com



HAIR HELPER

Stoughton jewelry artist (and shop owner of Dune Gift and Home) Cire' Alexandria crafts gorgeous, one-of-a-kind brass hair

sticks for throwing up unruly strands. Pick from three geometric shapes, and exude a cool-girl vibe. \$32, cirealexandria.com



SUN SHIELD

Sunscreen with benefits? We'll take it. L.A. brand SALT & STONE's SPF 50 lotion has hyaluronic acid, along with rosehip seed and avocado

oils. The mineral-based formula uses non-nano zinc oxide for sun protection with no white residue. Yay! \$22, gooddayshop.net

Top left, middle, bottom left: Photography by Jason Jahnke | Styling by Faryn Jahnke



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Ten Minutes With MARY BEST

The owner of Mary Best Designs in Shorewood shares how she got into design for clients in Milwaukee, Chicago and Lake Geneva — and what's next in interiors.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Lacy Landre

You graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in apparel design. How did you transition into interior design?

I also studied at the London College of Fashion, and I've always had a big love of textiles. My first job out of college was at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago with Stroheim Fabric showroom. I fell in love with interior design at that point. Then, I moved to Portland, Ore., and worked for a woman who did interior design and designed soft home furnishings. When [my husband and I] moved back to Milwaukee, I started my own business where I was making my own slipcovers, bedding and window treatments. My business started evolving and people asked me to help them select paint colors, or pick out a sofa — things like that. Now, I subcontract out all of my window treatment [fabrication] and don't do any sewing anymore.

Where do you glean inspiration from in your designs?

I get a lot of inspiration from Instagram and even Pinterest. Instagram has such great accessibility and there are so many designers out there that I haven't heard of. So if a designer I'm following posts about some furnishings they love, I'll go and research that line. Some designers' Instagram accounts I love include: @namdangmitchell, @william_mclure, @darrylcarterdesign and @alyssakapitointeriors.



Where do you like to shop for home items for yourself or clients in Milwaukee?

One of my favorites is Brew City Salvage in the Fifth Ward — it has midcentury modern pieces. I also stumbled upon this place called Dandy on the border of Wauwatosa and Milwaukee, and [they] carry some neat vintage pieces as well. Another place that's popular in the North Shore is Legacy [which is], a consignment store. The owner of Delafield Design Gallery carries Lee Industries furniture and I frequently take my clients to see the high-quality pieces they make. LUCE Lighting in Milwaukee carries my favorite brand, Visual Comfort.

What trends should we be looking for next in home interiors?

In the kitchen, wood cabinets are coming back into style — but not dark wood — a white oak or light oak. Even if it's a painted cabinet, we're seeing less gray and back into beige or mushroom colors, which can be very sophisticated and chic.

We're also seeing a lot of hand-made tiles, called Zellige. A lot of different companies are making their own version of these.

[Other things include] beige being back (Benjamin Moore Pale Oak is a favorite, see sidebar)! [And] wallpaper is going strong, even on the ceiling. Another trend is painting the ceiling a color. 🐾

My favorite Milwaukee designers include Angela Westmore, Amy Carman, Karen Kempf and Megan Brakefield.



I use Benjamin Moore [paints] the most. My favorite is White Dove — I've used it with trim and kitchen cabinets. It's never let me down. Other Benjamin Moore picks include Pale Oak, Kendall Charcoal and Chelsea Gray.



My home is more neutral in color, yet has a very layered look and feel. Being in interior design exposes me to so much color and pattern — so what has worked for me is going neutral ... when I do fall in love with a color or pattern, I can introduce it in a small way.

I [did this design] in a 1920's Wauwatosa Tudor home. [The homeowners] have little kids so they didn't want to put an expensive rug in their dining room, so I came up with painting the floor in the middle to make it look like a rug. It turned out really great.





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Lawn and Garden Care



Your year-long guide to keeping your lawn handsome and your garden gorgeous.

By Maura Keller

For many homeowners, landscaping is as simple as putting in a tree here, a flowerbed there. For others, gardening and lawn care has evolved into a sophisticated process. Some homeowners are willing to invest as much time and money on the outside appearance of their homes as they dedicate to their home's interior.

Whether you are hoping for a big harvest, a beautiful landscape or a lush lawn, knowing the "when" and "how" of gardening and lawn care on your property is paramount.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Northern Wisconsin gardeners face extreme cold and an even shorter growing season. Gardeners in the southern area of the state face unreliable snow cover and fluctuating winter temperatures. And all face untimely snowstorms, flooding and drought.

Melinda Myers, a Mukwonago-based gardening expert, author and TV/radio host with more than 30 years of horticulture experience, says it's vital that homeowners plan before planting. "You are less likely to overbuy and purchase the wrong plants if you start with a plan," Myers says.

SPRING TO-DOS:

- » **Lightly rake the lawn** as soon as snow recedes to avoid snow mold disease.
- » **Repair any lawn damage** by tamping disrupted turf back in place or reseeding dead areas in May.
- » **Fertilize your lawn.**
- » **Mow high (3-3.5") and often** (removing no more than one-third of the height) as soon as grass begins to grow. Leave the clippings on the lawn to decompose and improve the soil. And, keep clippings out of the lake.
- » **Monitor plantings** for damage from winter weather and animals.
- » **Prune any broken branches**, but wait to see how they recover as temperatures warm. Stressed plants and a cold spring can delay bud break. "Prune with a purpose — to control size, improve structure, flowering and fruiting," Myers says.
- » **Clean leaves and debris** out of plant beds. If leaves and debris are left too long they can prevent perennials from emerging and sometimes even kill them.
- » **Mulch and edge the lawn.** According to Kyle Kohlmann, senior landscape architect at Seasonal Services, be careful not to apply too much mulch or else that could potentially smother plantings. "Edging plant beds could also be done at this time. The beds will be looking fresh and new right away in the growing season," Kohlmann says.

- » **Examine perennial gardens** for coral bells, bulbs and other perennials that may have frost heaved. The freezing and thawing some areas of Wisconsin experience cause soil to shift and can push plants out of the ground, so reset as needed.

"And if you let perennials stand for winter you can cut them down and compost the debris," Myers says. "The longer you wait, the better for the beneficial insects that may be overwintering in the stems. I pile mine in an area out of sight until mid-summer to give any beneficial insects a chance to hatch."

- » **Check seed packets and plant tags** for timing on planting. Wait until the soil warms and the danger of frost has passed to plant warm season plants like tomatoes, squash, melons, impatiens and coleus.

"With the snowmelt, there is a lot of available nitrogen in the ground for spring green up," says Craig Kittleson, owner of Kittleson Landscape. "I'm not a big advocate for a lot of fertilizer [during] spring time on lawns, and most of the plants and shrubs should not need any fertilizer at this time."





SUMMER SPLENDOR

Summer is the time of year to watch plants burst into vibrant blooms — often at different times. As Kittleson explains, for areas of your landscape that lack color, go to a nursery and find some perennials that are flowering at this time.

“There are plenty of perennials to choose from that will give you a stronger color in the late summer and

fall when some of those shrubs are just looking green,” Kittleson says.

Also, be sure your lawn is fed throughout the whole growing season.

“Think of it as if you are eating a balanced meal all year long versus one really rich meal and then nothing after that,” Kittleson says. “If you dump a bunch of fertilizer [on your lawn] in the springtime and then do not do any more throughout the rest of the season, it will cause your grass to [be] stressed and be more likely [to encourage] disease in your lawn.”

SUMMER CHECKLIST:

- » **Lightly fertilize and water** your lawn under drought conditions to help keep things looking green.
- » **Mow your lawn** to a three-inch height to keep the ground cooler and conserve moisture for your grass.
- » **Weed gardens.** Just like in spring, it's important to suppress weed growth in summer. If weeds start to take hold in the garden they can overrun ornamental plantings. Kohlmann suggests using Preen in plant beds, which is a preemergent granule herbicide that kills weeds' seeds.
- » **Mulch soil** with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic material to conserve moisture.
- » **Water established plants** thoroughly when the top few inches of soil begin to dry, and check new plantings and keep soil moist until seedling and transplants are established.
- » **Check container plantings** and water thoroughly as needed.
- » **Deadhead perennials.** After perennials have flowered it's a good idea to remove spent flowers. This keeps the plant looking healthy and clean. Sometimes it will spark a second round of flowering in some perennials.

Lakeside Garden and Lawn Care

For owners of lake homes, Myers says it is important to always keep the health of the lake in mind.

“Growing a healthy lawn and gardens can help keep water and any dust and pollutants on the property and out of the lake,” Myers says. “Do not discard pond plants in the lake, as non-native and invasive plants damage our water quality. And avoid harmful chemicals that may end up in the lake.”



FALL PREPARATION

When the growing season winds down, there are some key to-dos that will help protect your lawn and garden during the cold months.

AUTUMN TASK LIST:

- » **Leave perennials** to stand for the winter.
- » **Plant spring flowering bulbs** after temperatures are consistently in the 40s to low 50s.
- » **Plant perennials**, trees, shrubs and grass seed.
- » **Continue mowing** high and often as long as the grass is growing.
- » **Fall fertilization** of lawn is the most effective at encouraging a thick lush lawn. "Fertilize on Labor Day and Halloween with a low-nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer like Milorganite," Myers says.
- » **Shred leaves** with your mower and leave them on the lawn to add organic matter and nutrients, or use as mulch or compost.
- » **Place winter protection** and animal barriers in place as needed before the ground freezes.
- » **Protect sensitive plantings** from critters. Wrap tender evergreens with burlap for further protection.

WHAT TO DO IN WINTER

To keep up your lawn and garden maintenance, even cold-weather tasks will help preserve your hard work.

WINTER WRAP-UP ITEMS:

- » **Apply evergreen boughs** over sensitive perennials and bulbs after the ground freezes to reduce the risk of frost heaving.
- » **Monitor your landscape** for animal damage and adjust management strategies as needed.
- » **Winter is a great time to do structural pruning** on trees and shrubs because the branching structure is visible (there are no leaves on the trees). "Be sure not to prune early spring flowering trees/shrubs in winter [like] lilacs, magnolias, forsythia, et cetera," Kohlmann says. "This would remove flower buds and prevent the plant from blossoming." 🐿

Freelance writer Maura Keller frequently writes about home-related topics for regional and national publications.

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Pull Together a Perfect Party

Night In

Staying in — again (thanks, COVID-19!)? No problem! Step up your hors d'oeuvres and drinks to make an ordinary night feel extraordinary.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Katie Derus Photography

Bring on the Board

Chloe Starz, a Madison-based event planner (who literally teaches workshops on how to build a cheeseboard!) gives insight into how to easily construct your own.

Cont. on page 30



Mild Swiss Cheese
This is the most quintessential cheese besides cheddar, says Starz. "Swiss holds up really well regardless of temperature, and the flavor balances well with the salty [items] on the board."

Pistachios
"Nuts are a great, salty way to balance flavor," explains Starz. "You could also use a candied pecan or praline."

Soft Cheese
Starz used Boursin cheese here. "I typically do at least three cheeses [on boards] — a harder cheese, a soft cheese and a mid-range cheese that all have different flavor profiles."

Meats
"I like to do a mix of the whole-muscle cuts — like capicola and prosciutto. I also like to pepper in dry-aged, cured sausage — like on this board," says Starz.

Sharp-Flavored Cheese
Starz loves the sharpness and saltiness of Cambazola, a triple-cream, Brie-style cheese that's also creamier than a typical blue cheese.

Dried Fruits
When it's harder to find fresh fruit, Starz also says dried fruit is a lovely cheeseboard accompaniment. Here, she used dried figs.

Crackers
"I love these swirl cheese sticks! And I also like to use crackers that are more 'traditional,' so it's a texture balance for whatever you're putting on top," says Starz.

Bread
"I like to call bread 'vehicles' [for the board items]," says Starz. It's a great way to vary up textures on the board, too. Starz likes Trader Joe's Fig & Olive Crisps, shown here.

Fruits
In spring and summer, berries and citrus are really in. "I love to pop in a blood orange or a mandarin orange because they [can sometimes] have leaves and stems," Starz explains. Strawberries, raspberries and apples are also top picks.



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Super Sippers

A summer afternoon or evening isn't complete without an icy-cool refresher. Here are some Wisconsin-based brands to consider for brews, cocktails and mocktails. Photography and styling by Shanna Wolf



This won a 2020 Good Food Award for Elixir!

- 1. Forage Tropical Kombucha
- 2. Hop Haus Brewing Co. Sweet Sunglasses Blonde Ale
- 3. Wisco Pop! Strawberry Soda

- 4. Wisconsin Dells Brewing Company Scinnie Ale
- 5. One Barrel Brewing Company Up North Wisconsin Lager
- 6. Top Note Classic Tonic Water

- 7. State Line Distillery Gin
- 8. Lakefront Brewery Gluten-Free New Grist Pilsner
- 9. Wollersheim Winery Wollersheim White

- 10. Plain Spoke Cocktail Co. Mojito
- 11. Sprecher Orange Dream craft soda
- 12. Quince & Apple Fix Tart Cherry Grenadine

Put It All Together

Cute tableware makes everything look better.



Granada tray, \$58, **Serena & Lily**

Fish Kiss Wisconsin platter, \$39, **Orange Tree Imports**

Woodbury serving board, \$128, **Serena & Lily**

Handmade SW ceramic serving bowl, \$68, **Bungalow608**

Striped inlay olive wood salad servers, \$38, **Bungalow608**



Vinylacé Graphite wine/sparkling water insulator, \$90, **Crate & Barrel**

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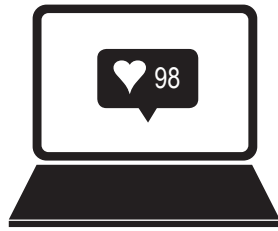
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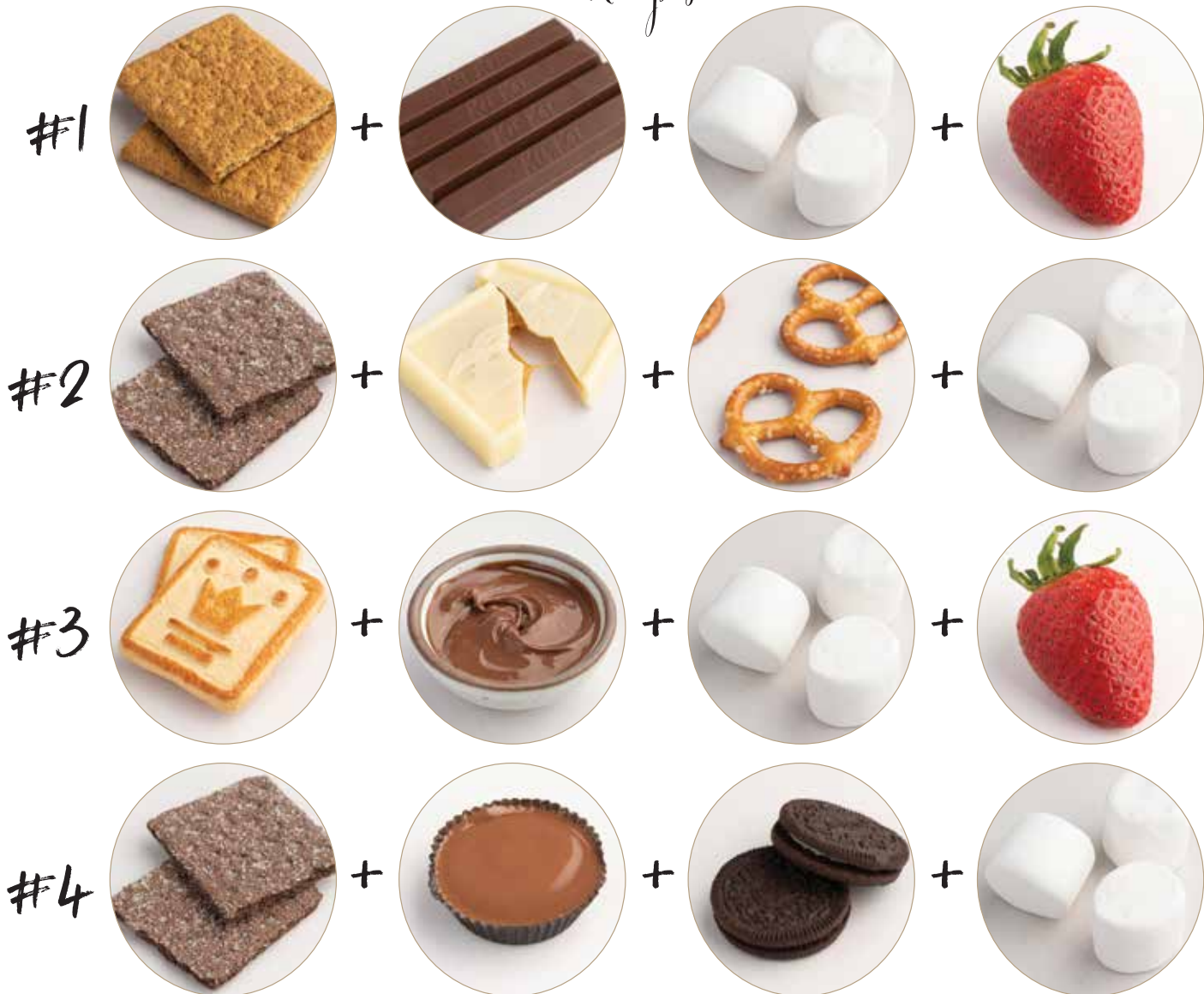
Text by Shayna Mace
Photography by Sunny Frantz

*Mmmmm ...
vanilla cookies
and pretzel bits
add an unexpected
twist!*



Sure, s'mores are to campfires like cheese curds are to Wisconsin — a perfect combination. But there are delicious ways to shake up this fire-toasted staple. Let's open up a whole new world of sweet possibilities.

Recipes



Consider setting up a self-serve “bar” with more than just graham crackers, marshmallows and Hershey’s Milk Chocolate bars – ingredients like white chocolate caramel squares, chocolate grahams and Nutella elevate your s’mores a notch above the ordinary.

TRY THESE COMBINATIONS, ABOVE:

1. Cinnamon graham crackers + Kit-Kat bar + marshmallows + strawberries = A sweet sandwich with a bit of crunch
2. Chocolate graham crackers + white chocolate caramel square + pretzels + marshmallows = A sophisticated twist
3. Chessmen cookies + Nutella + marshmallows + strawberries = A chocolate-covered strawberry treat
4. Chocolate graham crackers + Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup + Oreo + marshmallows = An indulgent peanut butter and chocolate delight





Sustainable Living With Smart Devices

How connected gadgets can help you save money and lessen environmental impact.

By Amy Wunderlin

THERE'S NO DOUBT that connected devices have made our lives easier, smarter and safer. But is there also an opportunity for smart technology to help us live more sustainably?

With the average household spending about \$2,000 on electricity bills per year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, advances in thermostats, lighting, plumbing, home appliances and more are making it easier for the average consumer to monitor and maintain their energy and water usage. This is not only good for the wallet but also the environment.

<<<

HEATING UP AND COOLING DOWN

Smart temperature control is the first step to a more sustainable use of energy for the average homeowner, and it is easy to see why with heating and cooling making up almost 50% of total home energy use, according to thermostat manufacturer ecobee, which introduced the first smart Wi-Fi thermostat in 2007. Connected thermostats work by allowing homeowners to control and monitor the heating, cooling and humidity levels in their homes easily from an app on their phones.

"Installing a smart thermostat reduces daily resource consumption, automatically taking what is needed from the energy grid without sacrificing comfort," says Kathryn Checkley, manager of sustainability for ecobee. So far, ecobee has helped homeowners save up to 23% in heating and cooling costs, but Checkley notes that home efficiency is about more than cost savings.

"Since more than half of home energy use is for heating and air conditioning, ecobee's better heating and cooling management inherently reduces users' carbon footprint," Checkley says. An internal study of thermostat savings from 2014-18 indicates that ecobee smart thermostats reduce emissions by an average of one metric ton of CO₂eq per home, which is powerful, considering the average North American has a personal carbon footprint of about 17 tons per year.

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"You can kind of pick and choose how you manage temperatures at different times of the day and different times of the week, based on how you set up a thermostat," explains Gary Trucinski, principal owner of AV-LET Inc., a commercial and residential technology service provider that manages about 26 houses around Lake Geneva.

A smart thermostat will also alert the homeowner or whoever is managing the home such as a company like AVLET if the temperature or humidity level falls below a certain point.

"Many of our clients have more than five zones of heating and cooling in their house, so they want to be able to pull up an iPhone or an iPad app and see all five zones and get an indication right away what the temperatures are in those areas," Trucinski says, explaining that "then they know right away if there's a problem or something they should pay attention to.

"Those apps also have the ability to alert us or the HVAC contractor that we've got a problem that needs to be checked on," he adds.

>>>

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Growing up, you may have heard the common parent refrain: "Turn off the lights!" Of course, it probably had to do with saving money — but the energy savings smart lights afford have some major green benefits as well.

Like smart thermostats, smart lights allow you to turn your home's lights on and off from your smartphone or by voice activation. Philips Hue, one of the biggest names in smart home devices, often tops the list of best smart bulbs and offers one of the largest selections in a variety of hues, such as white, color and ambient. The brand also offers the convenience of a central hub that allows the homeowner to control each bulb from one mobile app.

Additionally, some smart lights such as those offered by Philips Hue offer dimmer functions, which have the potential for an even greater impact.

"Dimming a light bulb just 10% can double the life of the bulb and reduce your burn by 25% on your electricity. So, dimming down any lights is a tremendous benefit to everyone in terms of burn and life expectancy of the bulb," Trucinski says.

>>>

WASTE NOT WATER

According to the United States Geological Survey Water Census, if all U.S. households installed water-saving features, water use would decrease by 30%, saving an estimated 5.4 billion gallons per day. That is a compelling argument for considering smart upgrades in the kitchen and bath.

Smart plumbing features include faucets and shower heads, which can monitor water usage via smartphone apps where you can set thresholds and view water and heating savings. Some shower heads even feature LED lights that turn the water spray blue, green, purple or red based on the volume used.

"Homeowners are looking for insight on how they can better manage their resources within the home — including water and energy," says Jonathan Bradley, product manager, smart home at Kohler Co.



Philips Hue bulbs can be controlled via a Bluetooth app or by voice assistants like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, Apple HomeKit and their own Hue Bridge device (far left). The Philips dimmer switch (far right) can be removed from its magnetic base on the wall to use as a remote control.

The Wisconsin-based manufacturer, known for its beautiful and functional plumbing products, is also driven by sustainability. Integrating its products with technology allows them to take it one step further.

For example, Kohler's new Aquifer Refine Water Purification System allows homeowners to purify water while also monitoring water usage and leak detection. In the bathroom, Kohler's DTV Prompt digital showering system with Eco-mode is an integrated diverter that meets CalGreen requirements, a set of building codes established by the state of California to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In addition, it offers a water-conserving warm-up mode, a pause function



Kohler's DTV Prompt digital showering system with Eco-Mode (left) lets you control spray patterns and water temperature. To help save water, the LCD interface has a water-conserving warm-up mode, a pause function that halts water flow for up to two minutes and an option to set the shower duration to save time and water.

that halts water flow for up to two minutes and an option to set the shower duration to save time and water.

"Technology has and will continue to play a crucial role in how our products can help homeowners implement sustainable practices in their everyday lives," Bradley adds.

Ultimately however, using all of these technologies together in a true smart home is the best option for more sustainable living, according to Trucinski.

"Sustainability-wise, a connected home can give you that, but a connected home again requires you to initiate it every day. People today are very busy because life has become more complicated than it's ever been, and there's a lot of information at our fingertips. Sustainability comes easier in a smart home where you can put these programs together and put them in play by the touch of a button or by an activation of a voice command," he concludes. 🏡

Amy Wunderlin is a Fort Atkinson-based freelance writer who has written for publications across a variety of industries, including Wisconsin Meetings, Concrete Contractor and Food Logistics, among others.

Top image courtesy of Kohler Co.



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Next Generation LAKE LIVING

An Illinois couple renovated a formerly stout-looking, Foursquare home on Delavan Lake to relive summers spent on the lake.

By Shelby Rowe Moyer | Photography by KayserPhotography



Patrick Gries grew up spending summers on Delavan Lake, staying in a family cottage no bigger than a two-car garage packed with 10 siblings. It was so noisy inside that his mom nicknamed it The Chatterbox.

Though The Chatterbox isn't around anymore — one of Patrick's brothers bought it and built a new home on the land — pieces of it live on at his and wife Patty's current vacation home on Delavan Lake. The couple preserved little touches from the original cottage like the white wicker chairs, and a rustic Chatterbox sign hangs in the screened-in porch.

FROM OUTDATED COTTAGE TO MODERN DWELLING

The Gries family, who live in Illinois and have three grown children, bought their vacation home 11 years ago and decided to renovate it before their daughter, Molly, got married — when they knew family and friends would be over. When the couple started construction in 2018, the list for the remodel was a large undertaking, but still relatively short: finish the basement, redo the kitchen and replace the windows and siding.



Family History

Prior to the remodel, the living room, dining room and kitchen were cordoned off with walls, but now the family enjoys an open concept. Throughout the house, old-meets-new touches are sprinkled throughout, like the refinished wood rocking chair in the living room that belonged to Patrick Gries' father.



The historic Foursquare-style house — a boxy architecture trend that was popularized in the late 1800s and early 1900s — was old, and needed sprucing up. But once contractors started their work, they found a host of problems. Mummified beehives were found in the walls and the windows and doors didn't have proper structural support — so they ended up gutting much of the house to reorganize the layout, and added more bathrooms and a bedroom.

“It was a lot bigger project . . . than we initially thought,” he says.

The end result rendered the interior and exterior of the home nearly unrecognizable. Now, the abode has a new lease on life with an open concept

floor plan and a coastal, Nantucket style layered with navys, grays and reds. Chris Stebnitz, owner of Stebnitz Builders, says his team has done a lot of work around Walworth County, but the Gries home was certainly a grand project, namely, because they raised the house so the basement could function better for their family.

Prior to the renovation, the basement was a cellar with poor ventilation on the backside of the home, facing the lake. Now it's a family oasis with 1,800 square feet of living space, including a bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette, laundry area, recreation room and a stunning fireplace designed by Jeff Auberger of Stebnitz Builders. Plus, the family can walk right out to the backyard and enjoy the fire pit or hop in the hot tub.

The kitchen used to be in the back of the house and felt closed off from the living spaces. Now, meals can be prepped while the Gries mingle with guests.



Rustic and Refined

This page, top: The dining room exemplifies the original charm of the lakefront home. The oak built-ins were installed by the second owner of the home and were refreshed with matching trim that make them pop. The light fixture is also original to the house. Patty insisted on keeping it, and Patrick refinished it with a little paint and varnish to make it look anew.

Bottom right: The barn door leading into the pantry softens the modern renovation.



A Dreamy En Suite

The Gries' master bathroom was gutted and the layout rearranged. Now, it feels light and bright with the help of marble countertops. Sleek tile wraps the walls and was selected for its likeness to driftwood. The master bedroom has traditional charm with furniture that was crafted or refinished by Patrick. He made their bed frame out of old doors and crafted midcentury modern nightstands to match. The chest at the foot of the bed was falling apart before he refinished it.

“When it comes to lake homes, I would say the majority of people are talking to us about design,” Stebnitz says. “They’re looking for more space and they want it to be functional. We used the same footprint [in the Gries home], but it’s ... more efficient.”

Aside from the basement, the biggest transformation was the kitchen. Patrick says the old kitchen was essentially a porch slab that was an add-on from the home’s original summer kitchen. It’s now modern and stately with big swaths of subway tile backsplash and white cabinetry that extends to the ceiling with trim added by Stebnitz, giving the space a completely custom look. Oh, and we can’t forget that island. It’s one of Patty’s favorite features.

“I’ve got this 8-foot by 4½-foot island that looks straight out to the water, and I can do dishes here,” she says. “I love to cook, and [now] I’m part of the whole group whereas, before, the kitchen was in the back area of the house.”

TOUCHES OF OLD AND NEW

Though the house looks brand new, some of its special moments are in the vintage furnishings. The built-in china cabinets in the dining room add warmth to the main floor living area and are original to the house, built by the second owner, Patrick says. Stebnitz added trim to the cabinets, a small detail that makes the built-ins really pop as a three-dimensional focal point against the pale wall.

Patrick refinishes furniture as a hobby and has preserved heirloom bed frames, dressers and chairs from his grandparents and parents. These little



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A Place to Gather

Right: The screened-in porch is now the perfect place to sit with a cup of coffee, outfitted with wicker chairs and a table that came from Patrick's childhood cottage, and original wood flooring. Previously, the space was a hallway used for storage.

Below: The home was lifted to bring the lakeside portion of the basement to ground level. The basement was remodeled to include a bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette and entertainment and lounging space. When the house was lifted to renovate the basement, a bump-out was added to match the architecture of the main floor.



pieces of family history are dotted throughout the home in bedrooms and living spaces. It's these elements that make the house sing and feel unique to the Gries family.

This fall, when their daughter gets married, the Gries will host a pre-wedding waterskiing party at the home. It's one of the Gries' favorite activities, and it goes back to why they bought the house more than a decade ago. The first time they saw the property, their daughter was teaching her cousin how to waterski on the lake when she said, "Dad, I like this house. We should buy it." That was in August 2009, Patrick says, and they closed on the house that December.

During the spring and summer, Patrick and Patty come to the Delavan Lake house just about every week, making the hour or so drive from their home in Illinois. It's truly a respite and the lakefront house they've always wanted.

"Our favorite thing is to go on the pier and watch the sunsets," Patty says. "The south shore has the most beautiful sunsets, and it's just absolutely gorgeous. We were watching it last night and there's just nothing like it." 🌅

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Where Architecture & Artful Spaces Meet

How one couple created their own lake home masterpiece for friends and family to enjoy Geneva Lake with them.

By Shelby Rowe Moyer | Photography by Shanna Wolf

When you walk into Beth Bovis and David Feldstein's 7,900-square-foot lakefront home, it's hard to know where to look first. Every element was thoughtfully considered and curated to create an artful sanctuary for adults and kids, from the brilliant architecture to the expressive furnishings to the cozy living spaces designed with family fun in mind.

It's certainly a far cry from the original home that sat on the two-acre lot on Geneva Lake. When Bovis and Feldstein bought the property in 2016, they decided the little lakefront cottage had already been renovated to the fullest extent it could be, so they opted to tear it down and start from scratch. Knowing this vacation home could potentially be their full-time residence one day, the



Stay Awhile

The main floor's open concept was designed with gatherings in mind. Seating abounds in the living room with accent chairs flanking the custom-made sofa from Lee Industries. The coffee table is from RockPaperRobot, a New York-based furniture company. A matrix of wooden cubes are held together by magnetic repulsion and a system of tensile steel cables.



couple took extra care to ensure it had the functionality they needed, and that it would be a special place to continue making memories on the lake.

BUILDING THE DREAM

Bovis had grown up spending sun-splashed summers in Williams Bay since the 1980s, and she and Feldstein wanted to continue that tradition with their own family, which includes teenage son Alex, 14, and daughter Samantha, 18. The Madison-based family wanted a summer home where they could comfortably boat, fish and swim, so their attention turned to Geneva Lake.

“There’s always stuff to do in the city, and we knew we were not the ‘head up north and really rough it kind of folks,’” Bovis says. “We wanted to be able to go to a restaurant or be able to stay home and barbecue and have a fire and s’mores.”

Early on in the planning process, Bovis says their vision



A Kids' Haven

The circular stairway leads to the third-floor loft, a cozy room designed specifically for the Bovis-Feldstein kids, plus their friends and family. The design of the staircase adds architectural intrigue, but it also saves space.

The furniture in the loft room was selected because it can be easily moved around and reconfigured. The kids can play their gaming systems up here while the adults chat downstairs.

was to use the lake as the focal point, with functional balconies, plenty of outdoor space, a screened-in porch and bedrooms that maximized the view. Gathering spaces were also a priority — having a place where the kids and adults could hang out separately or together was a must.

The couple worked closely with Lowell Custom Homes and interior designer Michelle Hackworthy of Madison-based Zander's Interiors to create a contemporary home that still looked like it belonged in Wisconsin. The couple opted for a neutral palette of tans and grays that

added warmth to the home but allowed the artistic light fixtures, tilework and modern furniture to sing.

The beauty of the home is in the attention to detail and appreciation for uniqueness. In the kitchen, the Zephyr Pendant light fixture by Hubbardton Forge is reminiscent of undulating ribbons and is complemented by recessed bulbs that provide even lighting throughout the space. The bar stools paired up with the kitchen island were purchased from Three Five Sheridan, a consignment shop in Lake Geneva. The couple had them recovered to match the aesthetic of the home.





“They fit so perfectly with our style,” Bovis says. “They’re one of our favorite things in the house.”

The “levitating” Rubik’s Cube-like coffee table in the living room is made up of individual wood blocks held together by repelling magnets and a system of cables. Bovis met the artist — Jessica Banks, an MIT engineer turned furniture designer — in New York, and they bonded over their Wisconsin ties.

On the second floor, where most of the bedrooms are located, the master suite and two kids’ rooms were designed with architectural distinction and characteristics that spoke to the style of each family member.

“We love interesting rooflines,” Bovis says. “We created a lot of them. Every room has its own features. The master has a big barreled ceiling, a view [of] the lake and [lots of] light that [streams] in through the windows. In my daughter’s room, she has a vaulted ceiling and an interesting ceiling fan. My son’s



Room for the Whole Family

The main floor guest bedroom steps right out onto a back patio with views of Geneva Lake. But what makes this room really special is the en suite, arguably the most beautiful in the house, Bovis says. The spherical light fixtures are by Hudson Valley Rousseau.

The bunk room above the garage is great for when the whole family stays over, which means roughly 20 are staying the night. The bunkroom sleeps 10 comfortably.

room has a French chateau ceiling, and it's all green — it's his favorite color.”

Aside from the creative design elements of the home, a major focus of the home design was functionality. Bovis says they knew they wanted a home they could share with family and friends, and that's exactly how the living spaces are laid out.

Take the basement, which is no ordinary space. Lowell increased the ceiling height in some spots, so the area feels open and airy. And in this home, it's an entertainment mecca with several elements, including a game room, movie room, wet bar and dining spot. Family and friends can easily swivel between watching the Packers game and enjoying a competitive match of ping-pong down here.

“When we were looking for our home, we went and visited many properties and, obviously, none of them were the right one, but they all had things we liked. In my mind, this is our ‘best of’ basement,” Bovis says.

The third-floor loft is a kids' sanctuary. The spiral staircase leads to the top floor turret, where the furniture can be rearranged for any scenario. With the loft, it's a tough call on who's having more fun: the kids or the adults. The adults can hang out with cocktails and conversation on the main floor, while the kids can hang out in the loft.

It was also important to Bovis and Feldstein that the home was equipped with the latest technology. The property has a Crestron audio/visual system that controls all the lighting, sound and video in the home. The family can turn the lighting in the movie room to “night” mode for TV-watching. Or they can stream an audiobook through speakers in the master bedroom and bathroom, and then transfer the livestream to their phones when they leave. It's the ultimate example of seamless, modern-day living.

Now that the family has lived in the home for a couple years, they've had many gatherings already: last summer saw a gathering of 18 people staying at the house and everyone was comfortable.

“It's a dream come true to have a home like this,” Bovis says. “I really feel honored and privileged to have built it and we're happy to be able to share it with friends and family.” 🍷



Before & After

Four mood-lifting makeovers that breathed new life and functionality into spaces with gorgeous results.





Instead of simply doing the herringbone backsplash up to the cabinetry, Cullen extended the tile up to the ceiling for a unified look. Polished gold pulls add glamour and interest to the space.

the kitchen and dining room floors. If the wall came down, both floors would have to be replaced. That being the case, the Cullens decided to do both projects simultaneously.

MINIMALIST CHIC

By Melanie Radzicki McManus | Photography by Shanna Wolf

Mary Cullen likes a clean aesthetic. And when she moves into a new home, she prefers to take her time building up color and adding layers. So when she and her husband, George, settled into new digs in Madison's Maple Bluff two years ago, she knew a kitchen remodel had to be done.

The home's previous owners loved Arizona, and decorated the kitchen in a Sedona-toned palette, including terra cotta walls and orange-brown granite countertops. And while the room's island was a welcome addition, it contained a built-in stovetop that dominated the space — an impracticality, given the Cullens have two children under the age of 3. In addition, the wall separating the kitchen and dining room blocked the dining room's wealth of natural light, plus views of the sunroom, which Mary planned to turn into a playroom.

Removal of the shared wall was actually the couple's first priority. After the couple tapped Jeremy Olson of New Way Remodeling for the job, he discovered a half-inch transition between

Mary did most of the design work herself, tapping Alex Wood of Alexandra Wood Design for some consulting. To lighten the kitchen, Mary selected modern white-painted cabinetry, adding brass pulls to match the rest of the home's brass hardware. She swapped the dark countertops for a light marbled quartz, then added a much larger island — sans stovetop.

Since the decorative hood for her new Wolf range needed to be installed on a sturdy exterior wall, Mary located the stove and hood on the same wall as the sink, which looks out to the home's backyard. A new stainless steel Sub-Zero refrigerator with French doors went in, an improvement over the space-hogging, single-door version it replaced. And neutral, chocolate-toned oak flooring erased the golden tones that emanated from the prior maple planks.

But the pièce de résistance, according to Mary, is the gray-and-white herringbone tile that runs from the countertops to the ceiling on the exterior wall.

"I was nervous about it," she says. "But once it was up, it became my favorite part of the kitchen. It's definitely a win."

Wood agrees, the result is a kitchen with a classic, timeless look. "So many people try to do trendy things," she says, "but sometimes simple is better."



Honeycomb tile was used as a subtle accent in the vanity, tying it into the shower tile. The vanity's wood ledge is a nice design touch — and can also hold greenery.





A BATHROOM BEAUTY

By Shayna Mace | Photography courtesy of Kowalske Kitchen & Bath

When Elise and Mitch Murn purchased their Delafield home in June 2016, the downtown Milwaukee transplants were looking to set down roots in a quieter area that was still close enough to family and things to do. They loved the home and location — but weren't in love with the master bathroom layout.

Puzzlingly, their master bathroom had a stand-up shower and another separate bathtub and shower. A small alcove housed the toilet. The bathroom connected to their master closet and another doorway in the back of the bathroom led to the guest bedroom, eliminating any privacy the couple wanted in their space. In other words, it was cramped, closed-off and non-functional. They also wanted to update the former color palette of tan and brown to something fresh and contemporary, like the rest of their home. They consulted with Kowalske Kitchen & Bath to reimagine their space.

"I wanted to streamline the bathroom and the closet so that it had much more circulation space so that [the owners] had room to actually use the space more productively," says Kowalske designer Christina Kolb. "I wanted to give them a bigger shower and vanity, and make [it] feel more open."

The Kowalske team closed off access to the master closet from the bathroom and shifted the bathroom door to the right. (They added another doorway to the left from the bedroom into the closet). They also sealed off the second doorway access from the guest bedroom. The team moved the toilet to the back left corner of the bathroom, and installed a new five-foot-by-almost-three-foot shower in the back right corner. The finishing touch was a seven-foot-long double vanity to give the couple plenty of space.

Elise says she deferred to Kolb on much of the design specifics — but gave her ideas on what they wanted the space to feel like, using a gray, black and white color scheme and emphasizing the new, open space. The bathroom's luxury vinyl plank flooring, honeycomb tile accents in the vanity and shower, black DreamLine shower enclosure and contemporary sconces all quietly convey relaxed style.

"[Their home] has a light, modern, young family feel," says Kolb. "So, I wanted to carry that into the master bathroom [but] add in more adult touches so that it felt like an escape suite."

The Murns love their new space, which won a Gold Remodeler of the Year award from the Milwaukee chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry in 2019.

"I just love the lightness and the modern feel of the space," says Elise.







COUNTRY CHARM

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Shanna Wolf

Jill and Larry Gierach live in their “seven acres of heaven” in Fort Atkinson, down a quiet, country road. Since 2002, the couple have loved their A-frame home with its rustic charm. But with Larry’s impending retirement a few years ago, Jill knew that their tight, galley-style kitchen was quickly outliving its usefulness. Since Larry’s job was out of town, he only stayed at home on the weekends, so the kitchen’s layout didn’t affect their day-to-day lives as much. But with Larry being home 24/7, it was time to make some changes in their kitchen and great room.

“We couldn’t be in the kitchen at the same time. If one person opened the refrigerator, you were stuck,” explains Jill.

A peninsula closed off the kitchen, limiting traffic flow and creating functionality headaches. Jill consulted Shannon Figaro, founder and principal designer of Fig Interiors out of Madison, to help out.

“Jill and Larry were wonderful to work with from the initial meeting. They told me their pain points and the kitchen was not conducive to their lifestyle and the flow wasn’t the best. The peninsula was limiting their ability to enter the space with groceries. They wanted ease of use, some of the appliances replaced — essentially, they wanted an overhaul,” says Figaro.

Over a six-month period, Figaro and her team revamped the Gierach’s kitchen and great room. In the kitchen, new cabinetry by Curran Cabinetry & Design, Cambria quartz countertops and appliances from Grand Appliance and TV were installed. A kitchen island was swapped in for the peninsula. An updated window over the sink replaced the old, non-functional one. In the dining area, Curran built a custom hutch to house Jill’s pottery pieces as well as a coffee and wine bar. Finishing touches included an apron sink, subway tile backsplash, barstools from Restoration Hardware and pendant lights from Madison Lighting.

The carpeting was ripped out in the living room and replaced with hardwood floors, stained to match the Gierach’s existing floors to create a cohesive feel between spaces. Since the A-frame was sheathed in knotty pine paneling throughout the entire first floor, Figaro suggested the paneling be removed in the kitchen and an adjacent wall to minimize busyness and let the new cabinetry shine. (The paneling was left throughout the rest of the room to preserve character.) Finally, the rustic wood staircase railing was taken down and replaced with a steel cable version for a contemporary touch.

“We were able to transform the space for the better — hitting the nail on the head with the goals for Jill and Larry,” says Figaro. “I’ve seen them enjoying the space with their family over and over again. That’s the best part to me, when I can see homeowners using the space exactly how they describe they would like to in our initial meetings.”

For Jill, an unexpected perk came with the kitchen transformation: “I had a husband who never cooked — and he’s loving to cook. He’s in here all of the time, and it’s changed that man’s life. [The kitchen has] opened a whole new way of using the space and bringing people together.”





of their living room furnishings. Then, they sought the duo’s advice for their kitchen, which lacked functionality. Surprisingly, Cahill and Glavin recommended that they reconfigure the kitchen to define it from the living room and provide separation for the two spaces.

“We closed off the space a little bit, which is contrary to a lot of people’s thinking. But, it defined the space,” explains Glavin.

As part of the kitchen revamp, the homeowners wanted to be able to effectively use the eat-in area of the kitchen with a bay window that housed a round dining table and chairs. Although it worked before, the homeowners wanted to make it cozier and more inviting. Cahill and Glavin got to work reimagining the breakfast nook. A new, creamy white table by Tritter Feefer was swapped in for the family’s old, dark, cherry table. Comfortable upholstered chairs with white piping and nailhead trim swathed in durable indoor/outdoor fabric by Mr. and Mrs. Howard for Sherrill Furniture lend a luxe feel to the spot. A fashionable yet functional Lillian August tufted banquette occupies one side of the table for another comfortable seating option. The banquette touches on the popularity of built-in seating in dining areas, but is actually a stand-alone furniture piece.

“Don’t be afraid to put furniture or a bench against a window. When we propose different layouts [to clients], they think, ‘I can’t put things in front of a window.’ You can. It doesn’t obstruct any view when you’re standing there, and, you don’t have to have three feet behind a bench. So, you’ve gained three feet in the room by using that banquette,” says Glavin.

Other simple designer touches to the space included a new statement light fixture by Visual Comfort, shiplap detail on the ceiling (throughout the entire kitchen) and custom window treatments. Cahill was thrilled with the final results, and so was the family.

“I think any time we can get in bench seating ... I think it’s so much more inviting and interesting than a bunch of chairs around a table. Mixing and matching different fabrics created an unexpected look that wasn’t so matchy-matchy,” says Cahill. “[The family] loves it. They use [the breakfast nook] and sit together more. We love to hear that [spaces we design] bring people together and that they’re enjoying it — because this one does invite you in, and you want to sit there.” 🍷

SIMPLE BUT STUNNING

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Michael Kaskel

Making over a space doesn’t always mean you have to spend a lot of money and weeks (or months) of time. It can be as simple as vision and creative energy. Such was the case for the breakfast nook that was part of a kitchen makeover project for an Illinois-based family.

The homeowners originally approached Melinda Cahill and Suzanne Glavin of North Shore Nest, a Glenview, Ill.-based interior design firm, for some advice on rethinking the setup

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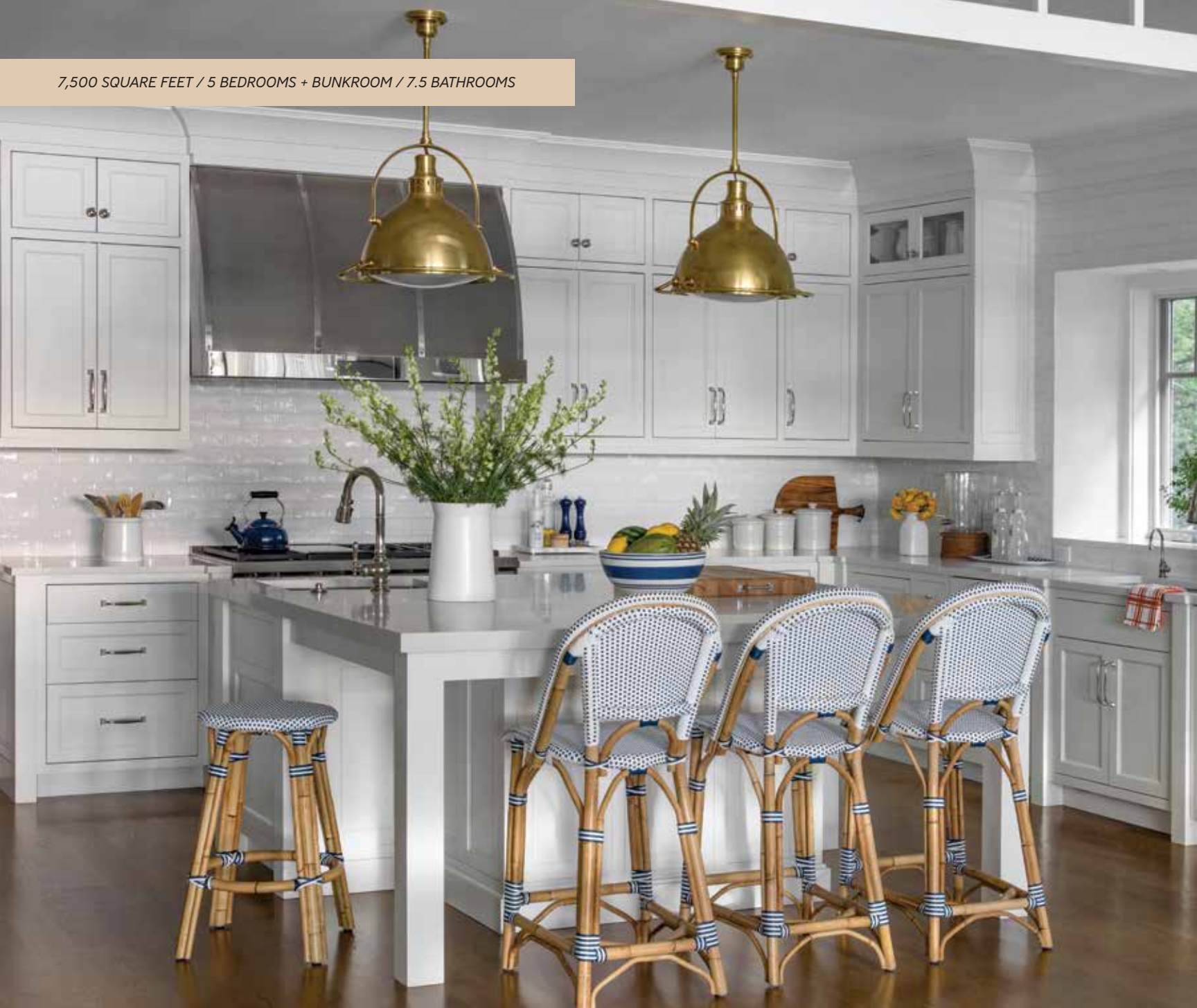


A Perfect Fit



After years of searching for the right Geneva Lake property, a family of five finds their “just right” place.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Cynthia Lynn | Styling by Charlotte Safavi



It's a common story in Lake Geneva: Once you visit, it's hard to let this lake town go. Such was the case for Michelle and Perry Browder and their kids, Amanda, Emily and Martin, and their dog, Emma. After many visits over the years for Perry's work conferences, the Glenview, Ill.-based family dreamed of the day they could own their own piece of Geneva Lake paradise. And, with it only being a quick hour-and-a-half drive away from their Illinois home, "it's a getaway — but not too far," says Michelle.

Michelle says that Perry looked for years for the right lakefront property and, in 2017, found one on Geneva Lake that was under construction by Hummel Construction. It was a great piece of land, the right size and the general layout was what the family was looking for. The family closed on the home less than three weeks after they saw it.

Luckily for the Browders, they came in early enough in the building process that they could still do design tweaks with Hummel in some of the rooms. The couple also brought in Melinda





Nautically Nice

Opposite top: “We always love mixing metals in our kitchens. We also like the details that went in here, and the hardware is really amazing. Our favorite part is just the way this space works, and the way it flows,” says Cahill.

Opposite bottom: The boat art by Trowbridge accents the dining area perfectly.



Cahill and Suzanne Glavin, owner-principals of North Shore Nest, an interior design firm also based in Glenview. Cahill and Glavin had worked with the family on their Glenview home and the Browders were eager to seek their expertise for their unfinished lake home.

“The walls were already there and some of the house was there, but we came in at a point where we could really change things and add those layers that we love to with a new build,” explains Cahill. “So, our first phase was the design portion of the home itself. Then, we moved into the interior design portion of it.”

The first floor was entirely open concept, but Cahill and Glavin thought that adding a bit of separation could actually benefit the home’s feel.

“One of the things we wanted to do was define where the kitchen and the family room were. Not closing them off necessarily . . . but adding in architectural elements that make the spaces feel more cozy than when it’s just left completely open,” says Glavin.

A set of transom windows from the ceiling were added to subtly divide the kitchen from the family room. Because the family room was large enough, the couple decided to move



« *Wine and Dine*

In the lower level, Michelle says Perry was inspired by the zinc-topped bar at Margeaux Brasserie at the Waldorf Astoria in Chicago. So he tracked down the restaurant’s designer and ordered his own zinc bar top from their supplier.

their dining area in there, so they’d have a lake view when eating. The room that was designed to be the dining room (tucked off the home’s main hallway, but without a lake view) instead morphed into a cozy library/sitting room.

“It’s just a little more intimate, and it calls you into wanting to sit in there,” says Glavin.

Other changes included shifting elements around in the kitchen for better flow and to accommodate Michelle’s requests for two dishwashers and spots for a standalone fridge and freezer. Now, the space sings with plenty of cabinetry, a large island that can seat people on three sides and a prep sink. The nautical theme running throughout the room is showcased in the gold Visual Comfort pendant lamps, white undulating subway tile backsplash and Serena & Lily woven chairs.

“It’s an amazing kitchen — I just love it,” enthuses Michelle. “Suzanne and Melinda did a great job of designing it. We spend a lot of time in here. People can stand around the island and talk and do a bit of cooking. There’s so much room in there and storage for so much. It’s a ‘wow’ space!”

LOVELY AND LUXE

But truly, the entire home is full of “wow” spaces. With the



couple's "light, airy and nautical" feel in mind, Cahill and Glavin designed the family room to match this sensibility.

"We knew [the room] was going to be blue and white, looking out at the water — and we wanted to bring the outside in. This is one of the largest spaces in the home for gatherings, so we wanted to make sure there was a place for that. We like to set up rooms where we can to form a kind of 'circle,' whether it's around a cocktail table or large ottoman," says Melinda.

Using entirely custom furnishings from a combination of Tritter Feefer, Mr. & Mrs. Howard for Sherill Furniture and Kravet, guests have plenty of options for seating and lounging while enjoying lake sunsets. The sophisticated mix of patterns, while also employing pops of orange ("just to add that fresh pop of something fun in the room," says Cahill), ensure the room's décor will remain timeless, but never boring.

Adjacent to the sitting area is the spacious dining area, which allows for 10 guests at the custom-designed Rohan Ward table. Ward, based out of Wilmette, Ill., is one of Glavin and Cahill's favorite furniture makers.

"This was a fun area because we had the space. We didn't want the dining room tucked away. We did banquette seating with two tables that can be pushed apart or pushed together. That was important, because if it was just the five of them [dining], then it's cozier," says Glavin.

Also on the main floor is the library/sitting room that offers a quiet reprieve from daily life. The space features custom ceiling beam detail, Mr. & Mrs. Howard custom-upholstered chairs, a Lillian August leather-covered ottoman and Schumacher ikat fabric window treatments.

"This is one of mine and Suzanne's favorite spaces," says Cahill. "It draws you in — it's so comfortable. We love creating spaces like this for people to have after-dinner drinks in, or read in the morning and have your coffee. It's nice to take a step away [here]."

VACATION VIBES

For a home built for rest and relaxation, the Browder's abode has it in spades. The lower level features a wow-worthy bar area with built-in navy cabinetry, refrigerator drawers, wine cooler, dishwasher and a bar with a custom zinc top. Michelle admits they hesitated about painting the cabinetry and trim throughout the

Can't Beat This Retreat

Top left: "We wanted this space to be unexpected, and not so lake-y — again, giving those layers we love," Cahill says about the main floor's powder room, which features a tortoise-framed mirror and Fabric Hut wallpaper.

Top right, bottom: "For guest [rooms] we always try and create an experience, and make [guests] feel as though they're at a hotel ... that is so different from what they have at home," says Cahill. In the Browder's guest room, the design duo wove in navy and Kelly green. The bathroom's stool and the bedroom's luggage stand are custom-covered in Greek key patterned fabric by Quadrille. The sleek wood chair and side table are by Worlds Away, and the beach scene photo print is from Natural Curiosities.





room navy — but says she trusted Cahill and Glavin’s judgement — and the family was happy with the results.

“[In this room] you want the lake feel, but also, a huge part of the time, is fall and winter, where you want that cozy feel. And that’s what we wanted to create coming off of the lake, whether it was winter or summer,” says Cahill.

The other retreat spaces were similarly designed with comfort in mind, including the kids’ bedrooms, the guest room and the upstairs bunkroom that sleeps 12.

“I love the bunkroom, and it’s so kid-friendly — even for my adult kids!” says Michelle. “But we love the views of the water here and just looking out at the lake. There are so many different areas here that I love.” 🐾

« Great Gatherings

Michelle says she hosted a group of girlfriends for the weekend and they all opted to stay in the home’s bunkroom that sleeps 12. Six queen beds are built in with twin beds lofted atop. Vintage sailing flags and a framed American flag lend a traditional, nautical vibe to the room.



Blue & White is Right

Love this home’s classic, coastal vibe? These pieces will capture that feel.



Lily Pad Ginger Jar, \$185,
enchantedhome.com



Melbourne Pendant
in white, \$545,
brookeandlou.com

Schumacher Santa
Barbara Ikat pillow, \$99,
popocolor.com



Martini Counter
Stool, \$585,
brookeandlou.com



FUN IN THE SUN: Some things never change, like enjoying the waterfront on a hot summer day. Shown here is a crowd on a Geneva Lake beach in 1922. Image courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS-146215)



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