

Lakeshore Living

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR LAKE COUNTRY HOME

BEFORE & AFTER

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Room Makeovers



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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, on 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. And we all love oohing and aahing over a good before and after project. 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 28.

As always, this issue is bursting with other ways you can invigorate your home and life, too. Interior designer Mary Best shares what's new and next for your home in paint colors and décor on page 22. Give your wardrobe a little love and check out our summer-into-early-fall picks on page 17. And since we're spending a lot more time at home, 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 spice up your next night in. Catch that on page 24.

We also have two home tours that you won't want to miss, including a revamped family home on Pewaukee Lake and a smartly-designed abode on Okauchee Lake full of midcentury modern charm.

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 COUNTRY HOME

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



Up Country Heart of Gold collar, \$23, and lead, \$24, [The Doggy Bag](http://TheDoggyBag.com)

PERFECT PET STYLE

Pamper your furry pal with super-stylish accessories.

Photography and styling by Shanna Wolf



AmiciPet dog biscuit tin, \$12, [Bark and Beg Boutique](http://BarkandBegBoutique.com)



Reddy bamboo and black ceramic pet bowls and holder, \$40, [Petco](http://Petco.com)



Palermo pet bed, \$158, wayfair.com



Lurvig pet travel bag, \$25, [IKEA](http://IKEA.com)



Honeycomb stainless steel pet bowl, \$5, and Top Paw Gulp pet bowl, \$10, [PetSmart](http://PetSmart.com); Mud Cloth pet bowl, \$17, fringestudio.com; Harmony Slanted marble print stainless pet bowl, \$12, [Petco](http://Petco.com).



Lurvig cat house, \$55, [IKEA](http://IKEA.com)



COLORFUL

(Clockwise from top left) Best Dog ceramic treat jar, \$28, fringestudio.com; RC Pets ruff ruff and watermelon collars, \$18 each, and Huxley & Kent pinwheel flower, \$7, all from **Bark & Beg Boutique**; Muck Collar paisley leash, \$28, **The Doggy Bag**; white dogs pet bowl, \$13, fringestudio.com; BFF pet bowl, \$17, fringestudio.com.

SERENE

(Clockwise from top left) Celestial dog treat jar, \$31, fringestudio.com; Stay carpenter bolstered pet lounger, \$33, **Bentley's Pet Stuff**; Caturday pet bowl, \$13, **Petco**; cat saucer, \$13, fringestudio.com; Casper Memory Foam pet bed, starting at \$125, casper.com; Tarhong diamond blue ceramic bowl, \$15, **Bentley's Pet Stuff**.



NAUTICAL

(Clockwise from top left) Worthy Dog squirt leash, \$18, and Beco Pets bamboo bowl, \$9, both from **Bentley's Pet Stuff**; recycled Waterhog pet bowl mat, \$25, **LL Bean**; Foggy Dog waste bag dispenser, \$24, thefoggydog.com; French Blue Stripe bandana, \$26, thefoggydog.com; Crater Lake pet bed, starting at \$99, **Pendleton**.



Every Colby Construction home is unique and timeless, custom built to fit the personality and needs of each client.





{ 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, feschumacher.com
Annecy 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

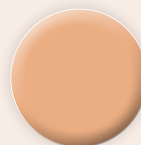
Hue Cues



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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Wear Now, Wear Later

It's still prime time to wear all of these summer goodies that easily transition into early fall.

Styling by Shayna Mace
Photography by Shanna Wolf



>> FROM MILD
TO **WILD** >>

Which dress do you love? From classic stripes to safari chic, a dress is always an instant outfit-maker. (L-R): Hayden striped dress, \$39.95, **Fray Boutique**; Watercolor shift dress, \$38.95, **Homebody**; Ecu Keaton shirtdress in Seurat Multi, \$198, and Salonica Tilly ruffle dress in Citrus Savannah, \$495, both from **shoptwigs.com**.

>> Turn the page for
more style inspo! >>

More Easy Outfits



Cult Classic

Denim never goes out of style — and neither will this dress.

Faherty Dolly dress in dark wash indigo, \$198, and Wonderland Stateline sunglasses in dark tortoise, \$170, both from **shoptwigs.com**; The Blair GG belt, \$12.95, **Homebody**.

True Blues

This summer's go-to Bermuda short comes in a cool denim option. Come fall, pair the top with a crisp blazer.

Doe & Rae Just Add Water striped top, \$37.95, and Judy Blue relaxed Bermuda shorts, \$34.95, both from **Mission Road Boutique**; woven fedora, \$24.95, **Fray Boutique**; Jenny Bird Amaal chain necklace, \$75, **shoptwigs.com**.

Safari Style

Wear this dress literally anywhere — and sassy snakeskin mules work for multiple seasons.

AG Denim Vexley dress, \$268, **shoptwigs.com**; Coconuts by Matisse Shay mules, \$68.95, **Fray Boutique**.

Sleek and Sophisticated

Whether you're running around town or meeting up for patio drinks, this versatile outfit works for both.

Gilli Nora sweater tank, \$32.95, Mazik Whistler leopard skirt, \$42.95, and gold chain necklace, \$16.95, all from **Fray Boutique**.

Chic Comfort

Chilly summer night? That's no problem in this cool, casual look.

Tie-dye surplice top, \$34.95, and Cello The Destructed Destiny jeans, \$46.95, both from **Homebody**; Jenny Bird Walter chain necklace, \$115, **shoptwigs.com**.

Dress and Done

This summer's hot tie-dye trend can easily work into fall in a darker, moody palette.

La Miel tie-dye dress, \$34.95, **Mission Road Boutique**; Gorjana Quinn delicate wrap necklace, \$85, **shoptwigs.com**; Tucker Panama hat, \$19.95, **Fray Boutique**.

>> Finish With Embellishment >>

(L-R): ARider Girl The Jana Mule, \$42.95, and Flower beaded clutch, \$24.96, both from **Homebody**; Grace studded mule, \$39.95, **Fray Boutique**.





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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

Q&T 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 Q&T'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



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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. (Editor's note: To see an Amy Carman-designed home, see P. 44!)



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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SOLD!



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**LAKE COUNTRY SALES
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Pull Together a Perfect ~~Party~~

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

Night In

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 26





Building High Quality Custom Crafted Homes throughout Lake Country

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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



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

4. Wisconsin Dells Brewing Company Connie 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

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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 Sherill 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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The Gathering Place

A remodeled Pewaukee
lakefront home is an
open-concept sanctuary for
family fun and parties.

By Shelby Rowe Moyer
Photography by Shanna Wolf

Year-Round Enjoyment

The screened porch off the dining room was a must for Gary and Cris Nevermann. Accordion-style glass doors open for seamless indoor/outdoor living.





Fit for Families

The oversized, reclaimed wood table accommodates family and friend gatherings enjoyed by the Nevermanns. The table at the breakfast nook nearly doubles the eat-in capacity.



It's the little stories living in the soft interior of Gary and Cris Nevermann's home that make it so special. Like the glass doorknob of the pantry selected specifically because it reminded Gary of the one affixed to his grandmother's pantry door. Or the oversized furniture in the living room lovingly picked for its "flop-ability" — furniture their kids and grandkids could flop onto for cuddling or an afternoon nap. It's the basement pub reminiscent of the Kennedy Manor Bar in Madison that reminds Nevermann of his college days.

All these little details are manifestations of memories the Nevermanns have had, and the Pewaukee home is a respite carefully designed to create new ones.

A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Though the home was built roughly 30 years ago, you'd never know it. Gary's father, Ted Nevermann, had it built just steps from Pewaukee Lake, and back then, it featured heavy oak trim throughout and was a maze of separate rooms. It was beautiful, Nevermann says, but was due for an update.



A Dream Kitchen

Plentiful kitchen storage was high on the list of priorities for Cris during the renovation. Everything has its place, which cuts down on clutter. The extra-large pantry has a special touch for Gary — a glass door knob reminiscent of the one that was in his grandmother's kitchen.



Lakefront Views

Prior to the year-long renovation, the layout of the home blocked much of the lake views. Now, with expansive windows and an open concept, Pewaukee Lake is visible from just about everywhere in the house.

Unfortunately, Ted only lived in the home for a short time before passing away 23 years ago. In 2015, Gary's mom, Mary Jo Nevermann, decided to move into a smaller, more manageable home, so the Nevermanns bought the property and, in 2017, began a year-long renovation.

"[My mom] was the first one to say, 'these walls gotta go,'" Gary says with a chuckle.

In the home's original state, the vista of the lake from the front door was blocked, so Matt Retzak, project designer and coordinator for Bartelt The Remodeling Resource, drew up plans to open up the views.

"Really, everything needed to be overhauled," Retzak says. "I think the heaviest lifting was in the demolition and restructuring. There were a number of load-bearing walls that were removed and a little bump out in the kitchen to get as far out as we could to the lake. We expanded as much as we could, especially with the screened-in porch off the dining room, the kitchen and the porch. There was quite a bit of rearranging of rooms."

With large family gatherings in mind, Gary says the home was redesigned for company. Now, guests are greeted by lake views immediately, and the layout invites visitors into the open concept kitchen, dining and living room spaces.

In the kitchen, Gary says he picked out the 12-person dining table before renovations even began, so he and Cris could host family dinners.

In the breakfast nook, Gary says they "envisioned little children hanging out, standing on the bench, putting their nose and hands on the glass, and then turning around to see their parents, grandparents, and aunts and uncles all having breakfast."



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Recreating College Days

Special care was taken to create this aesthetic. The copper-colored ceiling was crafted with layers of paint, and the charred appearance of the fireplace mantel was accomplished by layering paint and varnish until it cracked.

The basement bar was designed after Madison's Kennedy Manor Bar, a college town watering hole Gary frequented while he was a student.



The modern kitchen is outfitted with plenty of storage, a double oven and an oversized pantry that's roughly half the length of the kitchen and is lit, in part, by a skylight.

In the living room, the stone fireplace is a lovely focal point — but the crown jewel is the view of the lake. A three-season porch with collapsible glass doors extends the indoor/outdoor living space.

Nothing gets in the way of the view — not even the glass deck railing that's dotted with lights that creates an extra touch of glamour. The house is even prettier at night, Gary says, all lit up. The couple can program the lights to any color they want, but blue is their favorite.

DISTINCT DESIGN

The basement is another refuge, and the extra layers of detail in this space lend the room a lived-in look that was carefully created by Gary.

The ceiling mimics the look of stamped copper tiles but is, in fact, painted. The textured look is achieved with artfully-applied layers of paint, and

was crafted by Jen Snyder, owner of Artist by Design. Her masterful work with paint often mimics wallpaper, tiles or can give household materials an aged look.

The charred appearance of the mantle was created with a similarly laborious process — 16 layers of paint and varnish that eventually crack to give an antique visage.

"I think no matter what your background is, you'd just love [this space] and feel comfortable. We're very, very happy with it," Gary says, referring to the feel of his private pub. The space also features heated flooring, a stately pool table, cozy seating and the ability to walk right outside to the lake.

On the top floor, the couple kept it simple.

The master bedroom is minimal with a handsome wood bed frame and offers dashing views of the sunsets and sunrises and a roomy en suite master bath with plenty of storage and a "car wash-sized shower," says Gary.

Heather Scott, interior designer and project coordinator for Bartelt, says the couple wanted the guest bathroom to feel like something out of your grandmother's house, which can be felt in the Kohler vintage-look clawfoot tub and hexagon floor tiles.



"He wanted a little bit of a story there," she says. "We kept the upstairs simple — updated the carpeting and trim to match what we were doing everywhere else. It wasn't so much of reinvention of the wheel like it was on the main floor."

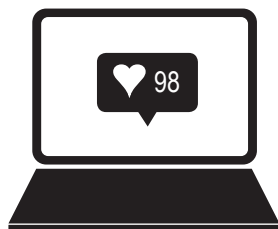
Places where the house was reinvented certainly transformed its usability and allows the family to fully enjoy it.

No matter the season, it's likely the Nevermanns can be found gazing out at the lake from their sanctuary — hopefully with the sounds of grandchildren playing in the background, their own children relaxing and friends having a glass of wine.

"I think my dad would be proud," Gary says. 🍷

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Unexpected Details

Interior designer Amy Carman brought in the hammered zinc top dining table to the home's lower level to employ a mix of materials. "We brought in metal ... to add in a little bit of shine against the gray shiplap on the walls," she says. A Visual Comfort light fixture hangs above the table.

MADE WITH Memories



For nearly 40 years, Okauchee Lake has served as a getaway for one homeowner who eventually crafted his dream home on its shores.

By Shayna Mace | Photography by Elisabeth Witt



Like a favorite recipe or letterman jacket, lake home memories evoke a distinct sense of rose-colored nostalgia. Such was the case for Rick Smith, who grew up spending summers at his family's second home on Okauchee Lake with his two younger brothers and sister.

"The memory that comes immediately to mind is growing up, my parents got us involved in sailboat racing when I was 10 or 11 years old, so we all ended up sailing as kids out here," he says.

Back in 1983, Smith was living in Elm Grove and started looking for a vacation home on — of course — Okauchee Lake to recapture some of those childhood memories. He found a south-facing property that had a good location and a nice amount of frontage. Not surprisingly, when Smith was younger, he used to hang out with a family that lived next door to the house — so he had even been inside of the place. "So, I was somewhat familiar with the property," he explains. Another reason he was familiar: his dad lives four doors down from the home!

Smith bought it and, a few years later in the late 1980s, did an extensive

renovation to the place. For several years afterward, he used it for a lake home and would travel out to the water when he had time in between his busy schedule as an anesthesiologist. In 2011, Smith decided to move out to the area full-time along with his six-year-old son, Nathan. It was also during that time that he started looking into remodeling the home again.

"[The first remodel I did] served its purpose until around 2011. I started looking at remodeling it and, for what I wanted to do, it was too cost-prohibitive. There were limitations, since the home had initially been a lake cottage that had been added on to, so there were heating, HVAC and space limitations which factored into the interior design. So, I made the decision to tear it down completely and rebuild the house."

Smith recruited Dale Kolbeck of Architectural Homes by Anders (who had also built his Elm Grove home) to come out and visit the property and sketch out a new home design. Smith says that he didn't have strong opinions on the look of the home, but knew the general size and must-haves he wanted, which included four bedrooms, an office,



Built for Company

Above: The home's lower level is light and bright due to the walk-out. Smith uses this floor for entertaining, so Carman suggested a dining area with built-in banquette seating. Built-in bookshelves house decorative pieces, books and games for Smith's son, Nathan. The stained concrete floors add an indestructible element to the space.

Right: Carman commissioned Milwaukee artist Pamela Anderson to do a custom piece for Smith's dining room. "Rick and I gave her initial direction, the size of canvas and mix of colors. So she would paint to a certain point, and then she'd invite us back to give feedback so she could further develop the painting."





"This is one of our favorite rooms," says Carman, referring to Smith's second-floor office. "When you're on the lower level, there are a lot of grays, and as you move upward in the home, it gets lighter and lighter." The Eames leather lounge chair and chess piece side table are from Design Within Reach.

Special Spaces

Top left: A St. Frank surfboard hangs outside the lower level bedroom. "We just loved that this [piece] was sculptural, cool and graphic — and is a nod to the lake setting," says Carman.

Lower left: The Pottery Barn pool table is wholly unique, crafted with camel-colored felt and rough-hewn wood.

and a lower level for entertaining with a walk-out. He also brought in Amy Carman of Amy Carman Design to consult from the beginning on the home plans.

"It was a collaborative effort between Amy and Dale, who was the architect. Amy did most of the interior elevations and the interior design of the home. [She also worked on] the cabinetry, kitchen layout and the fixtures throughout the house. You name it, she was taking care of it," says Smith.

After the home was built, Carman honed in on what Smith's design style was — something he admits, "I had no idea what I wanted."

"[Rick] had lived in a couple of traditional homes. So I think he thought at first he was going to go in that direction, but as we started to talk, it turns out he likes pieces with clean lines," explains Carman. "So we picked up momentum around that style. We wanted his home to acknowledge that [lake] lifestyle ... but there's definitely a bit of a modern streak running through the house."

Indeed, nods to the water and sailing pop up in the shiplap walls, pieces of art and decorative elements in the lower level's built-in bookshelves. A hint of midcentury modern unites the furnishing's clean lines and timeless appeal. And a mix of textures adds a layered effect to the entire home, with elements of leather; soft, woven fabrics; metal accents in lighting; and décor pieces.

Smith loves being able to enjoy the water full-time with his son and fiancé — and it's a bonus that his dad lives nearby and his brothers live on the lake, too.

Carman found great satisfaction in being able to pull together an entire look for Smith.

"Rick trusted us to furnish every room in the house ... so it was super rewarding because you hang up all the artwork, make the beds and then you can turn [the home] over to your client, and they can move right in. We were lucky to have him as a client." 🍷

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LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER: Barbara Brumder, right, lounges on a Pine Lake pier and watches as an unidentified girl next to her pets the Brumder family's Springer Spaniel. Barbara's family had a summer home on Pine Lake, and was the granddaughter of Milwaukee businessman and publisher George Brumder.

Image courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS-I41452)

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