

# Comfort and Joy

This Northville home is both modern and classic, with intimate spaces, many fireplaces, and loads of luxe for family entertaining. Photography by John Carlson

By

**Patty LaNoue Stearns** September 13, 2022

**W**hen Carrie Long sat down with her clients to talk about the design for their new home in Northville, there was no push-and-pull, as often happens in many first-time meetings.

“It was an amazing and electric design session,” Long, of Royal Oak’s Carrie Long Interiors, recalls. “They were extremely knowledgeable about construction and building, and they came with great ideas. We literally fed off each other in that session.”

The designer and clients were so engaged and in sync, Long says, she knew right away that it would be a fun and fantastic project. “The architect (TK Design and Associates of South Lyon) was hired before me, so we (were able to get) to work immediately,” she says. The new build would be an 8,700-square-foot home that blended Modern Farmhouse, Euro, and Tudor sensibilities. “It’s very classic,” Long says.

The couple also loves entertaining friends and family, particularly their son, his wife, their daughter, and all of their cousins. As it turns out, every space is so inviting and calming, Long says, you want to enter but you never want to leave. “It’s a big, keeping-everyone-connected house,” she says.

The wide-open, Euro-style kitchen features a tray ceiling with hand-scraped beams. It’s equipped with high-end appliances, including a Wolf range and a raised and fully integrated Sub-Zero refrigerator. The island sports a cerused

oak finish — a technique that creates a two-toned look, where the open grain of the wood is accentuated against a contrasting base color.

Just off the living room, with its coffered ceiling, intimate seating, and limestone fireplace, a four-season sitting room welcomes with a cushy down-and-foam-filled sectional, good lighting for reading, and views of the beautiful outdoors.

Scale was very important to this couple, so no room is too oversized. Cozy, comfy, and inviting are the ruling adjectives, and warm is the feeling Long imbued throughout. Six fireplaces — in the living room, family room, office, master bedroom, and lower level — ensure the home is toasty throughout the cold-weather months.

As the house was being built, Long says everybody — from the finish carpenters to the design staff — “became very friendly with the family. Now the landscaper goes biking with them. You can’t help but fall in love with this family.”



**LUXE LIVNG** Luxurious details define this Northville home, from the living room to the sitting room to the master bedroom.

Long so enjoyed the couple's company — she describes them as “wildly successful and totally into family” — she invited them on to a trip to New York City to hunt for vintage and antique furnishings such as rugs, artwork, and lighting for their new home. For the sitting room, they were thrilled to find a wooden chaise from the deck of the Queen Elizabeth. The chandelier in the living room is another vintage find from New York.

The designer's team created many striking custom pieces for the house, including handsome floor and accent pillows, the sweeping stairs and railing in the entry, a coffee table, the leather-wrapped mirror above the fireplace in the living room, and the master bedroom's headboard.

In the mahogany-stained office, the desk, ceiling light, fireplace, and built-in shelves were all designed by Long. “This was a true labor of love,” Long says.

For the husband, there's also a full woodworking shop, where he makes his own furniture pieces, including the end tables in the sitting room. In the upper level, the wife has created a craft room as her personal space.

All in all, this place is a dream house for a loving family who will spend the rest of their days celebrating their togetherness in the most comfortable way.

## BUYER'S GUIDE

### INTERIOR DESIGNER

Carrie Long, Carrie Long Interiors,  
Royal Oak, [carrielonginteriors.com](http://carrielonginteriors.com)

### **BEDROOM, MASTER**

**Armchairs** – Custom Upholstery, Sunpan