

CHICAGO

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FAMILY STONE

WRITTEN BY TATE GUNNERSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL ROBINSON

FOR THREE DECADES, THE SUBURBAN CHICAGO FAMILY HAD SPENT NEARLY EVERY WEEKEND AT AN OLD COTTAGE ON LAKE GENEVA THAT THEY HAD GROWN TO LOVE DESPITE ITS MANY QUIRKS. But with an ever-expanding family and mounting repairs, it became apparent that it made more sense to build rather than fix. So the homeowners hired architects Michael M. Culligan and Michael J. Abraham, principals of Culligan Abraham Architecture in Clarendon Hills, to create a spacious, contemporary retreat that incorporated the charm of the original structure. “We wanted the house to feel as if it had been there for a very long time, but thoroughly refitted and modernized,” explains Abraham.

The firm’s design takes full advantage of the home’s proximity to the lake, which is visible from the major common areas and from the three upstairs suites—one for each adult child. “Each room has its own walk-in closet, bathroom, TV and telephone,” the wife explains. “The house works because it allows us to have our time together as a family, yet still affords us privacy.”

ARCHITECTURE Michael M. Culligan and Michael J. Abraham,

Culligan Abraham Architecture

INTERIOR DESIGN Glen Lusby, Glen Lusby Interiors

HOME BUILDER James E. Scherrer, Scherrer Construction Co., Inc.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Maria Smithburg,

Artemisia Landscape Architecture

BEDROOMS 8 **BATHROOMS** 10 **SQUARE FEET** 10,800



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL J. ABRAHAM



GAS LIGHTED

Gas lanterns hanging from an arched walkway cover are two of the many bronze elements that were fabricated and installed by Hinsdale-based Tim Thompson Designs. Gas lines were cleverly hidden behind exterior moldings and through the home's many arches by Scherrer Construction.

Private time might mean hitting the treadmill in the third floor gym, catching a movie in the adjacent theater, or taking a walk through a series of gardens designed by Maria Smithburg of Artemisia Landscape Architecture in Chicago. "Everywhere you look, there's something interesting to see, even in the winter," Smithburg says. "Because they spend so much time there they wanted to have color and structure year-round."



CREWEL SUMMER

In the living room, a pair of sofas found at Hickory Chair | Pearson in the Merchandise Mart are joined by a trio of lounge chairs from deAurora, covered in a Donghia matelassé. They frame a Darjeeling table from Summer Hill, also in the Mart. Pillows covered in blue and white crewel fabric from Nancy Corzine complement the tones in the Armenian Jozan area rug from Oscar Isberian.



SLATED FOR RENEWAL

Reclaimed materials were used whenever possible during the project, including the original cottage's slate roof. Maria Smithburg, of Artemisia Landscape Architecture in Chicago, selected exterior lighting by In-lite to spotlight trees and garden sculptures. Landscape installation by Mariani Landscape in Lake Bluff; exterior lighting installed by Jack Gabriel Di Clemente in Wilmette.



GREAT WALL

Culligan Abraham Architecture designed the cerused oak paneling in the dining room to create a focal point and disguise access to the nearby butler's pantry and kitchen. Designer Glen Lusby created the custom twig chandelier in collaboration with Originals 22 at Area International. The Bausman side chairs, found at deAurora, are upholstered in fabrics from Kravet and Donghia.

Smithburg's work includes a greenhouse, a thicket of trees with a clearing for outdoor furniture and her pièce de résistance, a courtyard with limestone pavers and crushed granite gravel located just outside the combined living-dining area, which balances the view of the lake through the floor-to-ceiling windows on the opposite wall. At the owners' request, the crew salvaged as much as possible from the cottage they replaced, including an old bell tower that now stands in the courtyard and the original weathered slate roof, which was used on the gables. "If we've done our job then the house will get better over time just sitting there," Culligan says. "The weather will give it a nice patina."

In the evening, flickering gas lamps illuminate the grounds, which lends an Old World feel, especially when coupled with the thin layer of stucco that was applied deliberately imperfectly to the stone walls. "It looks as if the walls are 200 years old," says James E. Scherrer, president and CEO of Scherrer Construction in Burlington, Wisconsin.



INSIDE JOB

To furnish the east entry, Lusby selected stylish yet practical pieces, such as the Minton-Spidell bench found at Michael-Cleary and a console table by Evan Lewis. The home's reclaimed beams, stone walls and oak ceilings were inspired by the wooded lot and exterior geography, and help to create the illusion of an older home. Millwork by Parenti & Raffaelli adds a counterbalancing touch of refinement.



LA PETITE MAISON

A Nepalese area rug from Oscar Isberian grounds a custom sofa and Minton-Spidell lounge chairs in the family room. Twisted wood lamps sit on a Merlino table, all from deAurora. In the corner, a Saugatuck chandelier from Design Atelier illuminates an antique game table and four arrow-back chairs from Martin Wood. To give the homeowners a place to stay during the ten-month project, the detached coach house (right) was completed well before the main residence.



STYLE SELECTION

Available through deAurora in Chicago, Jamie Young's eclectic table lamp combines a base of reclaimed jungle vines with a grass-cloth shade, conjuring the designer's extensive travels and cultural influences. *Twisted Vine Table Lamp, as shown \$960; jamieyoung.com*

In the main house, reclaimed wood beams, exposed stone walls, fireplaces and wide thresholds separating the hardwood floors give the impression that the home was cobbled together over the years, one addition at a time. In truth, it was built assembly-line style in three stages. "After the foundation was poured there were multiple trades on-site at all times, moving left to right," Abraham says.

The owners tapped Chicago-based designer Glen Lusby, of Glen Lusby Interiors, to serve as the unofficial liaison between the various craftspeople. "We've been working with Glen for years and years; he's a gifted gentleman," the wife explains. Inspired by the view, Lusby blanketed the interiors in a palette of ivories and gray-blues, which repeat throughout the house. "The major theme is comfort and softness," Lusby explains. "There's nothing stark about this house, and no hard edges."



PRIVATE SHOWING

The master bedroom's pale blue walls, lofted oak ceilings and silvery-blue custom draperies—a combination of two silks from Stroheim & Romann with trim banding from Robert Allen—continue the home's lake-inspired color palette. Wall sconces from New Metal Crafts free up the custom tables from David Iatesta to hold framed family photos and books. A custom cabinet by Delleman & Company conceals a TV at the foot of the bed.



MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES

Walnut flooring and crisp white cabinetry by Parenti & Raffaeli create a pleasing contrast against an exposed stone wall in the master bathroom. The soaker tub is by Bain; the mirrored wall sconces by Niermann Weeks were found at Nancy Corzine. A custom apothecary chest by Martin Wood provides extra storage.

In fact, the cottopesto countertop between the butler's pantry and the family room is so soft that the homeowners were able to have family sayings engraved into its smooth surface. "We work with an artist in Italy who creates these durable works of art out of clay and limestone," explains Kathy Manzella, of de Giulio Kitchen Design in Chicago, who designed a French Country kitchen with discreet areas for prep, snacks and storage to accommodate everyone in this very full house. "It's a fun spot to be," the wife says. "We feel like we've died and gone to heaven every time we're here." **L**