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#### from the editor



Living the Lake Life

When I first started working on Lakeshore Living back in 2016, it was thrilling to be able to tour and write about beautiful homes — and it still is today. Homeowners, builders and interior designers continue to push the boundaries of design by incorporating spectacular materials, architectural details and smart features that make home life more stylish and easier.

Now that summer is kicking off and we can gather with friends and family again, this time of year feels even more

special. I know I'm looking forward to enjoying views of Geneva Lake's sparkling waters while enjoying a slice of pizza at Oakfire, strolling along Riviera Beach or driving alongside Buttons Bay's peaceful waters. Personally, summer is my favorite time in the Lake Geneva area!

I also love that this issue introduced me to some new places that I can explore. Bella Botanica, a gift shop and plant boutique in Springfield, is one place I'd like to visit (read about them on P. 32). Lakeside Sundry is another shop that captures the lake lifestyle that you'll want to check out if you haven't already (see P. 28).

This issue wouldn't be complete without jaw-dropping homes, and you'll want to read about the three we feature, starting on P. 43. All of them are totally different and provide plenty of inspiration.

Thank you for reading, and please reach out to me at shayna@ntmediagroup.com if you have a home we should feature, or would like to say hello!

Shy Man\_

Shayna Mace, Editorial Director @shaynamace

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### Lakeshore Living

#### **PUBLISHER & EDITORIAL**

#### PUBLISHER

Barbara Krause bak@ntmediagroup.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLICATIONS

bpeck@ntmediagroup.com

#### **EDITORIAL DIRECTOR**

Shayna Mace

shayna@ntmediagroup.com

#### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Melissa Moody

mmoody@ntmediagroup.com

#### **DIGITAL**

#### DIGITAL DIRECTOR

Kristen Rouse krouse@ntmediagroup.com

#### SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Kristen Dvorak

kdvorak@ntmediagroup.com

#### **SALES**

#### ADVERTISING ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Deann Hausner deann@ntmediagroup.com 262-903-9000

Dena Frisch dena@ntmediagroup.com 608-220-2120

#### ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

Amy Jacobs ads@ntmediagroup.com

#### ACCOUNTING

Kristin Hovestol accounting@ntmediagroup.com

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Shelby Deering, Deanna Kane, Melanie McManus, Shelby Rowe Moyer, Hillary Schave, Hannah Wente, Shanna Wolf, Alexandra Wood

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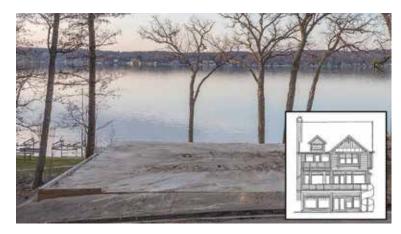
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# IT'S A MOD, MOD WORLD

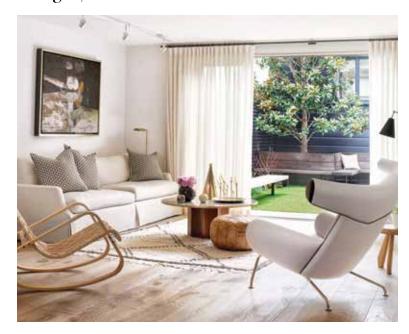
How to bring midcentury style into your space.

By Shelby Deering

ftentimes, styles come and go, but there's one design approach that emerged in the middle of the 20th century," says Tobin Morrison, lie at the end of World War II.

"Just as the name suggests, midcentury modern is a design genre for the war effort."

that hasn't budged since it first emerged in the 1940s. Midcentury an interior designer at The Century House in Madison. He says that this modern style continues to permeate current homes, with roots that style was "very much a product of its time," since the war forced the U.S. to be extremely thoughtful and intentional about how it made things, "being careful not to gobble up precious materials that might be needed



Midcentury modern design exploded in popularity in the I950s and 60s, drawing upon this new age of modernism. With its clean lines, head-turning hues and trademark lighting (such as the eye-catching Sputnik chandelier with a look inspired by the I957 Russian satellite), midcentury modern has made an indelible print on the design landscape.

Suzanne Augustson, senior interior designer at Curate Design Group, says that's why midcentury modern design is so iconic — pieces such as the original Herman Miller Eames lounge chair and ottoman continue to be made today, and can be seamlessly incorporated into a range of décor styles.

"At Curate we're big into combining styles like midcentury modern, traditional and transitional to give interiors some 'spice' and give rooms a collected look," explains Augustson.

#### STAYING POWER

While it certainly looks modern by today's standards, midcentury modern is an enduring style that continues to be timeless and classic.

"Midcentury modern is a classic style because it's such an understated and easy to pair look," says Noel Fahden, vice president of merchandising at Chairish, an online vintage marketplace. "The clean lines and minimal details make it easy to incorporate in a variety of styles and spaces."

As Carly Moeller, registered interior designer and owner of the Chicago-based firm Unpatterned, says, "Function never goes out of style. Whether it's a sleek, easy-to-clean countertop or a wood furniture piece that doubles as a record cabinet, mid-mod style resonates with today's appreciation for function and efficiency."

With more people seeking ease in their interiors, especially since the start of the pandemic, midcentury modern elements can be appreciated just as much today as they were in the last century.

"Though we can't discount the lasting power of 'Mad Men,' I also think there are updated ways to incorporate midcentury features that don't look like a page from a 50's magazine, but still nod to the style," Moeller says.

#### HALLMARKS OF THE STYLE

Today, many interior designers specialize in weaving the midcentury look into interiors for their clients. We asked these experts to share the top hallmarks of this style.

#### Noel Fahden, Chairish:

- Futuristic shapes, like Arne Jacobsen's iconic Egg Chair (and yes, it's shaped a lot like an egg)
- Aerodynamic details, like chiseled pencil legs and sculpted brass pulls
- Brightly-colored upholstery in durable wovens and wools to balance wood furniture pieces
- Anything in plywood, glass, metal, plastic or vinyl, carrying a minimalistic look and a clean silhouette

#### Carly Moeller, Unpatterned:

- Functional pieces
- An efficient layout or floor plan (think: a kitchen with workstations and practical, yet modern, lighting)
- Natural materials in medium-tone wood finishes

#### **Tobin Morrison, The Century House:**

- Simplicity and functionality
- Large patterns and shapes
- Bold textures

#### Suzanne Augustson, Curate Design Group:

- Brass light fixtures, including the Sputnik style and globe silhouettes
- Solid walnut furnishings
- Acrylic or lucite pieces

#### WHERE TO SHOP

These shops offer vintage and brand-new midcentury modern décor:

- My Sister & Me (Lake Geneva)
- Lake Geneva Antique Mall
- Elkhorn Antique Flea Market
- The Century House (Madison)
- BC Modern (Milwaukee) 📽

#### **RETRO HUES**

The experts particularly love these colors for midcentury interiors.



**Benjamin Moore, Carolina Gull:** A green that nods to the past yet looks decidedly current; this hue looks pleasing when paired with walnut furniture.



**Farrow & Ball, Bancha:** A stunning olive green, this color is bold, yet versatile, when used in a midcentury space with neutrals.



Benjamin Moore, Polished Slate: While turquoise is often used in mid-mod designs, this teal takes it down a notch while still having a throwback feel. Pair it with leather furnishings.

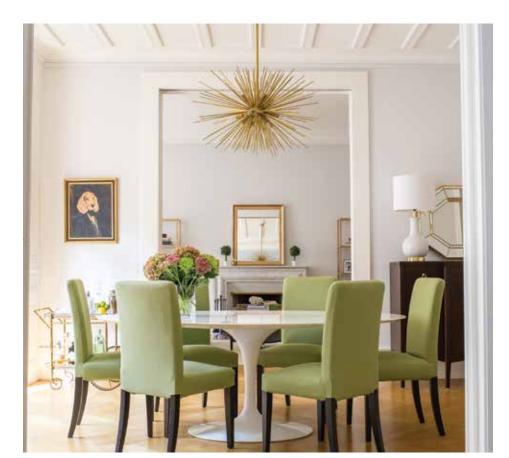
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# E Green and Hilded

With an impressive portfolio of Wisconsin and international projects, Jane Hogan of Racine-based Jane Hogan Designs blends classic American style with global influences. Her passion for comfortable, yet eye-pleasing design is her trademark.

"While living in Geneva, Switzerland, we had the fortune to live in a gorgeous prewar apartment with beautiful architectural details and herringbone wood floors. The apartment only had windows on one side, so I wanted to keep the color palette bright and cheerful. Green is a neutral that can be very grounding and soothing in a space. The gold accents were a collection of items that helped to add a touch of sophistication to the room. It really sparkled at night!"



#### **Pattern Play**

- I. Petite Frond in Melon, heatherchaddocktextiles.com
- 2. Rubia Embroidery in Ivory, schumacher.com
- 3. Reverse Irish Tile in Grass, alexconroytextiles.com
- 4. Varesa Cotton Velvet in Leaf, casabranca.com
- 5. Farleigh Lipcord Trim in Champagne, schumacher.com



#### SHOP THE LOOK —





Vintage art, prices vary, atelier-collection.com



Gilded clover tall vase, \$395, aerin.com



Anne Host upholstered dining chair, \$995, charlotteandivy.com



Bar cart, \$2,I50, oomphhome.com

#### **Hue Cues**



**PEALE GREEN**, Benjamin Moore (HC-121): This elegant and timeless green is part of Benjamin Moore's historical collection. It is a beautifully saturated green that looks gorgeous on walls, cabinets and furniture.



WHITE DOVE, Benjamin Moore (OC-17): This designer go-to white is extremely versatile and looks great on walls, trim, cabinetry and other millwork. White Dove maintains enough warmth so that it is not too creamy or yellow.

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# TODE IMAGES COLIDATES THERES HANGE

# A Magical Makeover

A Geneva National home undergoes a revamp with gorgeous results.

By Deanna Kane | Photography by Shanna Wolf



As a couple who splits their time between Arizona and Lake Geneva, having a Wisconsin home with an airy, summery feel was essential to homeowners Yvette and Howard Schulz. After renting in Geneva National for over a decade, the couple decided to purchase a residence there as a home base to spend more time with family in the Midwest, including their two-year-old grandson.

When the Schulzes purchased the home, heavy, dark leather furniture and décor filled the place, which was the opposite of the aesthetic they wanted to achieve

"Our vision was light, bright and airy like a summer home," says Yvette. "We didn't want it

to be dark and gloomy. We wanted to maintain the open airiness, and ... highlight the [home's many] windows."

The Schulzes enlisted the help of Theresa Hansen, founder and CEO of Chicago-based Theresa Hansen Interiors. Initially, Yvette and Howard met with Hansen in person. When they returned to Arizona for the winter, they worked with Hansen virtually to complete the majority of the project, and it was finished while they were gone.

"Theresa was very easy to work with. [We were] in Arizona while she worked through the details and got it done," says Howard. "We worked with her through phone calls, video calls and

emails. She found the pieces and had them shipped, stored and installed, so the process was turnkey."

As snowbirds, the couple wanted their Wisconsin home to have a different feel than their Arizona abode.

"The homeowners' ... winter residence in Arizona [has] deep, warm colors," says Hansen. "They wanted to lighten it up and have a brighter home when they are in Lake Geneva during the summer months."

The couple was thoughtful in their design choices. They were inspired by nature, which



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is reflected in both bedrooms' aesthetics. The primary bedroom has a neutral base punctuated with peppy pink and orange botanical-print throw pillows and draperies, and a soothing blue bed coverlet.

The couple loves to golf, so bringing in green and blue was a natural choice, too. The guest bedroom incorporates vibrant blues and greens via a statement wall covered in wallpaper by Thibaut, coordinated with matching draperies crafted out of the same pattern.

It was important to the couple that the guest room was multi-functional. The Schulzes selected an extended-length daybed with a

trundle bed to accommodate visiting family and friends. The space also has a desk to operate as a home office as well.

Together with Hansen, the couple selected custom furnishings for throughout the home.

"We started with the floor plan, and with custom furniture, we can create any size," says Hansen. "From there, we selected the fabrics and color stories."

The furniture's upholstery is courtesy of Hansen's private-label line (berhandesigns.com). Because it's all custom, every item fits flawlessly in each room and accommodates the Schulzes'

needs. For example, the primary bedroom's bed has a built-in bench at the end of it and a quick lift of the seat reveals storage in it.

Without any demolition or remodeling, the Schulzes achieved a completely refreshed, custom look for their new home - by incorporating a brand-new color palette and furnishings.

"We are excited to enjoy our new, beautiful home with our family and friends," says Yvette. "

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

#### GET THE LOOK

Theresa Hansen, founder and CEO of Theresa Hansen Interiors, used some of these products in the Schulzes' guest bedroom.



in green (used for pillow bolster),

thibautdesign.com



Thibaut New Haven Stripe fabric Tiverton fabric and wallpaper in blue and green,

thibautdesign.com



Visual Comfort Dover table lamp in Gild,

visualcomfortlightinglights.com

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# Chic for Summer

#### Stylish trends you'll want to add to your closet.

Styling by Shayna Mace Photography by Hillary Schave



#### the look | style







#### **Fresh Florals**

Photorealistic prints and vintage-inspired patterns are a twist on the expected. Designal floral dress, \$169.99, Spartina 449 Mod Daisy earrings, \$34, and Spartina 449 Emmy wristlet, \$76, all from Cornerstone Shop & Gallery; and Free People View From the Top beaded shoe, \$148, Jayne.



#### Blue & White

Always a classic, never out of style. Cabana Life Charleston sleeveless fringe tunic dress, \$96.43, Lakeside Sundry; Lucky Brand earrings, \$29, Jayne; Spartina 449 Oyster Factory Tides handbag, \$148, Cornerstone Shop & Gallery; and UGG Sammy sneakers in rib knit, \$110, Jayne.



#### **Bold Brights**

Hot pink and orange hues in graphic patterns make a statement.
Olivaceous maxi dress, \$78, Jayne; beaded necklace, \$24.43, Lakeside Sundry; grasshopper bangle, \$44.99, Cornerstone Shop & Gallery; and Remonte Jerilyn wedge sandal, \$115, Jayne.



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#### Meet the Maker





#### Timeless Beauty

By Shayna Mace

Jess Goehner considers her Directive handbag line "art you can wear." And indeed, her crossbody bags shaped like half-moons, sleek circle purses and envelope clutches are delightful shapes that stand out from a sea of totes and basic bags.

The Milwaukee-based Goehner started Directive in 2012, first making totes out of painted canvas that she sold at art shows. She switched over to exclusively crafting leather goods in 2016.

"Leather becomes part of a wearer — a unique patina develops based on their lifestyle. And leather can be refreshed and restored; it's made to last," she explains.

Goehner admits that although beautiful, leather isn't the easiest material to work with.

"You cannot make a mistake [with leather] — you can't undo the stitching and redo it. Once the holes are there, the piece has them in it. So that was an interesting challenge, learning to work with it by practicing and adjusting."

Her years of practice have paid off in her craft, she says. In addition to owning her business, she also teaches leatherworking at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. Teaching others has motivated her to continuously evolve her talents.

"How I approach my business is continuing to push my own skills and figure out designs that I find interesting," she says.

Goehner incorporates of-the-moment colors into her timeless silhouettes with new handbag releases in the spring and fall. This spring's zingy lime green, azure blue and deep plum shades are smile-inducing. Her line also has staple leathers that are offered year-round, including matte black, honey and an aged brown leather. While her bags aren't custom, they are made to order — the customer chooses the silhouette and color, and Goehner whips it up in about two to three weeks.

And Directive has built up a following, she says — her loyal customers collect bags in multiple colors.

"They end up buying one bag, and then they might buy a fanny pack because they're traveling or going to a concert. They may have started with a basic bag, and then they graduate to others."

Directive is sold at several boutiques in Milwaukee, Madison and Chicago (check her website for stockists) and online at *shopdirective.com*. \*

#### Shoppist

#### Living the Lake Life



If there's any shop that encapsulates lake living in the area, it's **Lakeside Sundry**. The Walworth-based shop is equal parts southern charm and East Coast prep — think vibrant patterns; men's, women's and kid's apparel; accessories; and gift items. And, there's a robust stock of Geneva Lakethemed items — including blankets, belts, jewelry and totes all emblazoned with the famous lake outline.

The shop is the manifestation of owner Kelly Clow's passion for country club chic and the "lake life," as she puts it.

Find pieces for an active lifestyle for men and women, whether that's on the golf course or on the boat. Much of the clothing has UPF 50 protection and moisture-wicking properties. As Clow explains, "The style these days is going from the golf course to dinner, so I try to carry upscale golf clothing [and more]."

Clow is particularly proud of her West End collection for women that's exclusive to her shop, illustrated by brand Smith & Quinn. It includes tops, dresses and skorts with illustrations of Lake Geneva

landmarks. You'll see Fontana Beach and Chuck's signs, The Abbey and more.

"I love celebrating the West End and the waterfront," says Clow, referring to selecting the landmarks that were meaningful to her. "The best part of [having my shop] is people saying, 'we're so glad to have you on this side of the lake.""

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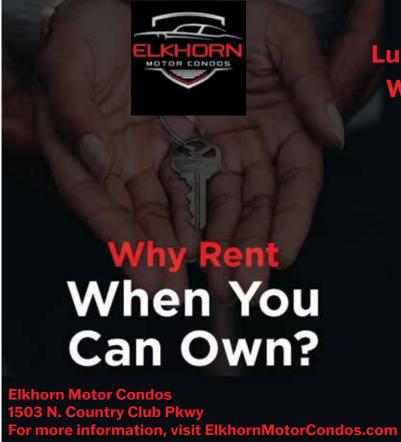
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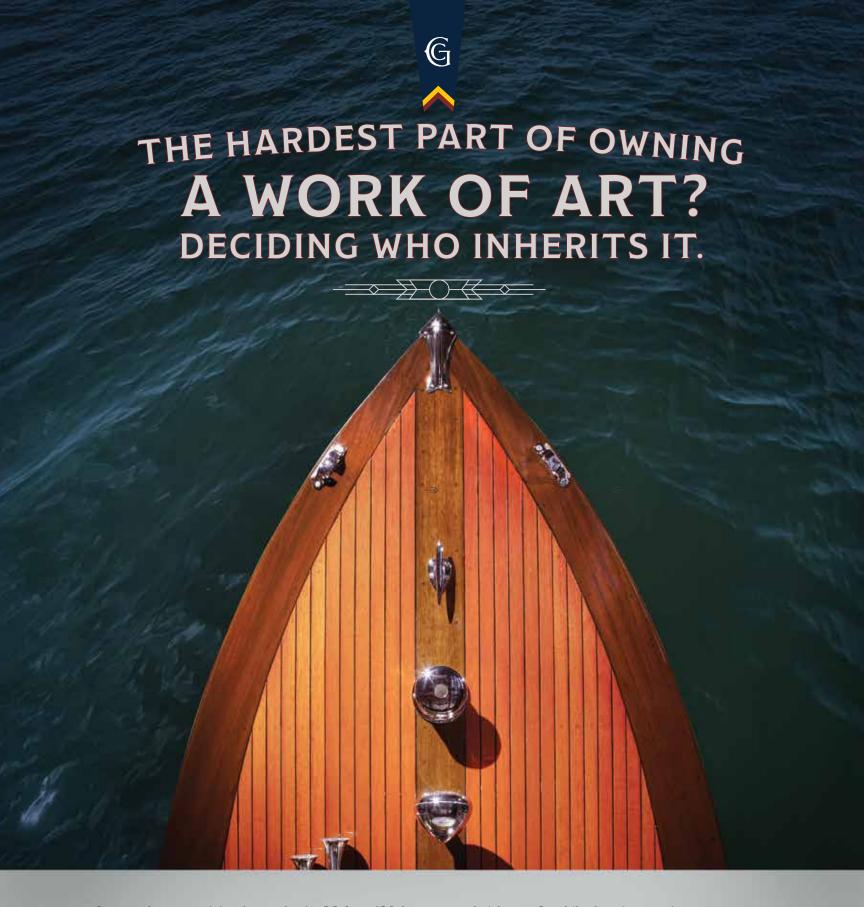
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# Houseplants 101

How to select and care for houseplants.

By Hannah Wente

Tracy Hankwitz opened Bella Botanica, a plant and gift shop, in an old church four miles north of Lake Geneva in April 2021. Armed with a background in horticulture and a desire to highlight local makers and one-of-a-kind products, she is blazing her own trail in the home plant business.

The Gateway Technical College horticulture instructor worked at a local garden center for 18 years before opening her own store. The timing couldn't have been better for her shop's opening. With people continuing to work remotely and home more often, houseplants have really hit their stride in the last few years. Studies show houseplants encourage productivity — great news for your home office. Houseplants also release oxygen and even remove toxins from the air.





"Houseplants create a Zen atmosphere," Hankwitz says. "Some of us have a need to nurture. They're our plant babies. Some people even name their plants."

Her advice to people wanting to start or expand their houseplant collection is to first think about where you want to put the plant and how much light that space receives throughout the day. Then be realistic about how often you remember to water, and find the right plant to fit those conditions. A plant shop or nursery should be able to help you find plants that are ideal for your conditions.

"My favorite [plants] are the easiest to take care of, and [are] low-light plants," says Hankwitz. "Low light is an issue that many people have [at home] — they don't have a sunny window."

Hankwitz's current preferred houseplant is the philodendron micans — a species that has velvety, enticing leaves. She also loves spins on traditional houseplants like curly or cascading jade, and ones that grow well in lower light, like Haworthia.

"People are really embracing the snake plant — there are a ton of different varieties of that, which grow well in low-light conditions," says Hankwitz. "I have trouble with ferns because they need a lot of moisture — [but] I like the crocodile fern because it has broad leaves that look like crocodile skin, and it doesn't need as much water."

#### **HOUSEPLANT TLC**

When it comes to caring for your houseplants, Hankwitz says don't be afraid to transplant them to a new pot to keep them fresh — spring is best. Make sure all pots have good drainage and each time you water, the water should run through the bottom of the pot. When you water, give your plants a quarter turn. Some will grow towards the sunlight so this step is vital to ensure they don't lean. Hankwitz recommends fertilizing your houseplants once or twice a month from March to October, which is typically their active growing season. (Hankwitz says all plants have slower growth and a resting period in the fall and winter). Espoma is her favorite brand of fertilizer and potting mix.

"With potting mix, you get what you pay for," says Hankwitz. "If you're going to buy the cheapest, you'll get the poorest quality."

Houseplants don't always need to be inside — if you have filtered outdoor light, your plants may enjoy being outside in the summer and being nourished by rainwater. (You can also use water from a rain barrel or even an aquarium to water your houseplants.)

Rain or shine, don't get discouraged if a plant doesn't end up working for your space.

"People shouldn't feel bad if they kill a houseplant — it happens," says Hankwitz. "What can you learn from it? Most houseplants are inexpensive, so if they bring you joy for a little while, it's not that expensive to go out and buy a new one." 

▼

Hannah Wente is a freelance writer who builds community through her freelance writing and nonprofit work.

#### Five Easy-to-Care-for Houseplants



1. Crocodile fern



2. Curly jade



3. Peperomia "Hope"



4. Zanzibar gem, or ZZ plant



5. Haworthia

#### ESCAPE THE CROWDS ... WE'RE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK



EXPLORE | DINE | SHOP | STAY

Warmer colors, artisan touches and luxe design elements are all in-demand for this oft-used room.

By Deanna Kane

o matter how functional and aesthetically pleasing your existing  $\mathsf{N}$  bathroom is, using the same space day in and day out can inspire you to make some updates. In fact, updating a bathroom every seven to IO years is a typical time frame. And, since bathrooms and kitchens add the most value to a house, updating your bathroom is a project that will pay off. But, before you embark on your bathroom remodel, take some time to learn about the current trends and to keep the space feeling fresh for the next decade.

Frame the Focal Point

Creating a focal point is an essential part of any design plan. A shower room, which is a walk-in shower large enough to also accommodate a soaker tub, top many homeowners' bathroom must-have lists. Dianne Fasano, owner of Bella Tile and Stone, has seen all-tile shower rooms becoming increasingly popular.

Carly Loobeek, partner and designer with Studio MInteriors, says, "Bathroom floor plans are often designed to put visual focus on a luxurious soaker tub. I have noticed a trend in arched openings leading to a walk-in shower. This creates a picture frame effect."

Curved lines are a prevalent 2022 design trend throughout all aspects of the home, and the bathroom is no different. Expect more of these curved edges to add softness to bathrooms.

#### **Functionally Beautiful Amenities**

Optimizing a room's function has reigned at the top of many homeowners' must-have lists over the past several years. Pairing this



level of function with comfort and beauty has also enabled people to feel truly comfortable at home. Fasano sees many homeowners seeking out features to increase their comfort while using the space. "Many people are interested in heated floors, towel warmers, and benches outside and inside the shower," she says.

Plentiful storage options are another aspect that makes a bathroom stand out. Loobeek's clients look to include vanities that incorporate a makeup station with storage and towel storage.

> There is also a particular focus on bringing beauty to these functional spaces. For example, Loobeek says, "Vanities with

fluted details or beaded insets are a few special details that can make a standard vanity look like a piece of furniture."

#### **Warmth and Color Throughout**

White and gray had their moment, and now people crave warmth and color in their homes. This includes in the bathroom.

"While marble still dominates the [primary] bath industry, [but] some clients are gravitating to warmer marble tones that incorporate golds and browns in the veining instead of the typical gray and white marble," says Loobeek. "When clients are open to

color, earth tones are very on-trend, such as rust, terracotta or imperfect, handmade-looking tiles."

Fasano sees many clients gravitating towards vivid colors, with

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green being a favorite choice. "All different shades of green are popular. Clients are less afraid of color than ever before, and we have had more fun putting together interesting areas while being able to use pops of color," she says.

And, in Lake Geneva, blue is always trending. "In the Lake Geneva area, shades of blue tile are always in style and stand the test of time," says Fasano.

Loobeek agrees, "Soft greens and blues are a favorite."



#### Tile Versus Wallpaper

Tile will always be the first choice in a bathroom because of its ability to stand up to humidity. However, using both materials will keep your bathroom on-trend.

"There is still a need for tile in certain places, but we see wallpaper used in many bathrooms and powder rooms," says Fasano.
"Wallpaper is being used in more unexpected places than ever before, such as the ceiling."



Loobeek cautions that it's essential to assess the wallpaper material before hanging it in the bathroom. "When selecting wallpaper for a bathroom, it's important to look at options that can hold up to the moisture. For example, grasscloth and silk papers are beautiful, but not a smart choice for a bathroom," she says. "If it's a high traffic bathroom or is the primary bathroom for kids, I highly recommend sourcing a vinyl wallcovering."

Being creative with tile selections and pattern is a great way to give your bathroom personality and a new look. "We are seeing subway tiles laid in different patterns (versus staggered horizontally) such as vertically, two up and two sideways or in a herringbone pattern instead," says Fasano. "We are also using many more square tiles, such as zellige tiles." (Zellige tiles are glazed, square terracotta tiles that have a handmade, artisan look.)

#### **Classic Hardware**

The preference for curved lines also extends into cabinet hardware. Loobeek incorporates knobs in classic round or egg shapes in many of her bathroom designs. She also finds a broader trend towards classic shapes and accents, as she sees pulls and knobs with leather accents and classic shapes with special details.

Mixed metals have been trending, and it isn't going anywhere. "Lately, we have been mixing metals and finishes, which has created some unique looks," says Fasano.

#### **Bathroom Technology**

Incorporating technology in the bathroom can completely transform the bathing and vanity experience. "The primary bathroom is a room where clients are open to luxury upgrades, such as heated toilet seats, bidet attachments, heated floors and even refrigeration for cosmetics or prescriptions," says Loobeek. "This room is about quality materials that create a luxurious space."





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# **Awaits**

### Invest in a beautiful backyard.

By Annie Rosemurgy

'he ongoing pandemic has been rough for everyone, but one result is that people are continuing to get creative with their outdoor spaces whether they have a sliver of back or side yard, or an entire acre.

Back in the summer of 2020, there was a huge increase in consumer investment in outdoor living spaces. Forbes reports that in 2020, 78% of Americans said that they upgraded their outdoor spaces. In 2021 which Forbes named "The Year of The Yard," the publication reported that 88% of homeowners were dissatisfied with their outdoor spaces.

In other words, the outdoor improvement trend isn't going anywhere, says Lisa Briggs, garden coach and community outreach specialist at The Bruce Company in Middleton.

"What began in 2020 with people really looking to capitalize on their outdoor spaces ... is absolutely still full steam ahead in 2022," she says. "With uncertainty about new variants or [COVID] case numbers, we see people wanting to create spaces they know they'll love to spend time in."

Rene Huston, president of Patio Pleasures, agrees. "There is still a strong demand in [improving] outdoor living [spaces]. I am seeing that people want their outdoor spaces to become extensions of their interiors, with all the aesthetics and the comforts that you would find inside.  $^{\prime\prime}$ 

### **GET GROWING**

A gardening revolution also started during the pandemic. People had the time — and sometimes, kids — on their hands.

"People took on home gardening as a way to be outside, or sometimes as an educational project for kids home from school. They found they just love it, and are now looking for ways to expand this hobby," says Briggs.

Uncertainty coupled with current inflation concerns mean vegetable and fruit gardens are especially popular this season. "Starting with a small, raised garden bed and some easy-to-grow vegetables like lettuces and cherry tomatoes is really rewarding for all members of the family," says Briggs.

Container gardens with a theme, such as an Italian herb garden planted with basil, oregano and thyme, or an aromatherapy pot brimming with mint and rosemary, will appeal to all the senses.

Briggs says there is also increased interest in planting pollinatorfriendly native plants that are low maintenance and thrive in our varied Wisconsin weather

### **FRESH FURNISHINGS**

Along with developing their green-thumb skills, people want to spend time comfortably relaxing outdoors. Plush and comfortable seating is an ongoing trend, says Amber Cook, manager, buyer and designer with Brick & Mortar Home and Outdoor.

"People are spending more time outdoors and hosting more gatherings. They are utilizing their outdoor spaces so much more," she says.



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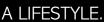
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Briggs notes one of the biggest trends she sees in furnishings is the interest in deep seating. This means comfortable, all-weather furnishings with weatherproof cushions and more of a sophisticated, "living room" look.

Huston says her customers are also taking an investment-minded approach as well in regards to their outdoor furniture.

> "Previously consumers might be comfortable spending \$50-\$100 on a simple stand umbrella.

But now that many are working from home and doing more entertaining outside, they are more interested in investing in a cantilevered umbrella that can be moved and adjusted," she says.

Cook says she sees the same enthusiasm from customers in improving their outdoor spaces, and notes that low-maintenance furnishings by Berlin

Gardens and Seaside Casual are a big seller at Brick & Mortar. These brands feature furniture made with recycled plastic that mimic the appearance of wood. They look good and eliminate maintenance.

"These lines make Adirondack chairs, deep seating (sofas, sectionals, chairs) and dining tables," explains Cook. "They've come out with so many on-trend colors, like grays and taupes, and the texture is just like wood. They hide dirt and scratches well too — it's a low maintenance-product."

The care and maintenance of the new outdoor furnishing sets on the market are quite simple, says Huston. Many outdoor upholstery sets now feature quick-drying, anti-mold technology.

"Slipcovers and some storage for those all-day rains are certainly nice, but the truth is that these pieces are designed to get wet and be exposed to all kinds of weather," she says.

As for color palettes, Cook says Lake Geneva customers consistently gravitate toward white, gray and navy furnishings, as well as "water tones" in décor accents. "People just love [those colors] around here with the lake," she says.

Huston says that the farmhouse look for outdoor décor and furnishings remains on-trend this season. (Think: rustic wood accents and earth tones.) She is also seeing customers gravitate toward a black and white motif and more "dark and stormy" palettes that incorporate rich blue and gray hues as well. "

Annie Rosemurgy is a Madison-based writer, mom of two active kids and a sunshine-loving endurance sports enthusiast.



### AL FRESCO ALLURE

Outdoor kitchens are a trend with staying power. Today's custom-built outdoor kitchens reflect a wide range of styles and can include luxurious details like pizza ovens, sinks and wine refrigerators.

Cook says one of their biggest sellers since the pandemic began is outdoor dining tables. Versions that can seat six to IO people are common, accessorized with chairs that have comfy, weather-resistant cushions.

And fire pits are hot (pun intended) right now, she says. Brick & Mortar carries everything from three-foot round traditional fire pits to composite and stone versions. They even sell a counter-height dining table with a fire pit outfitted in the middle, says Cook — to add that glow to any outdoor meal.



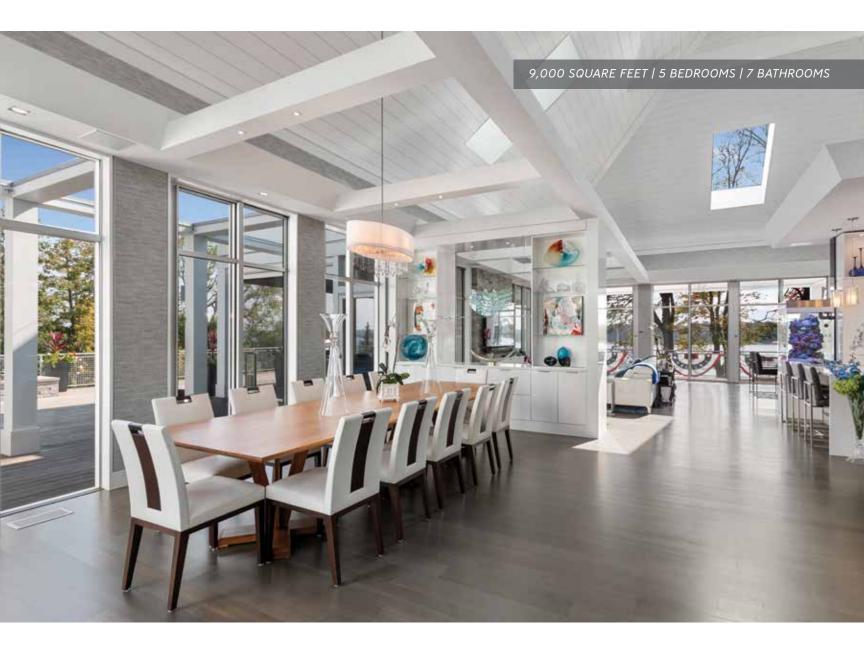


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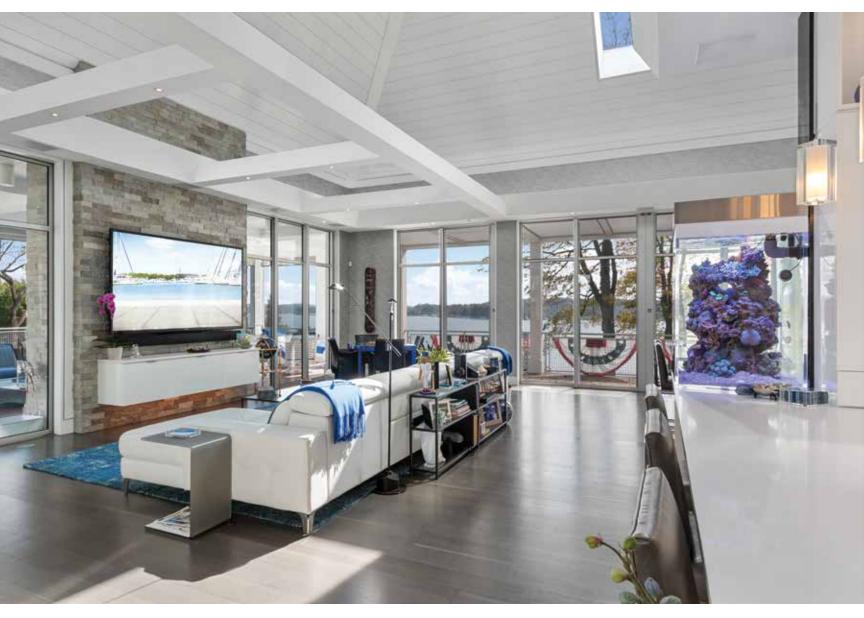
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# A Modern Marvel

A contemporary residence is an heirloom home on Geneva Lake and the backdrop for year-round memories for three generations.

By Deanna Kane | Photography by Matthew Petersen, Ensure Productions



As a retired interior designer, a local homeowner built a career designing homes that reflected her client's personalities and lifestyles. So when it was time to design her own home on Geneva Lake, she used the same process to create a home that aligned with her and her family's lifestyle.

"When it came to my clients, the house had to look like them when it was complete," explains the homeowner. "It was important for me to listen carefully to their wants and needs and understand how they live. The home needed to look like them and to feel like home. I used the same process for my own home, focusing on timeless design and avoiding trendy design and colors."

The 9,000-square-foot lakeside home has five bedrooms, seven bathrooms and boasts an indoor pool, a green roof system, an atrium, a main pavilion and a lower level with outdoor access.

The homeowner and her husband sold their family home in Madison to move to Lake Geneva full-time, with the intent that the home would be a family home for her son and his family to enjoy for decades to come. Her son's family lives in the Chicago area, so the homeowners moved to Lake Geneva to be in closer proximity to their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

### **HUB OF ACTIVITY**

The home's central living space features lake views, shiplap details and a cathedral ceiling with skylights to allow natural light in.



**COOL KITCHEN** 

The kitchen was designed with a focus on minimal, clean lines. The quartz used in the kitchen island was utilized throughout the rest of the home, and the smoked wood floors carry through the home for a streamlined effect.

"Our son and his family come every weekend," she says. "Our grandchildren are 12, 10 and 8, and they come all year round. We're very adventurous; we enjoy exploring in the woods to see what we can find. We go ice skating and sledding in the winter, apple picking in the fall, and in the summer, it's lake, lake and more lake."

In the summer, from sunrise to sunset, the family can be found engaging in water activities and taking jaunts in the boat to Gordy's for lunch.

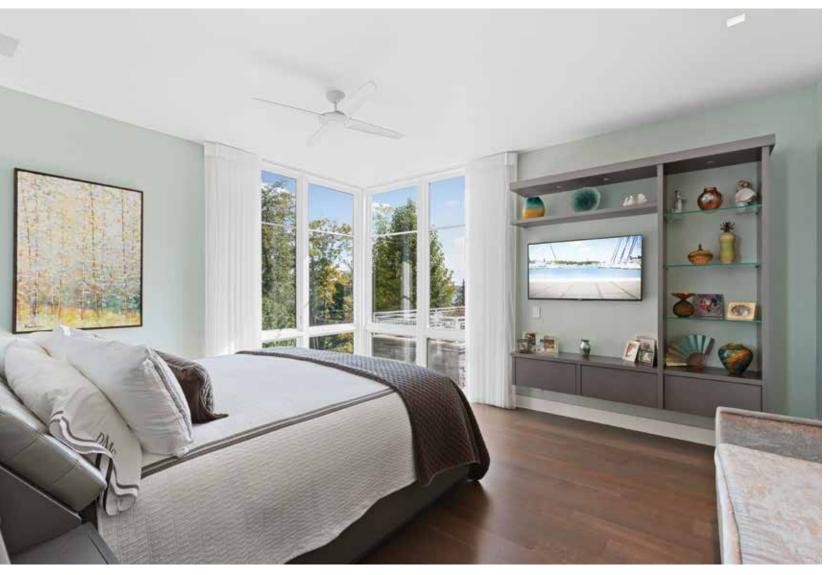
When conceptualizing her home, the homeowner wanted her house to be different from the other homes on the lake. To complete the project and achieve her vision, she turned to Balsitis Contracting, Inc.

"[The homeowner] has a very creative eye," says Joseph (Joey) Balsitis Jr., owner and chief executive officer, Balsitis Contracting, Inc. "She wanted to create something completely different than any



### NOD TO THE WATER

The couple installed a four-sided aquarium in the kitchen as a nod to their former Madison home. They had one there too, and wanted to incorporate it in their Lake Geneva home.



### SOOTHING SPACE

With peaceful aqua walls, and views of the lake and the rose garden, the primary bedroom is a space to rest and recharge for another day on the lake.

other home on Geneva Lake, and have it be a generational home. It's a contemporary home, whereas many houses on Geneva Lake have similar taste and design. In addition, the layout is very unique and multifunctional, and was designed as a home for entertaining."

For the homeowner, the most important attribute of her home was the flow. "I wanted something very open and has good flow. We are right on the water, so I wanted people to come in and to see the lake," says the homeowner. "The sight line of the water is through an atrium; once you leave the foyer, the rest of the house opens to the lake."

Once you pass through the greenery of the atrium, you enter the home's main pavilion. This space is home to the formal living



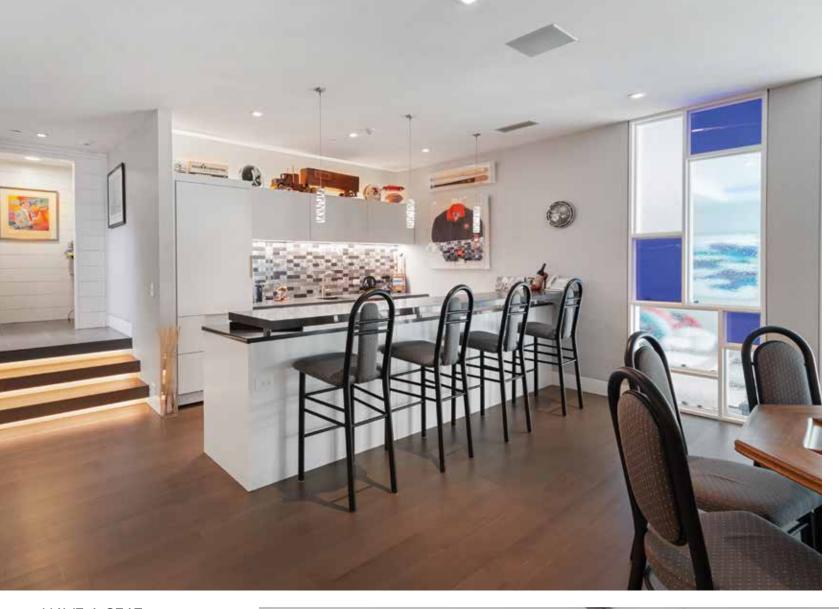


### CONTEMPORARY CHIC

Minimalist cabinetry, sleek sconces, decorative tile and quartz countertops complete the lower level bathroom.

### AIRY AND BRIGHT

The stunning entryway is filled with floor to ceiling windows, sleek shiplap and direct views to the home's atrium, which looks out to Geneva Lake.



### HAVE A SEAT

The family's lower level features a bar space where they can gather around for refreshments, to refuel in between swimming, games of billiards or long afternoons on the water.



## ENTERTAINMENT PARADISE

The lower level is a place for the family to hang out, relax and engage in a friendly game of billiards or swim in the indoor pool.



### **SET TO SWIM**

The amazing indoor pool means the family can swim comfortably year-round — even while watching the snow fall. They can also catch views of the lake while splashing around inside.

and dining rooms and a casual dining room, among other rooms. Although the home is open concept, each room still feels distinct; separated through a series of partitions.

During her 30-year career as an interior designer, most of her projects were traditional-style homes, including the Wisconsin Executive Residence in Madison. For her own home, she wanted a modern home with clean lines — something completely different from what she's done before. She gathered inspiration for her Lake Geneva home from the Lake Geneva Home and Garden Tour.

"The design inside is very minimal, which can actually be

challenging," explained Balsitis. "The contemporary design has very clean lines and looks very simple; however, it's one of the more difficult home styles to build."

During construction, Balsitis and the homeowner developed a mutual respect and appreciation for each other's talents. "Joey explained everything in detail and how we would go through and execute it without changing the design's integrity," shares the homeowner.

"His methodology is perfection, and he didn't move forward unless the details were laid out to perfection, and he knew what needed to be done and how he could achieve it."





An English Tudor-style home on Delavan Lake gets a

or nearly a decade, an Illinois-based couple were on the hunt for a lake home. While their primary residence is in a northern Chicago suburb, they were interested in finding — or perhaps building — a year-round vacation home somewhere in the greater Lake Geneva area. Both had childhood ties to the locale and were hoping to establish a special space they could enjoy with their four children and growing number of grandchildren.

The homeowners had a specific feel in mind: A place that evoked the cozy warmth of cottage life, with colors and patterns inspired by nature. The house the couple eventually found was a sprawling, English Tudorstyle home that was dark and rather somber. The century-old structure also had a fractured layout, thanks to numerous additions over the years. But with 125 feet of shoreline and pristine views of Delavan Lake, the couple knew they'd found their dream home.

The couple purchased the home in August 2017, eventually tapping Lake Geneva Architects and Elkhorn's Stebnitz Builders to help them reconfigure the five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath structure into one



The home's wet bar resides in the new, glorified mudroom that lies off the family room. While the homeowner describes the room as a catch-all space, the distressed maple bar provides an attractive accent. Two reclaimed wood shelves from Elkhorn's Heritage Beam and Board float on a brick wall, while a small sink sits off to the right. "We wanted this space to be kind of quirky and fun, like the rest of the house, so we put the sink in an unexpected place in the corner with the faucet on the wall," the homeowner says.



The kitchen's eating area was once a small bedroom that concealed the gorgeous lake views. Tearing down the walls considerably brightened the kitchen, plus allows the lake vistas to spill into the room.

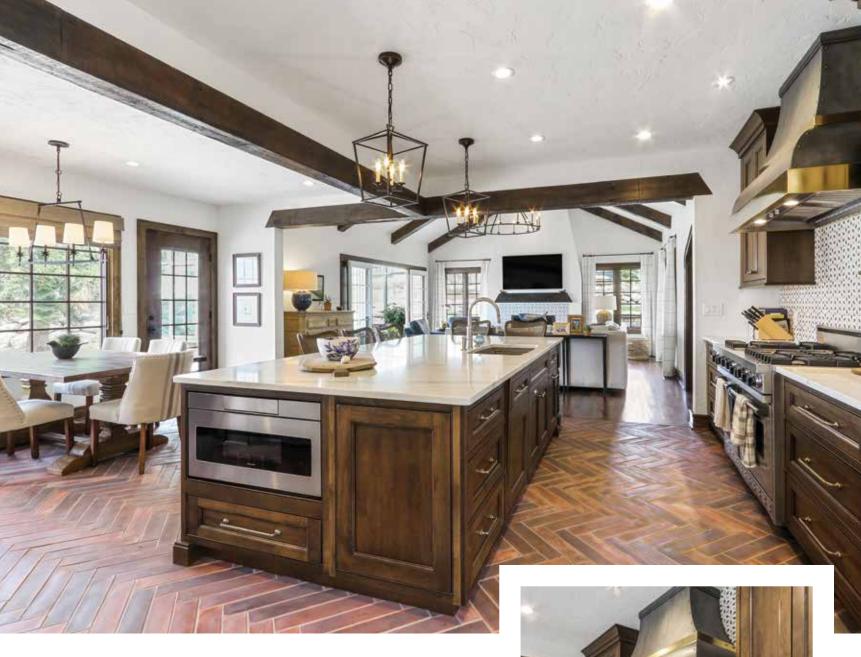
that fit their lifestyle. Another goal was to better integrate the home's various additions.

"The house lacked continuity in its architecture," says Jeff Auberger, design and remodeling consultant at Stebnitz Builders. "It was also very segregated."

One of the main problem areas was the kitchen. Small and rectangular, it shared a wall with a small bedroom that blocked the lake views. Two small half-baths — one opening into the bedroom, the other into the kitchen — also took up more valuable space.

Stebnitz Builders removed the bedroom and half-baths, which enlarged the kitchen twofold. The additional space allowed the couple to create a dining area and install a spacious, 10½-foot island. The island is crafted out of alder cabinetry and has a sink and built-in microwave oven.

Best of all, the couple added a picture window to the former bedroom's exterior wall. Flanked by two doors with divided light grills, all of this glass allows gorgeous lake views and plenty of light to spill into the once-dark kitchen. The kitchen also receives a boost of sunlight from the adjacent family room, which now flows into the kitchen.



"When it comes to older homes, it's about creating a space that feels historically correct, but lives like a modern home."
- Jeff Auberger

The homeowners greatly enlarged the home's narrow, rectangular kitchen by eliminating an adjacent bedroom and two half-baths. An expansive knotty alder island is now part of the kitchen, which seamlessly flows into the adjacent family room.

The Viking range came with the home, although it used to reside in a different spot. Its striking range hood is an artful new addition. Created by Raw Urth Designs, a craft metal fabricator in Fort Collins, Colorado, it replaced a dated wooden one.



To help tie the rooms together, and to remain true to the Tudor style, Auberger recommended introducing exposed beams with clipped corners into the kitchen, with a mini version used as the new fireplace mantle.

"I really pushed to have a beam added to the large opening separating the kitchen from the great room, and to bring in a smaller version on the mantle," he says. "They really make the home seem more architecturally consistent."

To further meld the two rooms' look, the tilework on the kitchen walls and fireplace surround feature blue-and-white Monet-inspired patterns, while the fireplace hearth and kitchen flooring both sport herringbone-patterned clay tile. "That tile is indestructible — and great for kids with wet feet," says the homeowner.

Another notable accomplishment during the eight-month renovation is the home's reimagined solarium, which is accessible via both the lakeyard and family room. The original structure was white and featured an opaque, acrylic ceiling. The new solarium was designed by Minneapolis-based Conservatory Craftsman, and was assembled on-site over the same footprint. The space boasts attractive, diamond-paned transom windows and a glass ceiling that lets in the sunlight. It's also a soothing, gray-green color.

Two rooms the couple barely touched are the living room and hearth room, which are both off the front entryway. The living room features the original floor-to-ceiling fireplace, crafted out of Wisconsin fieldstone, plus original exposed wooden ceiling beams. A blue-and-white patterned area rug and throw pillows evoke the sapphire lake outside, while echoing tilework in the family room and kitchen.



Windows in the home's octagonal dining room needed to be restored — they were the originals — but didn't need much additional work. The homeowners added new window coverings, opting for Roman shades with a trellis-type pattern in a nod to their original intention of creating a cottage feel in the home.





When the homeowners purchased the home, the kitchen sink was against a back wall. Post-remodel, it's part of a 10½-foot, knotty alder coffee bar, which includes a small fridge for the grandkids' favorite beverages.

This patio is the spot where the homeowners gather to cook out and enjoy pleasant sunny days. The mudroom and wet bar are easily accessible.







The home's primary bedroom features a patio door to a small balcony, plus wonderful lake views. "It's so lovely to wake up and look at the water," the homeowner says.

This hearth room was an addition created by a previous homeowner and now includes a Murphy bed. "It will end up being a kids' room for the grandchildren someday," the homeowner says, noting they have five young grandkids, two of whom recently arrived.



The home's living room features original ceiling beams and an eye-catching fireplace crafted from Wisconsin fieldstone. The blue-patterned rug and throw pillows are reminiscent of the tile surrounding the family room fireplace, as well as the kitchen backsplash tile. They're also meant to evoke thoughts of Delavan Lake, sparkling in the background.

"We want this space to be the place where we gather to have a glass of wine and maybe play dominoes or cards," the homeowner says.

The hearth room derives its name from the arched-brick fireplace that dominates one wall. It's one of the home's numerous additions and includes a Murphy bed. While the homeowners don't use the room now, they anticipate using it as a fifth bedroom for their grandchildren, when needed.

The homeowners have a few minor projects still on their to-do list, namely fixing the walls and windows in the home's sun porch. But they've already gotten a lot of enjoyment from their new escape, and give props to Stebnitz Builders for making the long-distance project less stressful.

"Stebnitz was exceptional," the homeowner says. "They were great with problem-solving and the expertise of the crew was outstanding! [And] we are so very thankful to all of the previous owners that added their rich history to this home."

Auberger says he's proud of the finished product.

"We took a very chopped-up home and opened it up, and made the space feel very natural and correct," he says. "For me, when it comes to older homes, it's about creating a space that feels historically correct, but lives like a modern home."

Melanie Radzicki McManus who is gathering ideas for a major kitchen renovation, writes from her home in Sun Prairie.

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# A Design Dream



After time spent summering in Lake Geneva, a family puts down permanent roots with a custom-built home that blends masculine, modern features with cozy farmhouse touches.

By Shelby Rowe Moyer | Photography by Shanna Wolf

### UPSCALE AND FUNCTIONAL

The elegant design doesn't sacrifice functionality. The couches are intended for outdoor use, so wet swimsuits and errant spills are no match for the durable upholstery.



### **FAMILY FRIENDLY**

The main living room is cozy and intimate, perfect for the family of four who live here full-time.



When it came time for homeowners Tonya and Ryan (who asked that their last name not be used) to build a full-time residence on Geneva Lake, Tonya knew she wanted the home's aesthetic to embody a warm, farmhouse feel — she grew up on a farm in Nebraska, after all. Ryan's aesthetic, on the other hand, leans more toward a modern design style.

The couple, who bought the property in fall of 2016, managed to meet in the middle when it came time to design their new residence with the help of developer John Matustik of Matustik Builders and interior designer Brady Mathews of Sojourn Design House.

A longtime builder and developer of lakefront homes, Matustik helped the couple map out how they would want the home to function over the years. He knew the home had to be adaptable. It needed to accommodate the daily life of the couple and their two young daughters and comfortably host large gatherings of friends and family.

"It starts with lifestyle," Matustik says. "How are they going to live in the house as the family grows and things change? How are they going to utilize the house 10 years later? [And it's] imperative that the house feels intimate when it's just you and your spouse.

But when you have 30 to 40 people there, you also don't want it to feel cramped."

The design of the 7,637-square-foot home deftly accomplishes that goal and it certainly delivers on wow factor. From the moment guests step through the front doors, it's hard not to be in awe. The rustic wood accents (all of which are sourced from barns across Wisconsin) have a grounding affect on the main floor. But other elements — like the glass wine display in the dining room, the leather-backed bar chairs around the kitchen island and the moody blue wallpaper in the main floor bathroom — offer modern touches that feel elegant and masculine. And despite its size, the three-story home does feel intimate, while maintaining the ability to sleep 22 people.

When the project kicked off, the couple didn't have an interior designer. But after having a few conversations about the build with Mathews, a family friend, they decided to bring the Austin,

Texas-based interior designer into the fold. He came in with a vision for how each room could have its own wow-factor moment.

The kitchen, for example, has a grand stone range wall with a custom steel hood vent. Originally, the refrigerator was going to sit against that wall, but the new layout was Mathews' idea and design, and it's one of Tonya's favorite features.

"I love having that open shelving and having everything within reach. But it's also open. If someone is sitting at the table in the family room, we're still able to converse with them," she says.

Another showstopper is the four-season room just off the kitchen. Matustik, Mathews and the couple say it's one of the most incredible parts of the home. The room opens up almost completely to the outdoors, thanks to the two exterior folding glass doors that open seamlessly to the outdoor pool and sunken fire pit.

### A POLISHED POWDER ROOM

Early in the design process, the homeowners knew they wanted one statement room with dark features. Depending on the light, the wallpaper looks black in this room, but it's actually a midnight blue.







### **BALANOING ACT**

The spacious kitchen is intended for large gatherings, so to maintain a cozy vibe for the family of four, a breakfast nook was added to the left of the island.



### **FARMHOUSE FEEL**

The ceiling beams warm and ground the main floor living spaces. The wood was sourced from old barns across Wisconsin.

"This room was a must-have," says Ryan. "We wanted it to feel like an outdoor room that we could close off and use in the winter."

The upstairs is the family's respite, with three bedrooms and a bunk room for guests that comfortably sleeps about 10 people. The lower level is all about entertainment for the entire family. Ryan has a dedicated space for his golf simulator. And the girls have a small stage with a changing room off to the side.

"When we started planning this house, the girls were four and two [years old] at the time," Tanya says. "In our previous house, they'd built this little stage and they were constantly on that. That's one of the things we wanted to incorporate here. It's crazy how much they use it."

And to keep everyone active and occupied during the colder months, a gym area and sport court were set up in the garage. The family can play a little basketball or volleyball, and Tonya and



## PRETTY & SOPHISTICATED

The ensuite bathroom in one of the girls' rooms has its own whimsical design. When it came to styling the girls' rooms, they each got to help pick the color palette.





### COOL & COZY

The owner's bedroom has a spacious ensuite and closet. The couple aimed to maximize the room's square footage by using it where they knew they'd need it most.

### **ROOM TO GROW**

The rooms of the two girls have a bit of a grown-up feel, which was an intentional decision. This way, the rooms won't feel too young and outdated when the girls reach their teenage years.

### MODERN MOOD

The owner's bedroom has a muted, masculine vibe, but the design doesn't lose connection with the rest of the home. The barn wood beams tie in with the main floor living area.

### SMART KITCHEN

The scullery behind the main kitchen wasn't part of the initial design plan, but the extra storage and work space has proven invaluable.



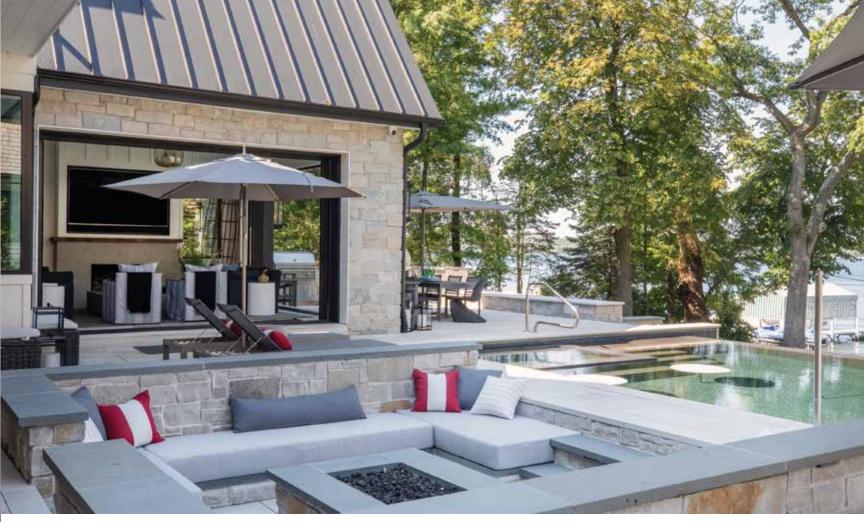


Ryan have a home gym. Of course, the in-ground pool and lake provide a bevy of entertainment options in the summer. Having spent summers in Lake Geneva prior to making it their home full-time, the family knew what to expect during the warmest months. Come winter, the entire landscape transforms, and it's opened their eyes to a whole new range of beautiful scenery and outdoor fun.

"We knew we'd love summer here," Ryan says. "The winter months are a very different scene, but very enjoyable as well. When the ice [forms] on the lake, there are some winter activities we didn't partake in before."

"We're loving it," Tonya adds. "We absolutely love it up here."

Shelby Rowe Moyer is a Madison-based journalist who loves reporting on local changemakers and the cultural importance of fashion.





### DROP IT LOW The sunken exterior f

The sunken exterior fireplace ended up being one of the most brilliant features of the home. Its low profile buffers the area on windy days (enabling the family to use it nearly year-round) but also maintains a clear sight line out to the lake.

### PUP FRIENDLY

Even though much of the home's furniture was chosen to withstand plentiful guests and playful children, the durable and easy-to-clean upholstery is also great for the family's two dogs, Trecker and Stella.

### **GRILL MASTER**

Tucked just out of view is the grill area, which can be accessed through the back of the kitchen.

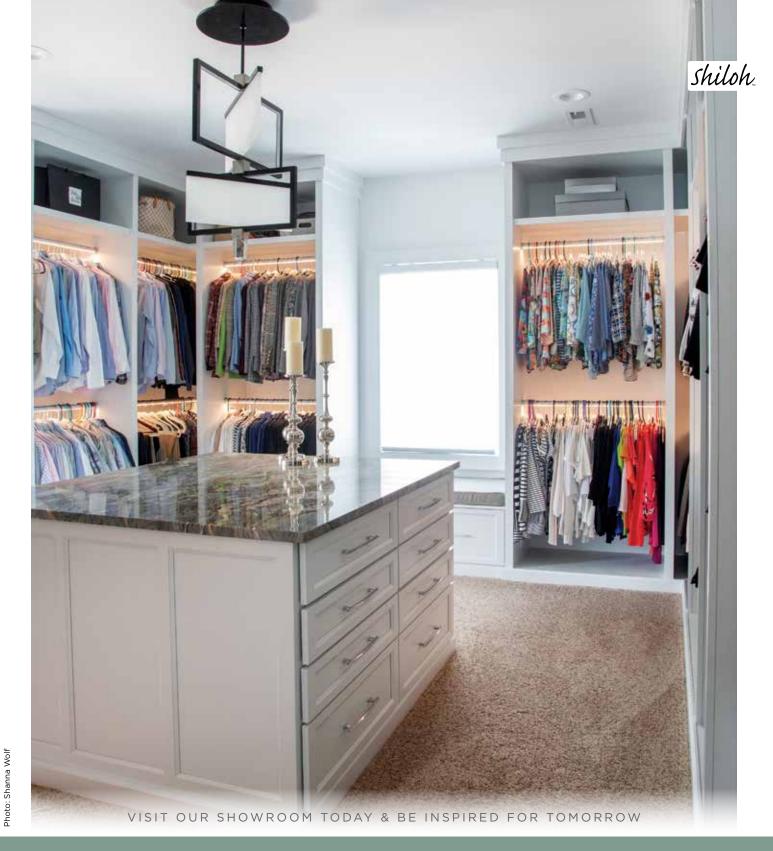


### last look



**Fun By the Water:** A group of youth take to a rock on the shoreline to read and hang out on what looks to be a pleasant day. This image was captured between I9IO and I93O, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society image archives.

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WHS-130629)



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