

The View

This Cass Lake home has it all: beauty, brains, and a waterscape vista from every room //
Photography by Beth Singer

By

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The beautiful exterior is extra-welcoming.

If you build a house on a lake, the focal point should be the water. That was the homeowners' mandate when Bloomfield Hills architect Corey Campbell drew up the blueprints for this 5,300-square-foot (not including garages) Shingle-style home. Campbell's firm, C-arc Design Group, specializes in lakefront homes, and he pulled this one off spectacularly.

First, though, the dated 1975 house on the property in Orchard Lake Village had to be razed, and the site had to be reworked to meet the new-house design

criteria, including a complete outdoor living area featuring an infinity pool, waterfalls, a fire feature, and more.

The three-floor, five-bedroom/eight-bath home is family friendly, with a lake view from every room and a special space for each member of the five-person household. Smart-home features with remote-everything make living easy, while speakers in every room are a treat for the ears. Outdoors, there's even a custom beachfront with retaining walls and soft sand. C-arc also created the three-flight staircase, the cabinetry, and all the extensive custom millwork throughout the house.

Designer Sandra Lousia, of SLS Designs Inc. in Bloomfield Hills, worked with Campbell and the homeowners from the three-year project's onset. "There isn't a detail that wasn't thought through," says Lousia, who also specializes in lakefront homes. "Everything flows together, with a consistency that's very classy, elegant, and timeless."

Lousia and the female homeowner bonded immediately. "Everything about the project was a pleasure," Lousia says. "She trusted my opinion about everything."

The homeowner agrees: "It's never easy going through the building process, but Sandra and I clicked right away and I enjoyed every minute because I love design myself."

For the home's main and top floors, light-and-airy yet warm-and-cozy were the goals, Lousia says. In the basement, which walks out to the pool and lake, they wanted more of a bold and modern look, with a lounge feel for entertaining after boating and jet-skiing on the county's largest and deepest lake.

Beyond the serene water views, designer Lousia says every room includes another special indulgence, whether it's a fireplace, fabulous custom lighting, or

glorious flooring such as that found in the master bath, with its inlaid-marble “rug.” The powder room showcases a backlit onyx sink and mirror, and the faintly textured wallpaper is subtle but refined.

The home is breathtaking, starting with the romantic, sweeping arch of the front entryway, where the lake shimmers across the great room beyond. A majestic fireplace with rift-cut, flipped-grain walnut paneling soars to the ceiling, and a huge modern chandelier adds warmth to the white walls. Indirect cove lighting adds dimension to the tongue-and-groove-paneled ceiling, and is nestled into the ceilings throughout the home.



A pleasing mix of materials is showcased in the study, bar, and a dining area/game room.

A three-story chandelier hangs from the top floor above the staircase, which can be seen from the bright, well-equipped main-floor kitchen with its porcelain countertop and Miele range. A stone fireplace warms the area, and a banquette

for dining is located underneath a striking round paneled ceiling across from the kitchen island. A four-season sunroom opens up fully to a walk-down patio.

“That’s my favorite room,” says the wife, who’s also the mom of three. “I love drinking coffee in there, starting my day looking out at the serenity of the lake, and I love watching the sunsets at the end of the day.”





The seating and furnishings in the home are all about comfort, Lousia says. “(It’s) comfort over anything,” she emphasizes. Her biggest challenge was finding pieces that didn’t obscure the lake; the result is low-slung seating from room to room, Lucite chairs in the breakfast nook, and a see-through desk in the dark-colored (Benjamin Moore’s Wrought Iron) study. Nothing hides the view.

In the swanky lower level, cream and charcoal are punctuated with touches of brushed gold; a highlight is the 60-inch round ring chandelier in the lounge area. Just across from the seating area is a magnificent bar with a wine cellar,

and a second kitchen. The lower-level's dining area features a custom live-edged table, a pool table, and an expanse of deep-brown wall covering with golden studs and stripes by Phillip Jeffries called "Nailed It." A nearby bath with a dressing area and towel cubbies is the next stop before jumping in the pool — or the lake.

Outside, the patio and pool area is just as grand, with a daybed in front of the window and loads of other cushy spots to take in the sun, including an artistic circular sculpture that's actually more seating. Another kitchen and a fire pit ensure every inch of outdoor living is a dream.

BUYER'S GUIDE

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Sandra Lousia, SLS Designs Inc., Bloomfield Hills

DINING/GAME ROOM

Chairs, Dining – Bravo Black, Bernadette Dining Armchair, Sunpan

ENTERTAINMENT AREA

Tables, Coffee – Willem Coffee Tables, Sunpan

STUDY

Chairs, Black Leather – Vintage Black, Anton Lounge Chair, Sunpan