

LUXE

INTERIORS + DESIGN



FEATURES



148

French Lessons

An old-world point of view gets a spirited contemporary remix by designer Amy Storm and architect Brian Fergon.

Written by Grace Bouley Hunt
Photography by Stoffer Photography Interiors

162

Romancing the Stone

Elizabeth Krueger Design and Michael Abraham Architecture craft a sweeping lakefront compound that still feels deeply inviting.

Written by Kathryn O'Shea-Evans
Photography by Mike Schwartz
Styling by Darwin Fitz

174

New Classic

Respectful of its century-old roots, Rebel House Interior Design updates a Glencoe Georgian for its lively new inhabitants.

Written by Mary Jo Bowling
Photography by Ryan McDonald
Styling by Kimberly Swedelius

ON THE COVER: Designer Amy Storm gave classic checkerboard floors a subtle twist in this gracious Elmhurst home—four different types of inset marble from Viking Flooring Solutions. At the bottom of the dramatic, curved staircase are Rachel Donath ottomans and a Century Furniture table. **Page 148**

ASK YOUR SMARTPHONE TO TAKE YOU TO LUXESOURCE.COM FOR MORE DESIGN INSPIRATION.



ROMANCING *the* STONE

THIS SPRAWLING LAKEFRONT RETREAT PROVES SCALE AND SOUL CAN COEXIST.

WRITTEN BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKE SCHWARTZ | STYLING BY DARWIN FITZ

Architecture: Michael Abraham, Bernie Bertelli and Jason Thakor, Michael Abraham Architecture
Interior Design: Elizabeth Krueger and Janiëlle Kando, Elizabeth Krueger Design
Home Builder: Tim Fischer, Fischer Fine Home Building Inc.



Some houses just feel good when you're in them. And some are beautiful but don't feel good," says interior designer Elizabeth Krueger. Overlooking Geneva Lake, this particular Wisconsin escape manages to achieve both in a way that seems effortless. "This one is beautiful, *and* it feels good," she continues.

The homeowners—"the loveliest people," remarks Krueger—began construction with architect Michael Abraham and builder Tim Fischer when the wife, who had been making finish selections herself, decided she needed to bring in a creative partner. "She has incredible taste, but she reached a point where she realized this was too hard to do without the guidance of a designer," Krueger shares.

With a blended family, the couple envisioned a summer home that could flex seamlessly, entertaining upward of 25 guests for seasonal fêtes. At roughly 12,000 square feet, it's now both a summer retreat and a weekend refuge, with gardens by Mariani Landscape and Geneva Lake itself as the shimmering forefront. "It was important for us to be able to glimpse the lake when you first walk in and as you go through the house," recalls project architect Bernie Bartelli.

The entry sets the tone for the rest of the abode with bold architectural elements. "There's this fireplace and a stair and then the front door and a walkway," Krueger explains. She furnished the space with a live-edge center table and fuzzy orb ottomans for an impactful first impression. Above, a swagging, ombre glass pendant—"like a friendship bracelet, but all done out of fine rope," she describes—stamps the welcome with a touch of the celestial.

Double-sided, the entry fireplace also serves as a moment of architectural theater in the adjacent great room. Clad in locally sourced Wisconsin basswood buff stone and a pocket of limestone, it ascends a full 20 feet to the ceiling. "It's fabulous," raves Krueger, who worked with senior designer Janelle Kando. "You can walk through it." The stone anchors the two-story space, wrapping not only

the firebox but also the portal to the foyer, lending the sensation of an evolved house with a storied history. "There's an element here of 'Was this the original structure, and then we built onto it?'" she says.

Together, the designer and the homeowner landed on finishes that feel timeless but not timid, including Bluetie quartzite and dark bronze. "She was really fun to work with because she had been noodling on a bunch of ideas and was looking for a collaborative partner who was going to push her," Krueger says. And she did push. "We wanted it to look and be comfortable but not feel like everything else," she adds. "There is a hint of leaning into darker wood tones, like a modified Ralph Lauren palette."

Texture, as earthy as the quartzite and dolomite stones edging the lake, reigns in this waterside perch. Chunky layered rugs and tactile upholstery soften the soaring architecture, as do light fixtures in various unexpected finishes, from ebonized oak to rope. "There's something about it that bridges the gap between lake house cottage and a massive form, but it still feels intimate," Krueger says. She also relied on wooden beams to bring the eye down to human height. Spaces feel warm and welcoming, the designer notes, "if they are filled appropriately and there's still room to breathe."

The program for the kitchen, designed with Laura O'Brien of O'Brien Harris, required two cook spaces and two islands. The prep space was originally walled off, but the client made the visionary move to open it. "I don't want to be in the back kitchen when there are 15 people inside the main kitchen," Krueger recalls the homeowner saying. "How can we make this something to be enjoyed by everybody?" At the main kitchen island, a quintet of rounded, shearing-back stools bring a jolly note to the rigor of the architecture, counteracting all the right angles. "It's sophisticated and polished with this little bit of funk that's repeated throughout the whole house," Krueger says. "And that gives it personality."

The designer credits her collaboration with the homeowner for the final effect. "When somebody trusts you and the process, the end result is that much better," Krueger says. "We want it to look like you—so you're reflected in the home—but better." ■

Opposite: An oak-and-gold-leaf Ochre light fixture suspends above the Maiden Home dining table and Bernhard chairs. Sunlight filters in gently through Fabricut window treatments.

Previous pages, left to right: Fluffy Timothy Dulton stools, an Andrianna Shamaris table and a Brightbound pendant provide a pop of organic joy upon entry. In the great room, dual Visual Comfort & Co. chandeliers hang above a seating collection that includes a Burton James sofa and club chairs as well as a Maiden Home sofa.





Bluette quartzite from Terrazzo & Marble Supply Companies and character-grade oak bring a touch of the outdoors into the kitchen, designed by O'Brien Harris. Maiden Home stools pull up to the island, lit by Ritoh pendants from CKS Collective.



Above: In the lower-level nook, a button-tufted banquette and Jayson Home chairs surround the clients' own table. Overhead is a light fixture by Arteriors.

Opposite: A second kitchen island allows the homeowner extra breathing room—handy when hosting—while inner windows let in light from the great room. Rich navy cabinetry by O'Brien Harris is studded with hardware by Katonah Architectural Hardware.





“Some houses just feel good when you’re in them. And some are beautiful but don’t feel good. This one is beautiful, *and* it feels good.”

—ELIZABETH KRUEGER

Above: Flooring from The Fine Line distinguishes the mudroom. An RH bench serves as a plush perch for easy boot removal, while Visual Comfort & Co. sconces provide lighting.

Opposite: Designer Elizabeth Krueger had an Arteriors chandelier painted a custom blue for the primary bedroom, which overlooks Geneva Lake. Vanguard Furniture nightstands flank the Four Hands bed.



Swivel chairs from Jayson Home, a sofa from Crate & Barrel and the clients' own armchairs gather in the lower-level seating area. The coffee tables are by Williams Sonoma Home.