

Light-Filled Lake Home

THIS YEAR'S SHOWHOUSE BRINGS THE OUTDOORS IN

BY SARAH C. LANGE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT HAAS



“We wanted to create a perfect relaxing getaway space for easy lakeside living,” say Jessica Forston and John Edbauer of Fringe Interior Design & Home Furnishings, designers participating in Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse Inc.’s annual Showhouse for a Cure. In fact, it seems most of the designers shared that goal for this year’s home on Oconomowoc Lake.

Taking a cue from the stunning lake view and the light streaming through the house’s many windows, designers brought the outdoors in with an elevated nautical theme and nature-inspired details. Evoking the lake at its calmest, soothing blues and grays cover bedroom walls. And peacock fabric fans its feathers in the bold kitchen, part of the addition, while draperies inspired by “shimmering aspens” glisten in the living room at night.

“We wanted to keep the feel of the original home,” says Dan Druml, who with his wife, Mary, and Milwaukee’s Paul Davis Restoration & Remodeling recently expanded the neoclassic Lake Country house built in 1899 to its current 8,100 square feet.

Along with the kitchen, the dining and family rooms are new, and the latter’s coffered ceiling imitates the one in the living room, original to the home. They also expanded the screen porch and outdoor entertaining areas and converted the lower level to a recreation destination complete with game room, fitness room and movie theater.

For the formal dining room, “I wanted to incorporate the history of the area,” says Judy Fleming of Manhattan Textiles in Wauwatosa, who worked with Shelly Dineen. The linen buffet runners show scenes of Oconomowoc Lake printed from historic photographs. Traveling further in time for a natural element, the custom-made velvet host and hostess chairs are covered in a pattern taken from a forest design from the mid-15th century.

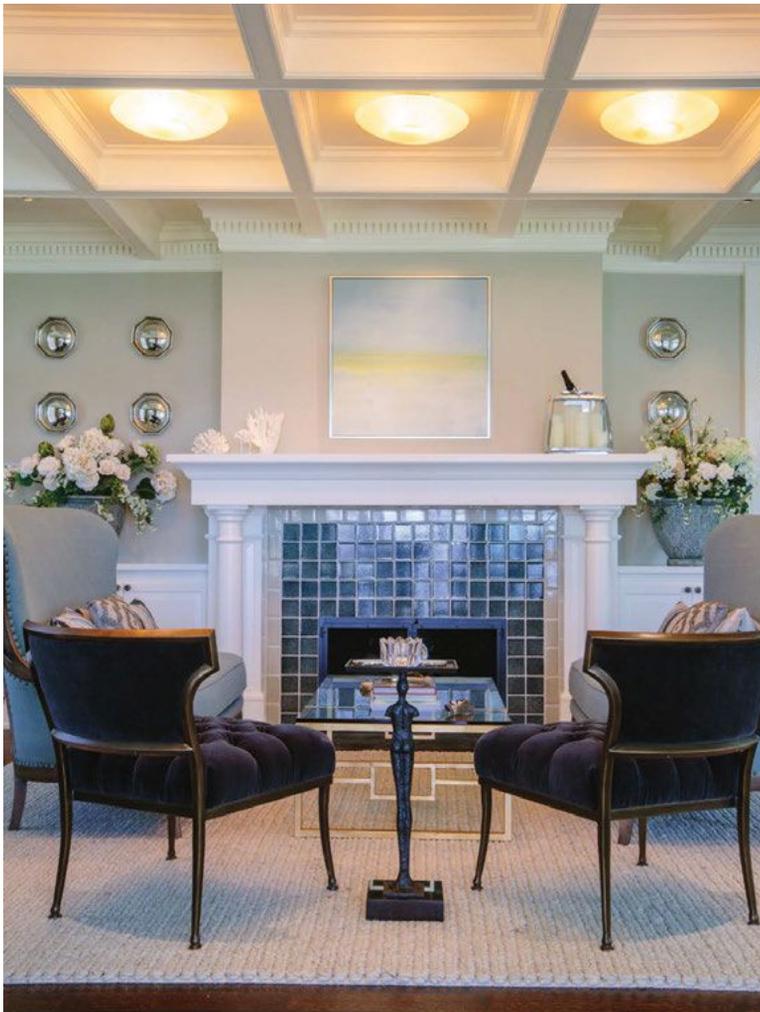


"The embroidered sham dictated the color scheme," says Betsy Peckenpaugh of uncommon walls, who collaborated with Margaret Weis of calico in Brookfield on the master bedroom. The walls were painted charcoal, making the light woodwork pop, and the serene space benefits from the luxurious play of textures. "The rug was chosen to contrast the slick, dark wood of the floors," Peckenpaugh says.



Upstairs, a guest apartment with sleeping porch offers what may be the house's best lake view, and the home's five bedrooms all contain private baths, adding to its retreat feel and overall vibe of easygoing elegance.

For a glimpse at this light-filled lake house, you can buy advance tickets for \$20 through June 3 at a number of area locations as well as at breastcancershowhouse.org. The showhouse opens the following day, and you can tour the home through June 19. Proceeds benefit research in early-stage breast cancer and prostate cancer at the Medical College of Wisconsin. **M**



Above: At the top of the staircase to the second floor, a bonus room promises a reprieve. Its ceiling mimics that of the master bedroom, and its windows are adorned with motorized shades to allow just the right light into the relaxed atmosphere. "We selected a mixture of both wood and metal finishes to complement the home's existing combination of painted and stained woodwork and gorgeous metal light fixtures," say Jessica Forston and John Edbauer of Fringe Interior Design & Home Furnishings in Whitefish Bay.

Left: "With the architecture already timelessly elegant," says France Lavin Design's France Lavin, gazing upward at the formal living room's original coffered ceiling, "I wanted to provide a touch of a nautical theme." To that effect, she chose a rug reminiscent of a cable-knit sweater, settees and chairs with strong wooden detailing, and mirrors like portholes lining the living room wall.