MIDWEST
Home®
14TH ANNUAL
LUXURY
HOME TOUR
EXCLUSIVE
RECAP
14
HOMES
WITH
DRAMA &
STYLE
Welcome
TO
LUXURY
August 2014/ $4.50
08
0 86771 56371 5

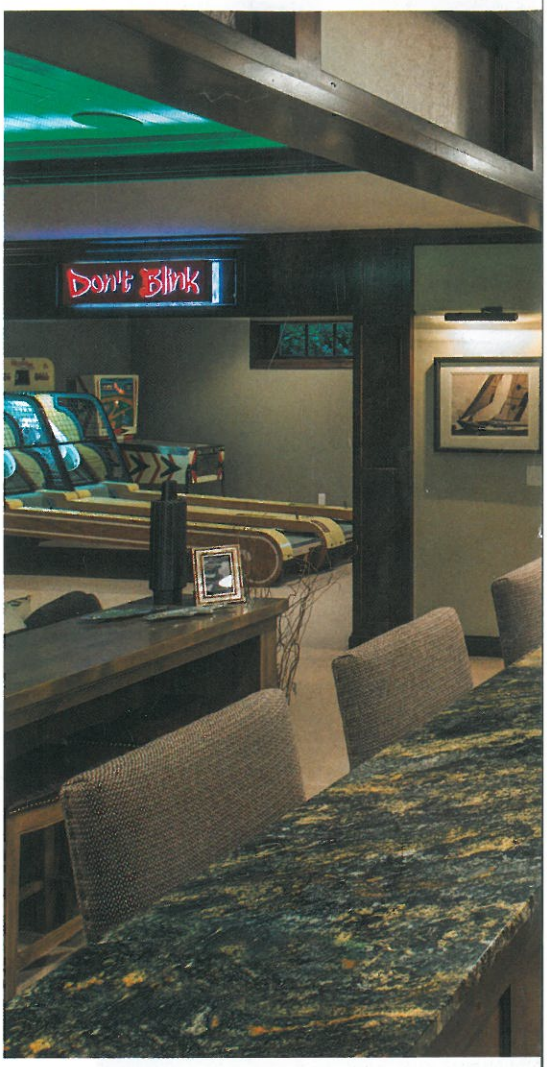
LAKEFRONT LIVING

Shared spaces and fun features invite friends to gather and stay awhile

BY DIANE L. CORMANY | PHOTOS BY SPACECRAFTING

LEFT A 20-foot-wide bank of doors frames Lake Minnetonka's Maxwell Bay. The doors slide open and a retractable screen lowers to turn the great room into a de facto outdoor space.

RIGHT Everything about this house, from the gray-and-white color palette to the shingle and board-and-batten siding, underlines its nautical style.



"DON'T BLINK": The Kenny Chesney lyric reminds this Orono family to be in the moment. "Before you know it, life passes by," explains the homeowner. "We have to be together, enjoy each other."

This simple philosophy drove the design of the generous shared spaces of their new five-bedroom, 6,500-square-foot home, built by Stonewood. Builder Sven Gustafson describes the overall feel as laid-back, detailing the easy flow between indoor and outdoor spaces. "It's a house that feels like it fits on a lake," he says.

Lake Minnetonka takes center stage in the great room, where a 20-foot-wide bank of glass doors frames Maxwell Bay. The homeowner says her family wanted to use the views as a work of art and be surrounded by its beauty. The doors slide open and a retractable screen lowers, turning the great room into a de facto outdoor room.

Though built for year-round use, an adjacent veranda feels like a three-season porch with its flagstone floor and siding-covered walls. An interior pass-through wet bar serves the transitional space, which steps out to a stone terrace for easy outdoor entertaining.

All should come in handy (as will the generous gourmet kitchen) when the family hosts its annual summer bash for about 150 friends. A band plays on the patio, and revelers enjoy the lake and one another. The homeowner looks forward to more expansive accommodations for the inevitable overnight guests, including a suite that she calls the Oar Room.

The lower level is likewise designed for hanging out and features a movie screen, granite-topped wet bar, and alcove for wine storage. But you would be hard-pressed to draw the gang away from the arcade, which

ABOVE LEFT The master suite features a ceiling vault and a peerless view of the sunset over the lake.

ABOVE RIGHT The theme of the lower-level entertainment mecca is "Don't Blink." A granite-topped bar, movie screen, and arcade with vintage Skee-Ball games and other amusements ensure that life in this house is fun-packed.

RIGHT The four-season veranda, complete with flagstone flooring and pass-through wet bar, is another gathering spot for friends and family.

FAR RIGHT The Oar Room is a sizable guest suite for overnight visitors.

was custom-designed to fit three vintage Skee-Ball games, and other old and new amusements.

"This is how we live. It may not work for everybody, but this is how we live," says the homeowner, adding that architect Peter Eskuche incorporated their design ideas. Her adult son and daughter designed the arcade—a favorite hangout for friends—by sketching it on a piece of paper. On it they wrote "Don't Blink," which the family commissioned a sign-maker friend to realize in neon. It reminds them that enjoying loved ones is what their new dream home is all about. **MH**

DIANE L. CORMANY IS A ROBBINSDALE FREELANCE WRITER.

LUXURY HOME TOUR

BUILDER
STONEWOOD

HOME LOCATION
Orono

ARCHITECT
Eskuche Design

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Studio M Interiors

SPONSORS

- Admit One Home Theater
- Eskuche Design
- Ferguson
- Hedberg Landscape & Masonry Supply
- Phantom Screens
- Scherer Bros. Lumber Co.
- Stone Countertop Outlet
- Studio M Interiors
- Sub-Zero by Roth

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FEATURED PRODUCTS AND SUPPLIERS, SEE PAGE 131.