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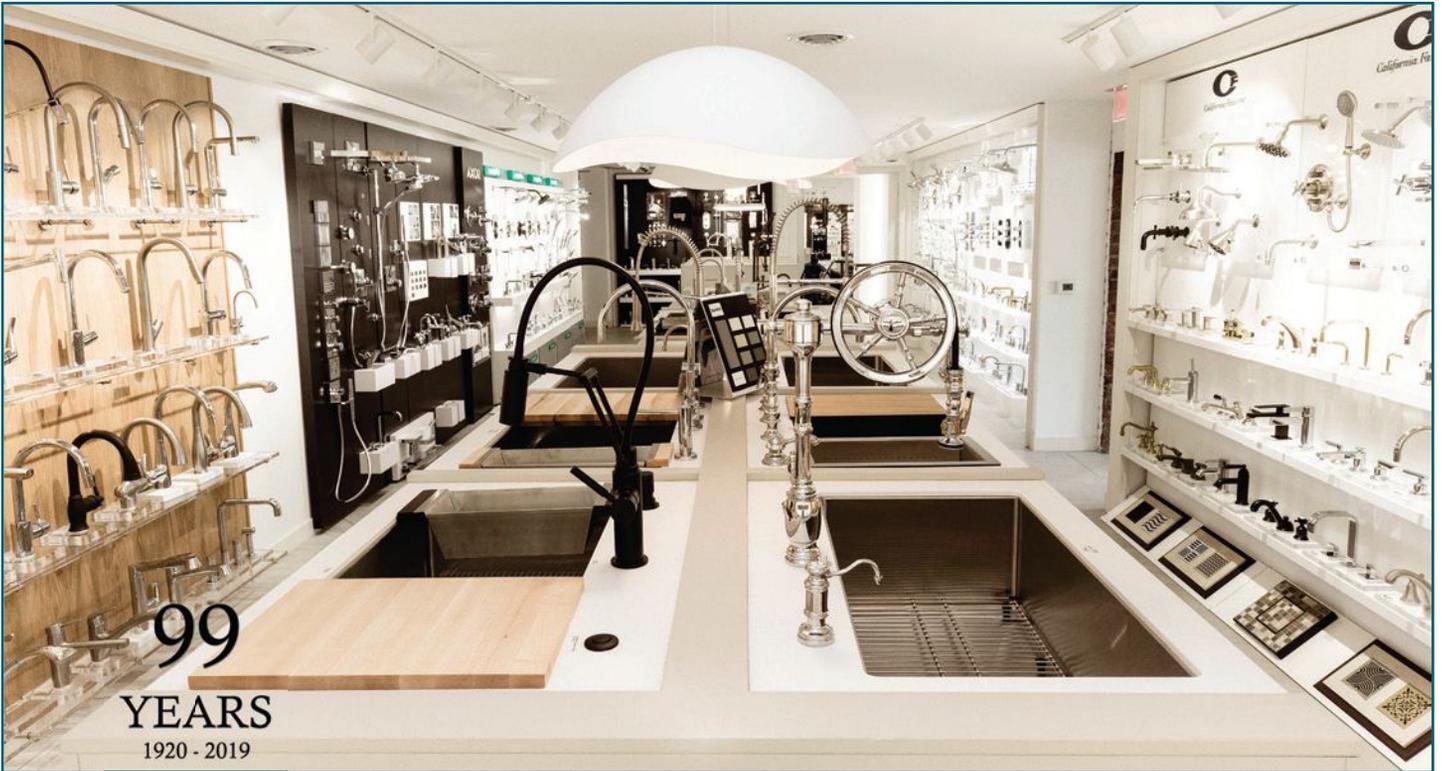
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A Birmingham home basks in a golden autumn day. Homeowner Lauren Tolles describes its style as "contemporary Colonial." Photo by Martin Vecchio. See page 42.

#### **THIS PAGE**

Every home needs a "conversation room" as inviting as this. Photo by Martin Vecchio. See page 42.

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# Returning Home

A man and his wife rang the doorbell and, when the homeowner opened the door, he explained that he had grown up in the home, and asked if he could see the inside once again. When he stepped out to the back porch, he stopped in his tracks. “Wow,” he said. “It’s so different now.”

Rather than looking out to the screened-in porch that he remembered, he took in a new and gorgeous layout chock-full of style and panache.

Creative homeowner/interior designer Tiffany Edison had transformed the space into a room perfect for her large family. A two-way fireplace had been installed, and comfortable furniture and a new beadboard ceiling awash in a light-blue paint adorned the room.

The screens were gone on the porch the man remembered and it was now an open-air space. As the son of the original owners of the home, he told Edison that when he was a boy, he and his family gathered in that room a lot.

“The man and his wife loved the changes, but he choked up when he saw his old bedroom and the back porch. He apologized and said he was ‘overwhelmed,’” Edison recalls.

I know how he must have felt as he toured parts of his childhood home in Ann Arbor, which we feature in this issue. He may have sensed he was dreaming. Everything was familiar, but not familiar at all. That’s how I feel when I drive by the home my parents owned for some 40 years. Every time I’m near that neighborhood, I make a point to cruise by the large Colonial house. Well, not really cruise. It’s more like a stealthy crawl. I turn the radio off and put the windows down, so all my senses can absorb the scene.

I can nearly hear my mom yelling something like, “Can someone please bring in the garbage cans?” Or I might recall hearing her announce, “It’s time to light the pumpkin candles!” And, “Help me hang the Indian corn on the door!”

I imagine my dad’s Notre Dame flag flapping against the flagpole, and I remember the sound of the electric garage door as it slowly rose up to reveal sparkling-clean cars and a neatly stacked pile of logs for building fires come fall — and my old blue Schwinn, awaiting a ride.

What I squint at today through my car window is a bit different. The once well-manicured front lawn with trimmed trees and bushes, and scant landscape adornments, isn’t so tidy. The garage door is up, showcasing shelving units bursting at the seams with toys, garden tools, shoes, and other miscellaneous stuff. A plastic, neon-colored

swing hangs from a small tree in the front yard along the brick pathway to the front door. A large workbench takes center stage in another garage my dad had built to house his favorite cars.

It’s a new day, a new family, I tell myself, and they’re molding the home into what they need it to be. I hit the accelerator and drive away fast, filling my mind with thoughts of anything but the love I had for that house and the people in it.

I’d like to return to the 1970s and spend an autumn afternoon there. The school bus would drop me off and I’d enter through the front door. The Indian corn, with its dried leaves and colorful little kernels, would move ever so slightly as I’d open and shut the door. Mom would be in the kitchen sprinkling cinnamon on sliced apples for a pie, while chicken or ribs roasted in the oven. Relaxing music would be playing on a transistor radio, and firewood would be at the ready for an evening blaze. My brothers would either be playing ping-pong in the basement or strumming a guitar upstairs. I’d think about taking the Schwinn out for a spin before homework and dinner.

I saw a post on Facebook recently that said, “Wouldn’t you just love to step back in time and be in Grandma’s kitchen again?” I shared the post and received some lovely insights. “My grandma had the best laugh, and she could make pasties,” someone said. Another replied, “When I was very young, my grandma would give me a cup of tea with cake sprinkles at the bottom; it was so special.” “The best smells came from both of my grandmas’ kitchens,” another comment read.

If you’re home right now, look around and soak up everything you love. If you get a chance to be in your grandmother’s kitchen, go soon — and take it all in!

Change, of course, is inevitable. And I’m one to embrace it. Things that no longer work, are deteriorating, or are in need of an update require attention, especially in the capable hands of a good interior designer like Tiffany Edison. Her goal was to update the home we feature in this issue, but to maintain its historic vibe, as well. The porch needed to accommodate her large, blended family — and it does. “It’s my favorite place in our house,” she says. Her children love it, too. And once they’ve moved away, if they return someday to visit their childhood home, chances are it will be different. Nothing stays the same.

— Megan Swoyer



# Detroit Home

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PUBLISHER John Balardo

## EDITORIAL

EDITOR Megan Swoyer

COPY EDITOR Anne Berry Daugherty

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Tanya Zager Chisholm, Jamie Fabbri, Carol Hopkins, Honey Murray, Susan Rosiek, Judith Harris Solomon, Patty LaNoue Stearns, Khristi S. Zimmeth

## ART

ART DIRECTOR Austin Phillips

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Alexander Shammami

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS CJ Benninger, Jeff Garland, Christine MJ Hathaway, Matthew LaVere, Diana Paulson, Beth Singer, Martin Vecchio

## ADVERTISING SALES

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Jason Hosko

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Cynthia Barnhart, Keely-Rose Dudal, Kathy Johnson, Donna Kassab, Maya Korogodsky, Debra Lee, Mary Pantely and Associates, Christin Schrei, Angela Tisch

ADVERTISING INTERNS Alexa Calus, Isabella Tan

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IT DIRECTOR Jeremy Leland

IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST Bryan Gerard

SENIOR PRODUCTION ARTIST Robert Gorczyca

PRODUCTION ARTIST Stephanie Daniel

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR Christopher Paluch

DIGITAL OPERATIONS DIRECTOR Gerald Blakeslee

WEB PROJECT LEAD Matt Cappo

WEB PROJECT ASSISTANTS Mariah Knott, Luanne Lim,

Kevin Pell, Bart Woinski

PRS GRAPHIC ARTIST Marcus Thompson

ADVERTISING DESIGNERS Melissa Flores-Loera, Christian Lott, Daniel Moen, Kendra Okamoto, Christopher Paluch, Amanda Zwiiryn

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MARKETING AND EVENTS ASSISTANTS Madeline Keller, Lauren Krzysnik

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MARKETING RESEARCH COORDINATOR Ana Potter

MARKETING RESEARCH ASSISTANT Georgia Iden

MARKETING AND EVENTS INTERN Elizabeth Cotra

MARKETING AND RESEARCH INTERNS Denise Gonzalez Basin, Francesca Gilardone, Margaret McDougall, Ruby Modell

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PRESIDENT John Balardo

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RECEPTIONISTS Julia Loerichio, Deanna Zawislak

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## Fall's Calling

Countryside strolls, kitchen highlights, intriguing building trends, and more  
Photo by CJ Benninger

### ON THE VINE

Le Fleur Décor in Hadley beckons with all things rustic and autumn, from garden accents to colorful gourds. Read about this destination shop inside this section.



## FIELD NOTES

Home-Related Tips, Trends, and Tidbits

**BATHROOM SPICE:** Ginger's ([gingerco.com](http://gingerco.com)) new Chelsea, Circe, and London Terrace collections, below, are tops. At Wittock Supply, Shelby and Progressive Plumbing Supply, Warren.



• • •

**NOW THAT'S INTELLIGENT:** HomeAware ([sonicalert.com](http://sonicalert.com)) uses transmitters and receivers to alert you to alarms from home security, carbon monoxide detectors, baby monitors, and more.

• • •

**GENTLE STRENGTH:** For home siding, decks, and more, consider a soft-wash cleaning method with long-lasting results, suggest the folks at Lake State Cleaning ([lakestatecleaning.com](http://lakestatecleaning.com)).

• • •

**TAKE A DIP:** With a slipper-tub-inspired shape, the newly relaunched, made-in-the-USA Chelsea bathtub, below, from Hastings Tile & Bath ([hastingsstilebath.com](http://hastingsstilebath.com)), offers a nice balance between traditional and contemporary design. The freestanding bathtub comes in two sizes.



• • •

**CHAIRS TO CHERISH:** In honor of the 100th birthday of the Bauhaus, Knoll ([knoll.com](http://knoll.com)) reintroduced the iconic Cesca chair, below, with new bar and counter stools, and a two-toned upholstery option. At A.K. Rikk's in Grand Rapids.



• • •

**WAXING NATURAL:** Ferndale's Green Daffodil ([greendaffodil.com](http://greendaffodil.com)) now offers Candle Pour Parties. "They're for socializing, celebrating an event, or just a night out," say the gift shop's owners.

• • •

**GLOW FLOW:** "(When) planning for the holiday season, don't forget to look up!" says Royal Oak's Carrie Long ([carrielonginteriors.com](http://carrielonginteriors.com)). "Your dining room light fixture is the centerpiece of the room, and swapping it out can be a simple solution for adding warmth, texture, and personality." — *By Honey Murray*

Have news that pertains to the design industry that you'd like to share? Send a note to [MSwoyer@hour-media.com](mailto:MSwoyer@hour-media.com).



### Q&A

## This Home Gets R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Creative stylist gives Aretha Franklin's former home a tune-up

**RODNEY HOWELL OF SOUTHFIELD** has a passion for style. The owner of two metro Detroit hair salons ([hairshionsalon.com](http://hairshionsalon.com)), Howell, above, has an impressive resume as an interior decorator and stylist. In fact, his love of style landed him a role on HGTV's reality show, "My House is Worth What?" When he was invited to stage the Colonial-style Bloomfield Hills home of late music legend Aretha Franklin to prepare it for sale (as of press time, the home was listed with RE/MAX New Trend), it was the opportunity of a lifetime.

**Q: How did you get involved with this opportunity?**

**A:** I'm a good friend of two of Aretha's nieces. I was excited and extremely nervous. It took a minute to absorb it all.

**Q: Did you have to follow a certain style or were you encouraged to be creative?**

**A:** They encouraged me to be creative and gave me carte blanche. We did some upgrading and painted, using neutral colors that would make it easier to stage.

**Q: Did you bring in new items or did you use the home's existing contents?**

**A:** Both. We used Aretha's original art, and her piano — a beautiful red grand piano from her home on the Detroit Golf Course. We framed an invitation from one of her Christmas parties and displayed it on the piano.

**Q: What were your favorite rooms?**

**A:** The great room, dining room, and kitchen. The dining room has a mahogany table with pony-hair chairs. It was difficult finding pieces; the home is so high-end. The kitchen is huge and marvelous, and the countertops and floors are marble. — *By Susan Rosiek*



HAMMER &amp; NAIL

## In the Current

What are the newest building trends clients are seeking?

BY SUSAN ROSIEK



### CREATING HARMONY

Rodney Howell stages Aretha Franklin's modern-contemporary great room with reds, whites, and blacks. Art donated by local artisans rounds out the décor.

“Clean, open-feeling spaces with lighter colors, to accentuate furnishings. The clean and simple trend carries into millwork and cabinetry with white Shaker doors, two-panel interior doors, and plain bases and casings with a back band. In contrast to the open spaces for entertaining, a quiet, intimate sitting room to unwind after work is also high on most lists.

— MARK AFFER  
MSA CONSTRUCTION  
BIRMINGHAM

Black trim, base moldings, doors, and casing and coffered ceilings, along with black contemporary, modern window styles. They want black for both exterior and interior finishes. Other requests include wide-width, light-colored, handcrafted engineered solid flooring; an outdoor lanai with a grilling area, television, and fireplace; and a mix of exterior siding materials (horizontal and vertical board and batten).

— PAUL KOZICKI  
KASTLER CONSTRUCTION INC.  
CLAWSON

Improved insulation, improved (less) air infiltration, and more high-efficiency heating and cooling systems. Customers are concerned about indoor air quality and limiting the use of formaldehyde, and other higher VOC (volatile organic compound) products. Customers today are more likely to install drinking water or whole-house water filtration systems, regardless of weather they have city water or a well.

— MIKE MILLER  
MIKE MILLER BUILDING CO.  
NORTHVILLE

Wide-plank, engineered wood floors are aesthetically pleasing, offer an exceptional finish, and are better for expansion and contraction. Also popular are narrow-sight-line iron doors with lots of glass, for a vintage look, and large-format porcelain tile on walls, which offers a polished, textured look with a good variation of color.

— DOMINIC ABATE  
HELLER & ASSOCIATES  
PONTIAC

Black windows (exterior and interior trim). People want symmetry and clean lines. Other trends include wide-plank flooring with a natural lighter palette, glass and metal room dividers, painted shiplap, decorative wood beams, and expansive windows/doorwalls that bring the outdoors in. Families want spaces to be multi-functional, and some level of home automation is essential.

— PAUL MOONEY  
PRM CUSTOM BUILDERS  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS

Large-format porcelain surfaces for floors, walls, and countertops is a current trend. The technology is so advanced, it looks like real stone and has few seams. In color preferences, clients are asking for lighter, cooler colors — white, gray, and black. Bright surfaces with dark accents — floors, ceiling treatments, and wall coverings — are also popular.”

— SEAN GARDELLA  
SEAN D. GARDELLA & ASSOCIATES  
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HISTORY

# Detroit's White House

The preservation of Ulysses S. Grant's home is underway

**THE GREEK REVIVAL-STYLE, WHITE** clapboard Detroit home, above, that President Ulysses S. Grant prepared for his new bride, Julia — and where they gardened, entertained, and welcomed their first child, Frederick — is being lovingly rehabilitated. The home, in which the couple lived from 1849-1850, was slated to be moved from its former location at the Michigan State Fairgrounds to Eastern Market by October, according to Sandra Clark, director of the Michigan History Center ([michigan.gov/mhc](http://michigan.gov/mhc)), and Laura Raisch, committee member of Heritage Michigan ([granthomedetroit.org](http://granthomedetroit.org)), a private, nonprofit foundation that's helping to fund the project. The home was originally on East Fort Street, near military barracks at Russell and Clinton streets. Clark and Raisch discuss some of the home's details.

**Q: What kind of window treatments did Julia use?**

**A:** "According to her memoirs," Raisch

says, "Julia hung burgundy wool drapes with white muslin sheers." "Although the windows were replaced, the framing and interior trim seem to be original," Clark adds.

**Q: What about the couple's kitchen and dishware?**

**A:** "(Julia) had Dresden china, loved to cook, and said her kitchen was 'so convenient for me to make my culinary experiments,'" Raisch says.

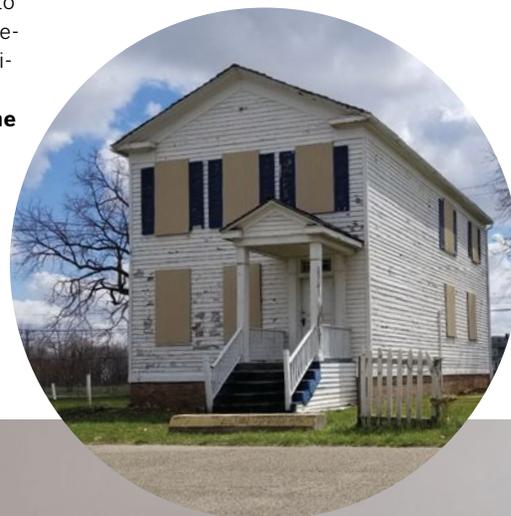
**Q: What are the plans for the home in Eastern Market?**

**A:** "The home will be part of the Eastern Market garden project, and will once again include gardens and a small orchard," Clark explains. It will showcase Grant's life and the impact he made on Detroit, and as a Civil War general and U.S. president.

"In a letter to Julia," Raisch adds,

"Grant said the garden was 'filled with the best kind of fruit and ... an arbour grown over with vines that will bear fine grapes in abundance for us and to give away.'" More information: [granthomedetroit.org](http://granthomedetroit.org).

— *By Honey Murray*



KITCHEN

# The Big Island

This 14-footer is making waves

**A VETERAN OF THE**

design industry, Ricci Bellucci, left, who founded Bellucci Design Group in February, has seen his share of kitchen islands, but maybe nothing like the one he fashioned for Dennis and Susan Curry's 1920s French Normandy

farmhouse-style home in Birmingham (interior architecture by Glenda Meads Architects in Birmingham). Here, Bellucci, who designed cabinetry for the entire home, shares his insights on the quartz beauty, shown at right.

**Q: How was the island made?**

**A:** For the top, Caesarstone (manmade quartz) slabs were book-matched to show the continuity of the veining. The corbels and panels were custom-made to accommodate the size of the island.

**Q: Why so big?**



**A:** Looking at the size of the cabinetry and the Miele appliances, we wanted to have symmetry and good scale. It's copasetic with the other side of the room.

**Q: What's your personal take on it?**

**A:** The thing is, no matter how beautiful a

home, it seems everyone always gathers at the island. Why not have a great one? You can have up to six stools at this island. And it's extra special — it's got a built-in cutting board designed by Mick De Giulio, a designer for Kallista. More information: [riccibellucci.com](http://riccibellucci.com) — *By Megan Swoyer*

## OUTINGS

## Relax and Ramble

Enjoy a countryside stroll at Le Fleur Décor

**LIFE IS LAID-BACK AT LE FLEUR** Décor, located in the countryside, in Hadley (3442 Hadley Rd.). The store's owner, Kelly Iler, is laid-back, too. Iler's home-décor business is situated northeast of Ortonville and is chock-full of many things Halloween this time of year.

On Iler's three acres, customers can start browsing in her 100-year-old barn, which is filled with locally created gifts, recycled items, and original artwork; a purchase might include fresh-flower bouquets from Iler's large flower garden. There, visitors will find zinnias, dahlias, coxcombs, sunflowers, statice, black-eyed Susans, and other flowers their great-grandmothers might recognize. Iler also sells succulents, vegetables, pumpkins aplenty, and dried flowers — really, a bit of everything.

The easygoing Iler was working at a ware-

house supervising employees, but her employers wanted her to move to Chicago. She didn't want to go, and instead opened her own business.

"My father used some of my property for his own farmers market garden; when he passed away, I took over all of the vegetable gardens. Through the years, I was always adding something new," Iler says. Five years ago, Iler married Jan Iler, her neighbor. "He's helped a lot with the business, building arbors and huge structures on the property," Iler says. It's set up for rambling, and



### THE FROST IS ON THE PUNKIN

Le Fleur Décor features a 100-year-old barn full of home accessories, including fall's bounty. Owner Kelly Iler, right, has stocked up on unique Halloween items.

guests are encouraged to sit back and enjoy the surroundings at rustic tables and chairs. Lights are strung around the property, so the grounds twinkle at night. "People wander and find some great local art," Iler says. More information: call (586) 495-4076. — *By Carol Hopkins*

## LIVING ROOM

## Adding Zest

A Redford living room and dining room go from stale to stunning



BEFORE



**BUILT IN THE 1950S, AN APPROXIMATELY** 2,200-square-foot home in Redford originally belonged to Darby Trapp Eland's grandparents, and she grew up just three blocks away. After residing in the home for the past 15 years, Eland, left, and her husband, Robert, reached out to designers Arturo Sanchez, far left, and Barry Harrison, right, principals of Art|Harrison Interiors in Royal Oak. "Darby said she was tired of living with boring beige-on-beige," Sanchez says. Here are few of the choice changes:

**MELLOW YELLOW:** "When you enter the living room, the first thing you see is a contemporary tufted sofa. It's kind of the diva in the room, and everything else radiates around it," Harrison says. "Its yellow color is bright, like sunshine."

**SIP AND TUCK:** Eland requested a second sofa that would be conducive to tucking her feet up when sipping champagne with her girlfriends, so the designers chose a crescent-shaped piece that's thicker on one side and is upholstered with a gold, white, and black textured fabric.

**IN THE FOLD:** A cocktail table, made out of a flat piece of quarter-inch gold-leafed steel that has been folded to make it three-dimensional, sits in front of the crescent-shaped sofa.

**TABLE TALK:** In the nearby dining room, the designers replaced the home's dark-stained wooden table with a brand-new contemporary one that features a frosted oval anti-scratch glass top and a cylinder-shaped cement base.

**GRAY MATTERS:** Once mustard yellow, the living room and dining room walls now sport *Essential Gray*, from Sherwin-Williams. *More information:* artharrison.net. — *By Judith Harris Solomon*



AFTER



# Beloved Detroit

Two college professors find a rare gem on a golf course in the city, and now relax in the splendor of a near-century-old manse

By Patty LaNoue Stearns | Photos by Diana Liang

**W**hen the University of Michigan recruited Heather Ann Thompson and her husband, Jon Wells — both professors, historians, and authors — for jobs in Ann Arbor in 2014, the couple jumped at the offer, and despite the commute, they set their sights on a home in Detroit.

Thompson, a Princeton Ph.D. who has lived and taught all over the country with Wells, has deep roots in Detroit; she grew up in the Rosedale Park neighborhood and attended Cass Tech High. She met Wells, a Florida native, when they both attended grad school at U-M. Each shares a

commitment to the health and vibrancy of urban centers, particularly Detroit.

Even so, finding the perfect house for themselves and their now-grown children wasn't easy. They scoured Detroit's best neighborhoods — Indian Village, Boston-Edison, Rosedale Park, and Palmer Woods. Nothing they saw suited them, until a listing appeared for a home in the Detroit Golf Club neighborhood near Palmer Park. That was it.

"It just had that amazing family feel," Thompson recalls. "It's a big house (three floors, six bedrooms, seven baths, plus a full finished basement with sauna, Jacuzzi, bar, and catering kitchen, for a total of about 7,000 square feet), but it just felt cozy. I loved the woodwork and the

paneled library, and the thick moldings were just incredible."

One of only 30 homes on the street, the stately 1923 Tudor, which sits on the wooded 11th hole of the golf course, was solid. The windows and woodwork hadn't been painted over or replaced, the wooden floors hadn't been carpeted, and it was in great condition overall.

"The people before us clearly loved this house," Thompson says. "They treated it well, and that also makes a difference. We looked at a lot of homes that were extraordinary and had amazing potential, but when we looked out and saw this backyard and said, 'We're in the city? That's crazy, that sealed the deal.'"

Right around the same time, Thompson was



**ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS**

*This page:* The owners can see the entire first floor from the dining room, including two seating areas with fireplaces and the library beyond. All of the wood — beams, fireplace surrounds, millwork, and floors — is original, and many of the furnishings are vintage, passed down from the couple's grandparents. The home's exterior was completely painted and new landscaping was added. The thick front door and original tile floor are still intact — and stunning. *Opposite page:* The gleaming kitchen with an adjacent wine room was the only down-to-the-studs project in the house.

**SPACIOUS & STUNNING**

*This page, clockwise from top:* Half of a daughter's third-floor bedroom is a sweet retreat for watching movies. Paneled walls adorn the library. One of the guest bedrooms, with a stellar view of the 11th hole.

The dressing room off the master bedroom is every woman's dream. *Opposite page:* The well-stocked library, in all its glory, is a favorite spot for homeowners Jon Wells and Heather Ann Thompson.



on a two-year nationwide tour with her book, *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*, which later won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize, among other prestigious literary awards. Needless to say, it was a stressful time.

Nevertheless, renovations began immediately. "We were lucky we had a home-renovating company, Detroit Build. They really understood the bones of this house and helped us reimagine the kitchen," says Thompson, adding that after living in so many homes around the U.S., she knew this one had to have a fabulous kitchen. New paint, tile, and light fixtures, and refinished floors also were part of the home's update.

For the kitchen, Thompson found a magnificent blue La Cornue range she adored, and the plan moved forward from there. Rebekah Tull, of Royal Oak's Whiski Kitchen, did the design and cabinetry, which involved gutting a tight, narrow room with a skinny island, bumping out a 3-foot addition, and creating a sitting area with a wine nook and fireplace topped with a TV.

Tull says it was one of her favorite projects. "They wanted a nice, cozy place to hang out, besides sitting in one of the big rooms."

Lisa Backus from Design Bar Detroit worked with Tull to produce the color palette for the kitchen, as well as the rest of the house and its exterior. "It's such a large house, so it was quite a challenge," says Backus, who created PhotoShop mockups and painted tons of swatches on the walls to get the shades exact.

The design team also added a second-floor laundry room in a former huge closet, which is one of the home's many storage places (there are also two dressing areas with cupboards and drawers galore).

The couple says there are still more projects planned for this nearly 100-year-old house, but for now, they're taking a break.

"The only thing left (in this phase) is the air-conditioning," Thompson says. "We'll tackle that next." ■



**IN THE DETAILS: RESOURCE GUIDE**

General contracting, Detroit Build, [detroitbuild.com](http://detroitbuild.com). Cabinetry/kitchen, Rebekah Tull, Whiski Kitchen, Royal Oak, [whiski-kitchen.com](http://whiski-kitchen.com). Interior design for kitchen/wine niche, Lisa Backus, Design Bar Detroit, Madison Heights, [designbardetroit.com](http://designbardetroit.com). Cabinetry, Legacy Crafted, [legacycrafted.com](http://legacycrafted.com). Countertops, Aurea Stone, Dwyer Marble & Stone Supply, Farmington Hills, [dwyermarble.com](http://dwyermarble.com), [aureastone.us](http://aureastone.us). Cabinet hardware, Top Knobs, [topknobsdecor.com](http://topknobsdecor.com). Plumbing, Brizo, [brizo.com](http://brizo.com). Apron sink: Kohler, [us.kohler.com/us](http://us.kohler.com/us). Copper sink, Native Trails, [nativetrailshome.com](http://nativetrailshome.com). Accent tile, TileBar, [tilebar.com](http://tilebar.com). Appliances, La Cornue range, Williams-Sonoma, [williams-sonoma.com](http://williams-sonoma.com). Sub-Zero refrigerator and wine column, Witbeck, [witbeckappliance.com](http://witbeckappliance.com). Range hood, Custom Copper Hoods Inc., [metalventhoods.com](http://metalventhoods.com). Pendant light, City Lights Detroit, Visual Comfort, Michigan Design Center, Troy, [michigandesigncenter.com](http://michigandesigncenter.com). Backsplash tile, Virginia Tile, New Ravenna, Michigan Design Center, Troy, [virginiatile.com](http://virginiatile.com).



# Kandy Land

This artist's mixed-media paintings evoke childhood imaginings and happy everything

By Carol Hopkins | Photos by Matthew LaVere

**K**andy Myny was home raising her two sons a decade ago when she began brainstorming ways to earn extra money. “I had painted murals on my boys’ walls, and I started painting murals at other people’s homes,” says Myny, a self-taught artist from Shelby Township.

Word spread quickly about Myny’s skills. “It exploded so fast,” she recalls.

In a short time, Myny was selling her art at local businesses as well as through Etsy. Her business, Bit O’ Whimsey, is now a full-time online and art-fair venture.

Myny creates large, colorful “whimsical and inspirational” mixed-media paintings. She also creates prints matted for frames, wood-mounted designs, coasters, and greeting cards.

Recently, she began turning out pint-size wooden houses. “I’m always coming up with new things,” she says.

Myny, who grew up in St. Clair Shores, has loved art since childhood; she’s even saved some of her elementary school drawings, which are a testament to her early aptitude.

In the beginning, she researched mixed-media work, and says she’s “honed her skills” in this art form over the years. That effort has paid off. In July, Myny was the featured artist at the 50th Annual Ann Arbor Summer Fair, the fair of the Guild of Artists & Artisans, and her art was showcased on the fair’s posters.

Interior designers can use Myny’s larger pieces — 36- by 48-inch canvases — to bring bright, animated color into any room.

“Many hang my artwork in children’s rooms,” she says, “but you’d be surprised how many buy my art for above a couch.” She says people are drawn to her upbeat paintings, and shares that customers sometimes tell her they’d love to “live inside” her paintings.

In her home studio, paintings start with a rough sketch, but “that all changes as I go

along,” she says.

Texture on the artwork is achieved by layering various materials — vintage postcards, old sheet music, magazine pages, doorknobs, and even lace Myny finds at garage sales and antique stores.

Myny starts by placing color on the first layer of the painting (she says she’s especially fond of blues and greens). Then, she might glue a page from an old magazine or an antique dress pattern to the painting’s surface. “It’s just enough to give it texture and depth,” Myny says. “Every piece is so different.”

Afterward, the painting gets another coat of color, and Myny highlights objects or borders with charcoal or ink. She paints images and then, finally, the paintings are sealed with varnish.

Animals such as foxes and squirrels often take center stage in the paintings because, as Myny says, “I like doing the whimsical, and people love it.”

Myny’s distinctive style also features flowers with long stems and birds with long legs; a number of her paintings focus on Michigan themes, including the Great Lakes. Other paintings include inspirational sayings that appeal to people who are going through hard times, Myny says. “Some (quotations) are basic, such as ‘Believe in yourself,’ but I try to come up with a lot of my own, too.”

A multitasker, Myny often works on two to three larger paintings at once. “I work an hour here and an hour there,” she says. “The (artwork) has to dry in between layers, and I’m busy with life.”

Her product line is ever-changing, so wandering through her booth at a fair is an art lover’s adventure. “I’m always creating and trying to find something new,” she says. “I’m experimenting with new media, trying to be inspiring to others.” ■

*More information:* [bitowhimsey.com](http://bitowhimsey.com).





**EYE KANDY**

Mixed-media artist Kandy Myny works on one of her colorful creations in her home studio. Dozens of finished pieces featuring everything from flowers and birds to trees and people will soon adorn an art-fair booth or be shipped to a new owner. Animals such as foxes and squirrels often take center stage in the paintings because, as Myny says, "I like doing the whimsical, and people love it."

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### TABLE TALK

Juliska's tartan tablecloth, \$125, and pewter stoneware five-piece setting, \$148, Rock Paper Scissors, Ann Arbor. See more dining accessories inside this section.



C.



D.



H.



I.



M.



N.



O.



**DRESSING THE TABLE**

A. Cambridge Serving Collection in graphite, \$24.95-\$39.95, Crate & Barrel, Troy B. Ercuis Latitude 12 small dishes petits fours stand, \$600, Lee's Specialty, Bloomfield Hills C. Staub cast-iron pumpkin cocotte 3.5 quart in Basil, \$300, Williams-Sonoma, Novi, Rochester Hills, Troy D. Metal beverage serveware, \$24-\$34, West Elm, Birmingham E. Julia Knight Collection squirrel 8-inch nut bowl, \$99, Susie at Home, Grosse Pointe F. Harvest pumpkin salad plate in white pumpkin and apples, \$15.95, Williams-Sonoma, Novi, Rochester Hills, Troy G. Arte Italica Alessia water glass, \$75, Linda's Designs, West Bloomfield H. Hotel Collection modern marble condiment bowls, \$85/two, Macy's, [macys.com](http://macys.com) I. Michael Aram olive branch gold wood serving bowl, \$245, Slades, West Bloomfield J. Ercuis Latitude round gratin dish with cover, \$740, Lee's Specialty, Bloomfield Hills K. Vietri Wildlife turkey handled rectangular platter, \$199, The Italian Dish, Birmingham L. Harvest gold and silver acorn salt and pepper three-piece set, \$12.99, Pier 1, [pier1.com](http://pier1.com) M. AERIN Eveline candleholder centerpiece in gold, \$450, Neiman Marcus, Troy N. Textured ivory 6-inch pumpkin, \$12.99, Pier 1, [pier1.com](http://pier1.com) O. Arte Italica animale boar liqueur glass, \$56, Linda's Designs, West Bloomfield

# ‘Wow’ Wallpaper!

Provocative prints and edgy patterns add an intriguing factor in these bathrooms

By Tanya Zager Chisholm

**WHO:** Michigan State University graduate and principal of Birmingham-based Ellwood Interiors, Amanda Sinistaj, right, has 15 years of experience creating dream homes for her clients. With a clean and timeless aesthetic that she refers to as “livable luxury,” Sinistaj leads a motivated team of talented interior designers who craft luxurious living spaces that have earned multiple *Detroit Home Design Awards*.

**DESIGNER’S GOAL:** The homeowners gave Sinistaj free reign when it came to the design of the lower level of their Novi home. “Our delightful homeowners gave me the opportunity to push the envelope and design something that I wanted,” Sinistaj says. The designer says she envisioned the space as being “a bit moody, with a little edge to it.” When it came to the wallpaper, she discovered a nearly perfect pattern through Detroit Wallpaper. “We liked the sugar skull wallpaper, with perhaps a little less sugar,” she says. Fortunately, the company was able to customize the print to the designer’s specifications. “We removed a few things, tweaked the color, and altered the scale by enlarging it so the skulls peeked out just over the edge of the mirror,” Sinistaj says. The powder room set the stage for the rest of the lower level, constructed with the help of LUXE Homes Design + Build, which includes a custom bar, entertainment zone, and exercise room.

**AMANDA SINISTAJ’S TIPS FOR USING WALLPAPER :**

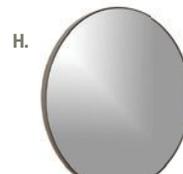
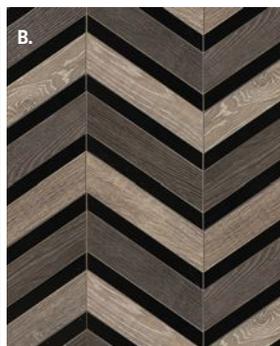
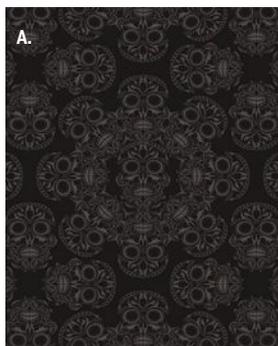
- Scale can change the feel of a room; by doing a large-scale paper, you can make a very bold statement.
- Set the mood with color. In this example, we wanted the vibe to feel broody, so charcoal and black made sense. Don’t be afraid of dark colors in a small space — what you’ve heard is a myth. They don’t necessarily make a room feel smaller.
- Consider the requirements of your wallpaper. There are multiple types of wallcoverings: vinyl, paper, or commercial grade, for example. It’s important to note where it’s going and what the material should be. Does the area get high use and does the wallpaper need to be durable and easy to clean? Are your walls square, or do you have clipped ceilings that may impact the pattern? Take a look around your room and decipher what may be needed for an appropriate application.
- You can create nice focal points with wallpaper on accent walls in bedrooms or on ceilings in dining rooms. However, be aware that too many unique things lessen the impact a focal wall can have.

**INFORMATION:** 248-703-7157, [ellwoodinteriors.com](http://ellwoodinteriors.com).



“BOLD COLORS AND PRINTS ARE HUGE RIGHT NOW. THE MORE UNIQUE, BIGGER THE SCALE, AND BOLDER THE COLOR, THE BETTER.”

— AMANDA SINISTAJ



**GET THE GOODS**

**A.** Detroit Wallpaper. Dia de los Muertos custom wallpaper, price upon request, Ellwood Interiors **B.** Walker Zanger sterling row tufted porcelain tile in charcoal, price upon request, Virginia Tile, Michigan Design Center, Troy **C.** Classic bud vase in iridescent glaze, \$150, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit **D.** 30-inch ADA floating concrete ramp sink in charcoal, starting at \$1,300, Trueform Concrete, [trueformconcrete.com](http://trueformconcrete.com) **E.** Uttermost crenulated mini-urn in matte white, price upon request, Ellwood Interiors **F.** Jason Wu for Brizo widespread lavatory faucet in matte black, \$738, Brizo, [brizo.com](http://brizo.com) **G.** Tech Lighting Manette pendant in transparent smoke/black, price upon request, Ellwood Interiors **H.** Infinity black round wall mirror, 24 inches, \$149, CB2, [cb2.com](http://cb2.com)



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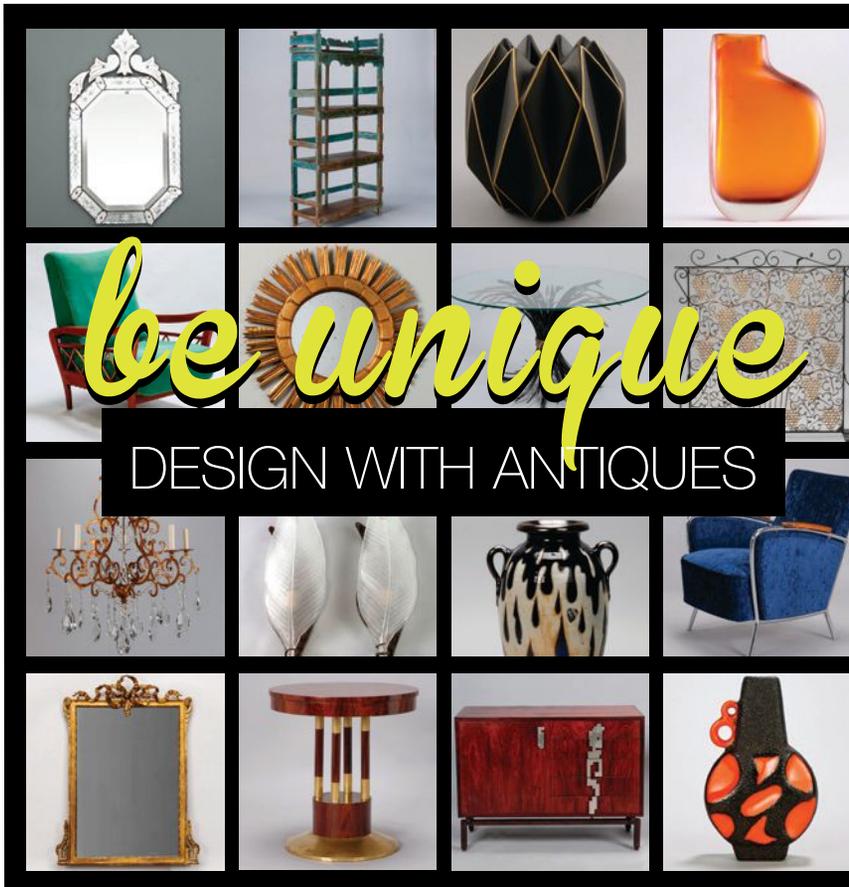
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"I LOVE A WALLPAPER THAT TELLS A STORY AND STARTS A CONVERSATION."  
— DAYNA FLORY RASSCHAERT

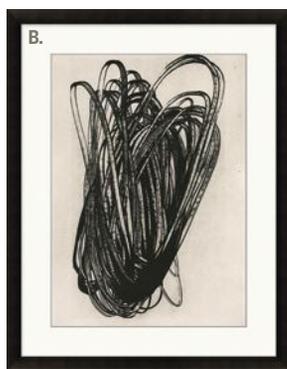
**WHO:** With more than 15 years of experience since graduating from Michigan State University's interior design program, Dayna Flory Rasschaert, below left, of Bloomfield Hills-based Dayna Flory Interiors, has been busy making a name for herself. Recognized early in her career for her exceptional skills, Rasschaert was honored in 2011 with the prestigious *Detroit Home* Brian Killian Rising Star Award and is a frequent *Detroit Home* Design Award winner.

**DESIGNER'S GOAL:** Tasked with transforming Nick and Shanna Gorga's Bloomfield Hills home, Rasschaert saw this powder room as a blank canvas. "We kept the existing vanity and plumbing, but needed to add some personality," she says. The wallpaper was the inspiration, or jumping-off point, for the design, and the other elements — such as the black-and-white light fixture, black lacquered mirror, and abstract artwork — fell into place later. "There's no window in the space, so adding a touch of nature and something with visual depth really transported the space, giving it a 'wow' moment," Rasschaert says.

**DAYNA FLORY RASSCHAERT'S TIPS FOR USING WALLPAPER:**

- When looking for wallpaper, you're often looking at small samples, and it's sometimes difficult to visualize an entire room covered in the paper. I find it helpful to look at installation images online to visualize what your particular paper is going to do in the space.
- For those who want to start incorporating wallpaper into their décor, powder rooms are a perfect place to start. They're a remote space where you can tuck away a surprise — a bit of fun for you and your guests!
- Don't play it safe — go for it! Use the wallpaper that makes you happy. Seize the opportunity to do something a little bolder than the rest of your home.
- Wallpaper itself is a work of art, and layering a piece of framed art on the paper elevates the depth of the design.

**INFORMATION:** 248-219-5380, [daynafloryinteriors.com](http://daynafloryinteriors.com).



**GET THE GOODS**

**A.** Schumacher Birches wallpaper in black and white, price upon request, Dayna Flory Interiors **B.** Wendover Art Group Loops 3, abstract print, price upon request, Dayna Flory Interiors **C.** Marbella lacquered mirror in black, \$341, Shades of Light, [shadesoflight.com](http://shadesoflight.com) **D.** Jax sconce, to the trade, The Urban Electric Co., [urbanelectric.com](http://urbanelectric.com) **E.** Santal 26 vintage candle, 6.9 oz., \$65, Le Labo, Detroit **F.** Totem 12.5-inch vase in white, \$34, West Elm, Birmingham **G.** Hinoki hand soap, 16.9 fl. oz., \$38, Le Labo, Detroit



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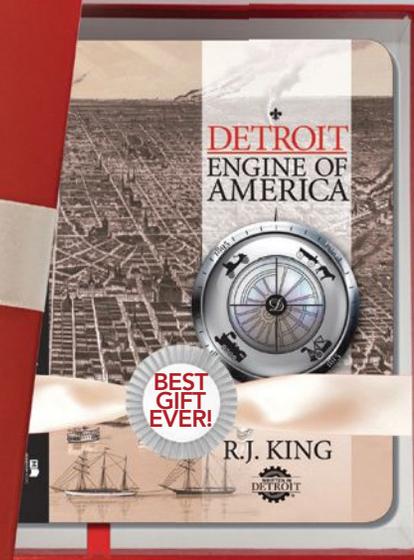
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# LOOK BOOK

KITCHEN & BATH // COLOR CORNER

October - November 2019

## Au Naturel

Creative spaces that bring the outdoors in



### DREAM SPACE

The Elkay prep sink on the island in this Northville kitchen is like a piece of jewelry. The faucet is Artifacts by Kohler. Discover more inside this section.

## POINTS OF VIEW

The heart of this home showcases nature's beauty from various sitting areas

**BACKSTORY:** After residing in a four-bedroom, Colonial-style home in Livonia for a number of years, Elaine and Don Kamen decided to purchase 10 wooded acres in Northville. They divided the property into different parcels and subsequently built their dream house on one of them. At the recommendation of Greg Labadie, owner of Midwest Cabinet & Counter Inc. in Madison Heights, the couple hired interior designer Kristen Eleni Shellenbarger, owner of Bloomfield Hills-based Iron Key Designs, to help them create a modern version of a Colonial with a kitchen that would epitomize the "elegant, transitional style" they were looking for. Interior selections were chosen to make the most of and complement nature's beauty just outside the windows.

**METAL MELANGE:** Shellenbarger says the kitchen's appliances, cabinetry hardware, plumbing fixtures, and lighting elements feature a blend of metals. "This mix of polished nickel and oil-rubbed bronzes brings a warmth and balance to the cool tones of the stainless steel," she says.

**MAKING A SPLASH:** The backsplashes include a variety of beige, gold, cream, gray, and black quartzite stones. "I wanted both warm and cool colors wherever I could," the designer explains. To add interest in spite of the fact that the materials are the same, the stones above the main sink are laid in a subway pattern design, while those above the range in the kitchen and above the sink in the adjoining butler's pantry are laid in a herringbone pattern.

**ISLAND PARADISE:** The island includes a second prep sink that's made out of hammered polished nickel. "It looks like a piece of jewelry," Shellenbarger says. "It's stunning and also deep, so the owners can fill it with ice and utilize it as part of a bar when entertaining."

**THREE'S THE CHARM:** "This kitchen provides three different ways to enjoy the space throughout the day," Shellenbarger says. "In the morning you can sip coffee while sitting in one of the lounge chairs that overlooks the yard, then have breakfast while sitting at the kitchen island, and later have lunch or dinner while sitting at the kitchen table."

— *By Judith Harris Solomon*

### IN THE DETAILS: RESOURCE GUIDE

Interior design, Kristen Eleni Shellenbarger, Iron Key Designs, Bloomfield Hills, [ironkeydesigns.com](http://ironkeydesigns.com). Cabinetry, Medallion Cabinetry, Midwest Cabinet & Counter Inc., Madison Heights, [midwestcab.net](http://midwestcab.net). Island countertop, Corian quartz, Calcutta Natura, H.J. Oldenkamp, [oldenkamp.com](http://oldenkamp.com). Perimeter and butler's pantry, Caesarstone quartz, Pietra gray, Ciot, Troy, [ciot.com](http://ciot.com). Backsplash, quartzite tile, Ciot, Troy, [ciot.com](http://ciot.com). Hammered-nickel island sink, Elkay, [elkay.com](http://elkay.com). Faucet, Kohler Artifacts, [kohler.com](http://kohler.com). All plumbing, Infusion Kitchen & Bath Showrooms by Etna Supply, Wixom. Hardware, Top Knobs, Herald Wholesale, Troy, [heraldwholesale.com](http://heraldwholesale.com).





#### COME GATHER 'ROUND

During autumn, use colorful apples, pumpkins, and even fall-themed jelly beans to create cozy kitchen spaces, says interior designer Kristen Eleni Shellenbarger, seated. Having a large single-level island with a second sink enables Shellenbarger's client to use it as a prep area. "The family can fill the sink with ice for drinks, or trim and prep flowers for arrangements," she says. "The L-shaped seating (two stools not shown) at the island allows for good conversation flow," she adds. Designing the prep sink to be close to the range allows for multi-person prepping and cooking without interrupting the seating area.

## DIVINE DESIGN

This well-appointed master bath has all the bells and whistles

**BACKSTORY:** For a new-construction home in Northville owned by husband-and-wife Realtors who are also empty-nesters, the goal was to make the master bath a luxurious spa-like retreat for the couple to enjoy now, and potentially be a selling point in the future. To get it right, homeowners Don and Elaine Kamen, of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, hired Bloomfield Hills-based interior designer Kristen Eleni Shellenbarger to help with material selections and project management.

**POPULAR VOTE:** “The way we approached the design was to appeal to the masses,” says Shellenbarger, owner of Iron Key Designs (she was referred to her clients by Midwest Cabinet & Counter Inc.). Shellenbarger describes the stylish space in the first-floor master suite as “classic transitional with elegant accents.”

**PERFECT BLEND:** The master bath features a winning combination of warm and cool tones in various shades of gray, brown, and gold — complementary colors to the outstanding vistas seen through the window. Sensible material selections include the porcelain tile, which provides the look of marble minus the maintenance.

**SCENIC SOAK:** A window overlooking the private backyard dictated the layout of the space, where the splendid freestanding tub was the intended focal point. “It’s the first thing you see and it’s a real show-stopper,” Shellenbarger says. “You can take a soak and look outside.”

**EXTRA, EXTRA:** A two-person shower has a rainhead with body sprays that provide a spa-like treatment for sore muscles, while the flexible handheld shower features an adjustable slide bar. A private commode offers another deluxe touch. A his-and-hers closet is located en suite, off the bathroom.

**CLASSIC ACCENTS:** Beveled antique-style framed mirrors topped by fixtures with multiple lights play up his-and-hers vanities. Polished nickel hardware on the stained cherrywood cabinetry adds interest with its etched water-ripple design.

**PRACTICAL MATTERS:** As Shellenbarger explains, quartz countertops like the ones shown here have become more prevalent in bathroom settings because they can stand up to the acids found in popular products like face creams. “It’s better to use manmade materials so you have no rings or stains,” she says.

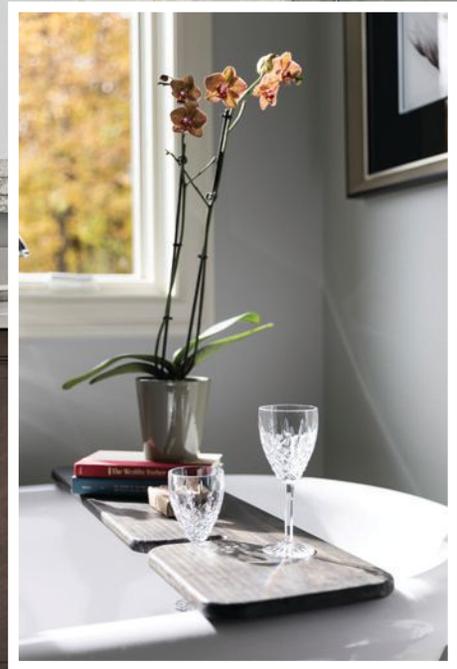
**STANDING TALL:** The designer’s clients appreciate the taller 36-inch counter height in the bathroom, which has risen to the kitchen standard. “It makes a difference when you’re washing your face or brushing your teeth. It’s a much more comfortable height,” she says.

**HEAD START:** Embarking on the material selection process in the blueprint stage and completing it before they dug any dirt helped ease the anxiety of all the decisions that come with a new build. “It also increased the confidence in the selections, because nothing was picked under the gun,” Shellenbarger says.

— By Jeanine Matlow

### IN THE DETAILS: RESOURCE GUIDE

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**STAY AWHILE**

Spa-like appointments throughout this bathroom make it a peaceful retreat. Materials and colors were chosen to complement outstanding views through the window. Here, nature is part of the artwork.

# Warm 'n' Toasty

Neutral shades come to life with artful textures and fabric patterns — perfect for the chilly days ahead



## GET THE LOOK

**A.** Traditional Oriental rug. Stark showroom, Michigan Design Center, Troy (similar options available) **B.** Farrow & Ball's *Pavilion Gray* (featured on wall in room) **C.** Tigris velvet woven fabric (featured on pillow in room), \$246/yd., [thibautdesign.com](http://thibautdesign.com) **D.** Classic Cord pendant/mercury glass globe. Pottery Barn, [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com) **E.** Cayhill end table, \$799, Arhaus, Troy **F.** Small Moroccan leather pouf, \$299, West Elm, Birmingham **G.** Candlewick Abstract Labyrinth pillow cover, \$39, West Elm, Birmingham **H.** Embellished Deco Contours pillow cover, \$49, West Elm, Birmingham

## IN THE DETAILS

*Opposite page:* A Stark rug to ground the space, gray paint, a Visual Comfort art light, and Regina Andrew nesting tables round out the look of this family room. Note the pretty Thibaut fabrics for pillows. The armoires were sourced from Revelation, while mirrors are from Curations Limited.



**Interior designers Martin Bell and Jane Synnstedt**, left, of Jane Synnstedt Interior Design in Birmingham, designed this gathering space for entertaining and family time. “We kept in mind that children and adults use the space,” Synnstedt says of the family room in this Birmingham home, explaining why the designers selected materials that are child- and pet-friendly. “We went with Crypton fabrics (based in Bloomfield Hills) for the sofas and the swivel barrel chairs (only one is shown); they’re both beautiful and functional,” Synnstedt says. As for the colors the designers chose, it was all about cozy hues that welcome throughout the year — and especially in the fall and winter. “The calming color palette (of browns, tans, grays, and blacks) flows throughout the home,” Synnstedt says. Warm lighting, a metal-and-wood material mix, and nature-inspired art evoke comfort. The furniture and its placement also creates a warm, welcoming feel: “The swivel chairs can be directed toward the conversation area or the TV (not shown),” Synnstedt explains. — *By Megan Swoyer*





# Family



# First

By Khristi S. Zimmeth | Photos by Martin Vecchio



**A STUNNING SECOND STORY**

*Previous page:* Lauren Tolles studied architecture and is a fan of contemporary design. She describes her home's style as "contemporary Colonial." Pumpkins and other seasonal adornments appear every autumn. "I'm a sucker for Halloween," the designer admits. "I like to involve the kids in the decorations."

*Clockwise from upper left:* Son Matheson's room features a grasscloth wallpaper with gold accents and a work by Olivier Vrancken, one of the designer's favorite artists. "We both really appreciate art, especially in kids' rooms ... we hope it sparks something." The landing area has a play area, separate work spaces for homework and school projects, ample storage for toys and arts and crafts, and a hidden TV. The master closet proves that spaces can be both functional and beautiful. The master bedroom features a dreamy, all-white palette, while the spacious master bath balances darks and lights. Note the unique back-to-back sinks. Daughter Piper's room was inspired by California's Beverly Hills Hotel. "I lived in L.A. for a while and spent time there," the designer explains. "It doesn't feel like a traditional nursery. I hope she likes it when she gets older."

## Birmingham new-build delivers both style and substance — and caters to all ages



You can't please all of the people all of the time, but sometimes you can come pretty close.

Lauren Tolles took everyone's needs and interests into account when designing and building a downtown Birmingham home for her family, which includes her husband, Bryan; children Matheson, 5, and Piper, 1; a 14-year-old dog named Koa; and an au pair named Emily.

"Each member (and future member) of our family was taken into consideration," the designer and owner of Maison Birmingham explains of the property, which she and her husband purchased in 2015 and moved into in 2017. Initially Tolles tried to work with the existing ranch, but ultimately decided to start from scratch. While she and her husband couldn't save the house, they preserved a beautiful maple tree in the yard. "That tree was a large reason we fell in love with the lot," she explains.

Maison Birmingham, Tolles' company, creates innovative kitchens and bathrooms that are unique to each client. "While the majority of our projects are kitchens and bathrooms, we welcome any project that requires quality, well-designed cabinetry (such as closets and mudrooms)," she says. Naturally, her six-bedroom, 5,500-square-foot home features all of that and more. Although the designer says the home's style is "contemporary Colonial," the overall feel of the home was inspired by travels in Scandinavia.

"I like a clean palette and space, but also yearn for that 'hygge.' Even the exterior of our home has plaster over brick — something I saw in Denmark and fell in love with. The subtle texture of brick underneath the plaster creates both interest and warmth," explains Tolles, who recently opened her doors to attendees of the Birmingham Home Tour, hosted by The Community House.

Inside, the family's priorities were twofold. "We wanted the home to be







**COOKING UP STYLE**

“The kitchen is wonderful because it’s a true chef’s kitchen,” homeowner Lauren Tolles says, “but you would never know it since everything is hidden behind cabinetry and panels.”

**PLEASE BE SEATED**

*Opposite page:* The dining area has a relaxed, Mid-century Modern vibe. The home’s “conversation room” is located near the front of the house. “If we have friends over we gather there, or sometimes my husband and I will just go in and sit,” Lauren Tolles says.

elegant and great for entertaining, but also extremely family-friendly and good for small children. Most of our friends have young children, and we like them to be comfortable here,” Tolles says.

Those priorities are seen not only in the home’s contemporary casual décor, but also in its floor plan. Designers Wendy Silverman and Jennifer Loftis consulted with Tolles on the house and “acted as a great sounding board,” Tolles says. Meanwhile, Patrick Thompson Design of Detroit consulted with the Tolleses on the living room, office, and basement “when I needed a fresh perspective,” she says. “Patrick helped us tweak furniture layouts in those spaces, and worked with me to develop palettes incorporating pieces we already owned, and suggestions for new ones as well. He’s the best!” Brian Howard, of HF: Architecture, also signed off

on the plans. “I laid out the house so the front, as you enter the front door, is more formal and really meant for entertaining,” Tolles says. A dining area, office, and a conversation/living area are located on the home’s streetside. Past the front stairs is the intimate and informal family area — a 700-square-foot open space that contains a casual eating area, kitchen, and family room.

“My husband and I love to cook, and we cook most nights of the week, so we have a large kitchen that’s open through the breakfast area, all the way to the family room. This is where we spend most of our time. As a family with young children, being able to live primarily in this open area with space to eat and play is perfect. The kitchen is wonderful because it really is a true chef’s kitchen, but you would never know it since everything is well-hidden behind beautiful cabinetry and panels.” The same concept is true in the nearby family room, where black arched cabinets offer both a glass display area and hidden toy storage. (“Yes, they’re full of toys,” Tolles admits, adding that it would be “totally impractical to ban toys from the space purely because of aesthetics.”) Sliding walnut panels hide the family’s television. “Most people don’t even

realize we have a TV in that room,” Tolles says. “We like not staring at a black box and also, because the TV isn’t staring us in the face all the time, we watch far less of it.”

The second floor includes four bedrooms and three baths, as well as a functional child-focused landing area the family refers to as a nook. Initially planned as a play area, it now includes separate work spaces for homework and school projects; ample storage for toys, arts, and crafts; and a hidden TV that looks like a painting. “It’s surrounded by colorful, spunky artwork, murals, and whimsical sheep that will hopefully spark creativity,” Tolles says of the space.

The third floor houses a one-bedroom au pair apartment. “When Emily needs a break, she has a space to retreat to,” the designer explains. “The apartment has a Scandinavian feel with a light, neutral palette and warm, layered materials. It’s actually very stylish, but cozy. I wanted to create a smaller, more intimate version of our home in the apartment, so that whomever stayed there still felt that they had the same elegance that continues throughout the rest of the home.”

While she has designed many houses for clients, this was the first Tolles has done for her



#### FRUIT OF THE VINE

"We're big wine people," Lauren Tolles, who is originally from California's Marin County, says. Their lower-level wine room houses some 5,000 vintages.



**FAMILY FARE**

Below: Lauren, Bryan, Matheson, and Piper gather for a baking session. Bottom: The exterior patio is covered by a layer of suspended frosted glass that makes it functional even in inclement weather. The couple worked with landscape architect Michael Dul to make the most of the yard.

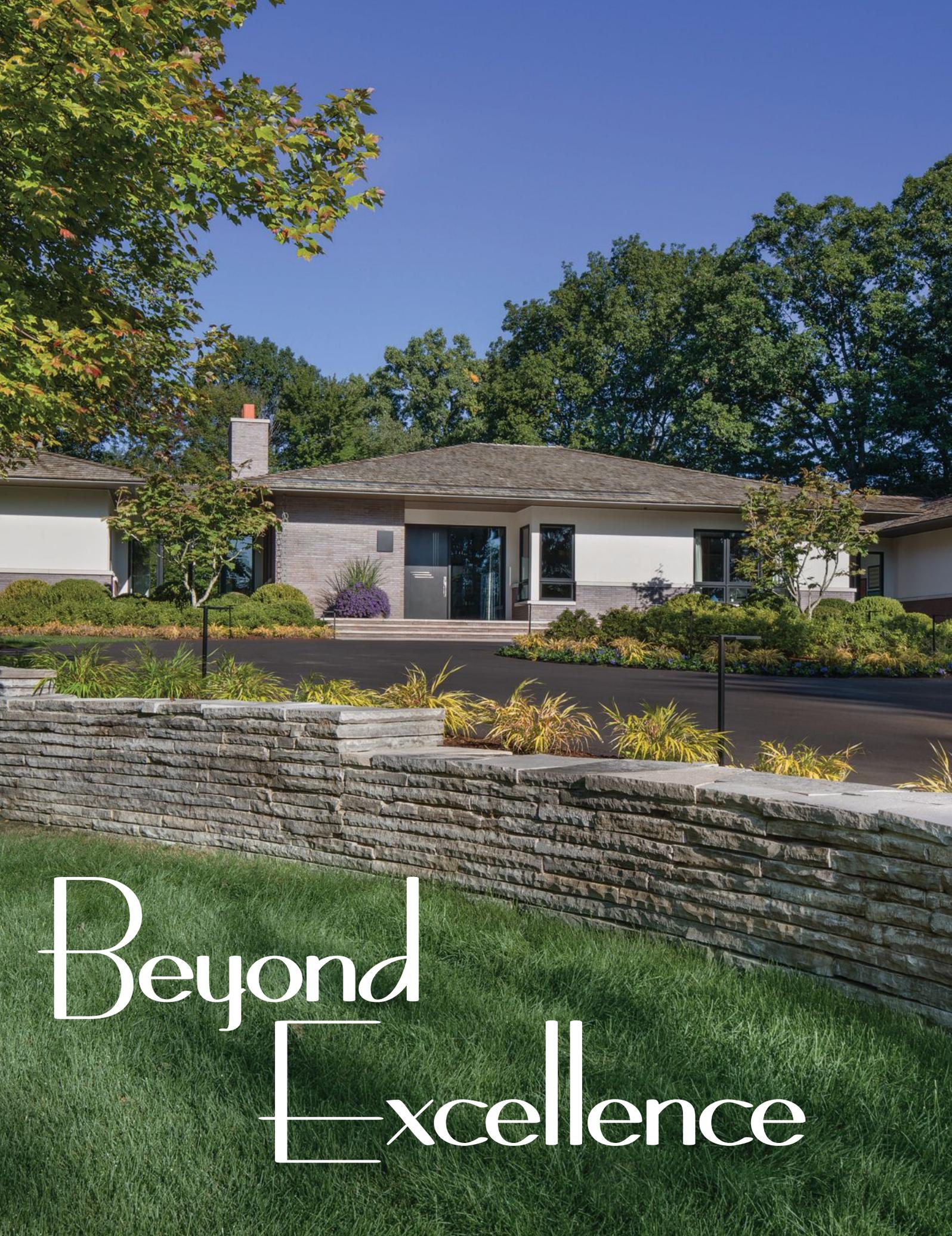


own family. Her master's degree in architecture and interior design study definitely came in handy, Tolles says. "Designing and building your own home, and designing everything from the architecture, cabinetry — every detail, down to a custom dresser in the nursery — is certainly a labor of love. We designed it to fit our needs. I also designed it so there's flexibility in bedrooms, and we have the ability to finish unfinished areas of the home at a future time. The point is, we should never outgrow it."

Tolles says she hopes the family is there to stay: "I like to think this is our forever home," she says. ■

**IN THE DETAILS: RESOURCE GUIDE**

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Beyond  
Excellence



This Bloomfield Hills estate, featuring thousands of fine details, embodies serenity and luxury

By Patty LaNoue Stearns | Photos by Beth Singer

here's a beautiful story behind this Bloomfield Hills home, and it begins with a boy and a girl who started dating in junior high, fell in love, and spent few moments apart from then on. They married, had children, built a life together, and when their kids were old enough to fly away, the empty-nesters sat down with designer Elizabeth Fields, of Elizabeth Fields Design in Franklin, and a team of architects, builders, and other experts and started planning their dream home.

They knew it would be U-shaped, with all rooms open to a courtyard, large enough for overnights, with lots of privacy for their grown sons and their future families, siblings, and other visitors, with areas for strolling supper parties and many different seating options — all with beautiful sight lines — for dining or snacking or reading or playing board games. The lower level would include more bedrooms and baths, as well as space for workouts, casual lounging, and doing laundry.

There would be natural light and open views of their estate, with lush landscaping and flowers everywhere. There would be an indoor pool and

#### QUIET ELEGANCE

This house replaced the homeowner's original late-1960s home on the same property. The foyer's welcome mat is a handsome blue leather rug. A heavy, textured drape spans the entire foyer wall. A convex mirror allows views of much of the interior.



**YOU GOTTA HAVE ART**

*This page:* In the living room, a Victor Vasarely painting pairs with an Alexander McQueen “butterfly” rug. The powder room features hand-painted walls and a sink whose Wolverine Stone design pays homage to the artist Franz Kline. *Opposite page:* Across the room that leads to the patio, the ceiling above the table defines a well-used space for playing games. The ceiling’s lines extend to the outside eaves.

exercise room, and an outdoor pool with an attached whirlpool for year-round activity. It would be constructed of the finest materials, feature enduring modern style, and serve as a quietly elegant ode to their love.

But in the beginning stages of the project, the husband unexpectedly passed away. “Then a decision had to be made, and everybody on the team supported the wife and we forged ahead (as the couple had planned),” Fields says.

“Truly, this is a home built for love,” adds Alex Eisenberg, Fields’ chief executive officer, who was deeply involved in the design and execution of the plans, which took six years. “From an architectural standpoint, you can feel the home, which projects tranquility, happiness, and love.”

Fields agrees: “It was such a beautiful collaboration among so many different people. It was so special and went very smoothly. Everybody put their A-game on.” And everyone who worked on the project became good friends.









#### STYLISH SIMPLICITY

The dining room wall is a custom partition with a bar on the other side. The furniture was the first set the homeowner's parents ever owned. The mobile-style LED fixture adds a modern verve.

"There was a sensitivity among everyone who worked on the home (regarding the way) it was built on layers of details," Eisenberg says. "Those layers create visual interest."

A casual visitor might not notice some of the home's finer points, but they're what gives the space its magnificence. "It's very quiet," Fields says. "Nothing screams at you."

Fields, who describes herself as a "loving control freak," notes how each and every room was customized, right down to the bathroom countertop accessories and even iPad holders in the bathrooms. The walls of each bathroom are completely tiled, and ventilation is unseen, save for a space at the top of each wall with a fan inside that sucks away any steam.

"Every detail has continuity and consistency," explains Fields, who meticulously reviewed each element. "There wasn't one thing done that wasn't run by me first."

All of the home's hues follow a strict plan: The white paint is the same shade throughout, the wood trim is a light-brown stain, and the blacks and blues in the hardware, leather trim, and custom furniture conform to Fields' exact palette. All of the flooring is French white oak, and many of the rugs are thick alpaca. Window-seat ledges, topped with long, plush custom leather cushions, line the hallways rimming the courtyard.

This modern, open-plan dwelling is divided visually so that each room has a defined space. A unique metal divider wall separates the main dining areas from the bar area, where another nearly invisible ceiling slit is the only cold-air return in the house, keeping the lines undisturbed. The kitchen is a cook's dream, and the deep-blue hood over the stove is stunning.

A handsome office features a wenge desk with a leather-inset top and two-toned bird's-eye

maple cabinetry paired with lacquered blue, the owner's favorite color. LED booklights layer with can lights for optimum reading power.

The guest room and master suite share a hallway that allows each to be completely closed off for privacy; each has its own opulent bathroom, 75-inch TV, and stellar views.

Instead of traditional baseboard moldings, the team used reglets, or shadow lines, in their place. That same detail is found in the insets around the windows. All the hardware was custom-plated at the same factory, so it looks alike.

Fields and Eisenberg took design inspiration from Franz Kline, the 20th century gestural abstractionist famed for creating works that arouse a palpable physical engagement with the viewer. They started with one of the powder rooms, which features a large, bold black-and-white Wolverine Stone sink whose pattern

evokes one of Klein's action-packed abstracts.

In the lower level, two bedroom suites have large windows that look out over tiered gardens and offer ample light along with pretty views, while the baths are simple but lavish, with lots of built-ins.

The home boasts huge closets with LED-lit rods and there's storage in every room — a place for everything and more. Technology also plays a role in every drape and window covering in this 10,000-square-foot home, which all operate via touchpad, as does the lighting and many other mechanicals. Even the utility rooms are absolute things of beauty: Three separate rooms have maps detailing the miles of intricate wiring, bundled and hung neatly on the walls, like something NASA — and the homeowner's beloved spouse — would be proud of.

The overall result is truly a very beautiful — and smart — story. ■

**IN THE DETAILS: RESOURCE GUIDE**

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**KITCHEN MAGIC**

A second dining area is located off the kitchen. A stainless steel built-in cabinet houses everyday items. A stunning blue hood above the stove, a huge island, and tons of storage make cooking and dining pure pleasure. The marble-topped bar area behind the main dining room is sleek, with mirrored tiles and walnut cabinetry.



**RELAX AND ENJOY**

The master bedroom features an alpaca rug, sumptuous seating, and verdant views. A pool awaits just outside. The cement-floor master bath's walls are fully tiled. In the lower level, an indoor pool provides relaxation.



**PERFECT MIX**

Located in Ann Arbor's Burns Park (known for its tree-canopied streets and large wooded lots), designer Tiffany Edison's home has undergone a splendid makeover that nicely blends its intriguing past with today's needs.



# What's OLD is NEW

Known as the white house with the yellow door, this 1913 Ann Arbor home surprises with happy, modern twists

By Megan Swoyer | Photos by Jeff Garland

## “IF I COULD, I’D HAVE A FIREPLACE AND BAR IN EVERY ROOM,” INTERIOR

designer Tiffany Edison says. She’s laughing, of course, but if you look at some of the many spaces she’s fashioned, you’ll soon realize that Edison’s motto — Why not? — makes perfect sense.

An eclectic sense of style has this designer busy throughout the seasons, sharing favorite touches that are sure to warm up any home. “If the budget allows, I love fireplaces in master bedrooms, kitchens, and outdoor porches, in addition to the standard living room one,” she says. “I also have a penchant for bars that come in all shapes and sizes, from a coffee bar in the master bathroom to a simple bar cart in the dining room. What’s more posh than a space designated for libations and glassware?” Edison also admits to being a banquette girl. “There’s nothing better than a banquette for seating in dining rooms or in a library,” she says.

Edison was able to find time on a recent morning to share her perspectives and discuss other elements regarding design that have impacted her own home in the stately, historic Ives Woods neighborhood of Ann Arbor.

When she first set eyes on her 1913 corner-lot house, she says she was smitten — not only because of its vintage appeal, but also because of its expansive property.

“The home sits on an acre, and that was one of the reasons I bought it,” she says. The designer remembers she visualized immediately what it could be. “When I walk into a space, I see it done,” she says.

After purchasing the home in 2014, it took Edison a year and half to remodel the space to suit her lifestyle. Bringing on architect Craig Spiegel, of CLS Design in Adrian, Edison’s goal was to respect the original vision of the historic home. Although she says she’s a purist when it comes to design symmetry, she opted not to reconstruct the offset window on the front of the home. “Creating offset windows was a trademark of the original architect,” she explains. Changes she says she was open to making included the addition of an attached garage and a breezeway.

Edison hired Rick Gritzmaker, of Gritzmaker Builders in Adrian, as the general contractor. They embarked on a complete demolition of both the interior and exterior, removing walls, siding, and windows. Included in the renovation was removing a second front entrance (once the

**RIGHT AT HOME**

Both pages, clockwise from right: There are three fireplaces in the home — the one in the living room is original, and homeowner Tiffany Edison opted to keep it as a wood-burning fireplace. “I love a real fire, and I recommend clients have at least one,” she says. The powder room pops with Schumacher’s Chiang Mai Dragon, Alabaster, wallpaper. The dining area in the kitchen has built-in seating and can accommodate lots of family. “There’s nothing better than a banquette for seating in dining areas or in a library,” Edison says. The grasscloth wall covering in the foyer was likely inspired by her mother. “My quirky mom loved interior design, and used grasscloth throughout our home growing up,” she says. Colorful art accentuates the space.

servants’ door) that’s now a window.

The home also had two stairwells, one at the front and one at the back. “And there was no first-floor bathroom, so we took out the servants’ entrance/front stairway and turned that space into a powder room,” Edison explains. The area at the top of that stairway is now part of a walk-in master closet — a great spot for her shoes, she says, and a “very luxurious indulgence.”

Edison also opted to remove a sitting room on the second floor to create space for a large master shower and tub. The second bathroom was gutted, and now gleams with gorgeous tumbled marble.

To assist with the kitchen design, Edison teamed up with Burdick’s of Adrian. “I’ve worked with Sherrie Walters there for many years; she’s a well-respected interior designer,” Edison says. She and Walters created a plan that features balanced design, with some tweaks. “It’s our typical way of collaborating on projects,” explains Edison, who added new wood floors in a herringbone pattern and chose all the appliances and fittings.

“Even though I pay homage to the period in which the home was built (for example, she decided not to put shutters on the home), I modernized it, too,” she says. “For instance, I had a two-sided fireplace installed. I also re-sided the home with a Hardie board, which has a historic grain look but is made of cement.







**STYLISHLY ECLECTIC**

*Both pages, clockwise from above:* The comfortable master bedroom has a gas-burning unit in the sitting area that Edison added when updating the home. The master suite is a great place to unwind after a long day, the homeowner says. "My absolute favorite part of the bathroom is the Kate Spade Owl-ish wallpaper (Kravet). It's a whimsical take on a historic avian/flora pattern. It's fun and ties in the blush accent color from the master bedroom drapery (Schumacher)." The vintage rug was chosen to contrast with the clean-lined marble floors, laid in a herringbone pattern. A reading nook in the living room/dining room offers a comfortable space to read and go through the mail at the end of the day (painting by Jackson-based artist Nancy Schaff).

"I wanted it to have universal appeal no matter the age of who's coming in or who lives here," says Edison, who is the home's third owner. "My older neighbors are comfortable here. My kids' friends are happy here, too. In fact, the friends asked, 'Will you design my bedroom?'" she laughs.

The owner of Birch Design Associates, Edison received a degree in psychology from Michigan State University. "I started as a design student but then took psychology, so all of my design classes became electives," says the designer, who was a therapist for 10 years in Adrian before becoming a designer. She named her company after her grandmother, whose last name was Burch — plus, she loves birch trees. She says she also named the store/design studio she once owned in Adrian after her grandmother. "I called it Persnickety because my grandmother often would use that word, which means attention to detail. I thought it was clever for denoting the care that goes into choosing the design elements in your home."

After marrying Sean Edison, a Tecumseh-based chiropractor, she added the garage with a bonus space on the top to accommodate her studio and space for her





**INDOOR-OUTDOOR**

The back porch, which is an open-air, covered porch, is Tiffany Edison's favorite room in the home. "It used to be screened in, but I wanted a covered porch," she says. The cozy space now features a beadboard ceiling that gives off a light-blue hue.



**THE PERFECT BLEND**

Homeowner Tiffany Edison chose a quartz countertop with a waterfall edge for the kitchen island, to achieve a more modern aesthetic. "I didn't want it to feel 'old,' but more up to date and balanced," she says.



merged family of five kids to hang out. "There are six bedrooms now and the bonus space is multipurpose," she explains. Her recognition of the importance of flexibility comes in handy for many of her Ann Arbor clients, she says, because "It costs a lot to live in Ann Arbor and you don't always get a lot of space; many rooms have to be dual-purpose."

Edison suggests that if you're going to take a risk, do it in a smaller space. "I strive for balance, a little bit of whimsy, but I'm grounded, too. Fun and not too serious." In her powder room, for example, she selected a splashy, vibrant wallpaper. "It can have a big impact in a small room," she says. "The room is tiny but has big character; it's a jewel box."

Recalling her mother's style, the designer says she probably inherited her propensity for taking risks from her mom. "She was a hair stylist, and used grasscloth and chinoiserie and things like that, and one day installed a mirror on the entire living room wall. She marched to the beat of her own drum."

Edison's favorite part of her home is the back porch, which is an open-air, covered porch. "It used to be screened in, but I wanted a covered porch," she says. The cozy space now features a beadboard ceiling that gives off a light-blue hue. "It's supposed to keep the spirits away," she laughs, adding that blue ceilings, often called Haint Blue, are a Southern tradition. "That color selection was really very tongue-in-cheek, and fun. We can watch television here, there's a fireplace, and it feels like you're in the country." There's also a fireplace in her bedroom. "I'd say the sitting area in the master is my other favorite area in the home," Edison says. ■

**IN THE DETAILS: RESOURCE GUIDE**

Interior design, Tiffany Edison, Birch Design Associates, Ann Arbor, [birchdesignassociates.com](http://birchdesignassociates.com). Architect, Craig Spiegel, CLS Design, Adrian. Builder, Rick Gritzmaker, Gritzmaker Builders, Adrian. Cabinetry, Schmidt Cabinet Inc. All paint noted here is by Sherwin-Williams, [sherwin-williams.com](http://sherwin-williams.com). Paint colors: exterior, *Snowbound*; front door, *Confident Yellow*; porch ceiling paint, *Waterscape*; living room, *Casablanca*; hearth room in kitchen, *Revere Pewter*; all trim, *Snowbound*; bedroom, *Wisteria*; foyer, hallways, master bedroom, and master closet, grasscloth wall coverings through Sherwin-Williams. Living room custom pillosows, Schumacher, Chiang Mai Dragon, Alabaster, and Nanjing, Jade. Master headboard, Century Furniture, with a Century cut-velvet damask pattern. Master bathroom wallpaper, Kravet, Kate Spade, Owlsh, Blush. Powder room wallpaper, Schumacher, Chiang Mai Dragon, Alabaster. Master bedroom drapery fabric, Schumacher, Kiosk, Pink; custom Euro pillows, Schumacher, Pearl River, Opal. All Schumacher and Kravet fabric from Michigan Design Center, Troy, [michigandesign.com](http://michigandesign.com). Master bedroom's antique Killim pillows, [chairish.com](http://chairish.com).

# HOME TOWN

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES SPONSORED BY DETROIT HOME

## NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY DINNER

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Greater Detroit Chapter's 28th Annual National Philanthropy Day Dinner celebrates and honors the passion, commitment, and leadership of southeastern Michigan's philanthropists, volunteers, and fundraising professionals. Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 5-9 p.m. at The Henry in Dearborn. Nearly 100 Distinguished Volunteers and eight major awardees are honored during the event. The evening begins with a cocktail reception and hors d'oeuvres followed by an elegant dinner and short, inspiring program. Sponsorship packages start at \$2,000; individual tickets are \$125. The AFP Greater Detroit Chapter relies on support from individuals and organizations such as yours to help advance the education of fundraising professionals and advocate for philanthropy in our community. For more information, visit [afpdet.org](http://afpdet.org).



## HOLIDAY SPLendor AT CRANBROOK HOUSE

Experience the magic of the holiday season during Holiday Splendor at Cranbrook House. Get inspired by tree and table displays, do some shopping in the gift shop, and donate new gloves or mittens to Mittens for Detroit. This annual fundraiser is open to the public for general admission on Friday, Dec. 6, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, from noon to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, from noon to 4 p.m. Children can explore the first-floor exhibits on a scavenger hunt, watch trains roll down the track, and visit with Santa from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, and Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019. Enjoy exclusive evening access to Holiday Splendor during yoga classes on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019, at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 248-645-3149 or visit [housegardens.cranbrook.edu](http://housegardens.cranbrook.edu).



## SPIN4 CROHN'S & COLITIS CURES

Join spin4 crohn's & colitis cures Nov. 10, 2019, at Pulse Fitness in Pleasant Ridge. Ready to #partyonabike? Almost 1-in-100 Americans live with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. With your participation, we have the #power2cure. Join the movement in Detroit today! spin4 crohn's & colitis cures is a 2-hour cycle relay event. You and up to three friends form a team and switch off every 30 minutes. This event has high energy, music, cheering, dancing, the best instructors, and of course pedaling with a purpose! Each bike has a minimum commitment of \$1,000 and a \$10/person registration fee. That's just \$250 per teammate! And don't worry, you won't do it alone — you'll receive fundraising tips, tricks, and tools to help you get there. Raise \$2,500/bike to receive the VIP treatment and help fund cures faster! You'll never go further on a stationary bike! Visit <http://online.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/spin4detroit19> to secure your bike.



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECTACULAR

JARC continues its celebration of 50 years of service by hosting an evening with Earth, Wind and Fire! Also celebrating 50 years, the Grammy-winning band will perform all their hits on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Fisher Theatre. Tickets start at \$250 with a VIP Pre-Glow for \$2,500+ donors. Get ready to dance to some of your favorite songs and support the work of JARC in the community. JARC is a Michigan nonprofit organization that serves people with developmental disabilities via high-quality, community-based residential and support programs. JARC serves nearly 200 adults in group homes, independent living support, and in-home respite care. Tickets go on sale Sept. 16. For more information, contact JARC at 248-940-2617 or visit [jarc.org](http://jarc.org). Come celebrate with us!



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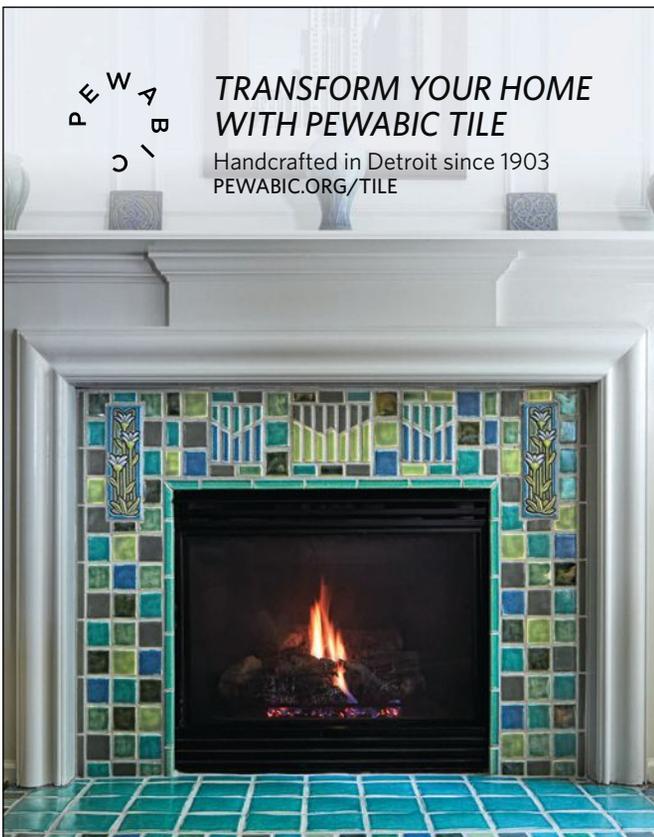


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This year's Brian Killian Rising Star competition winner takes her design cues from Mother Nature's splendid northern Michigan palette // Room photos and portrait by Beth Singer

**Judges**  
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**READERS' CHOICE**

# EVENTS

DATE BOOK // HOUSE PARTY

October - November 2019

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Cooking classes are in full swing, as are antiques festivals and a great home show.

October

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

●● COLOR CIRCLES IN CALENDAR INDICATE THE START DATE OF EVENT.

## Through 11/17

**PHILIP HAAS: THE FOUR SEASONS** features 15-foot-tall sculptures rendered in seasonal botanical forms representing the human aging process from youth to old age. Hours: Monday-Friday noon-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students with ID, children 12 and under are free. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-234-1695, [flintarts.org](http://flintarts.org).

## Through 12/1

**STUDIO LOJA SAARINEN: THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF WEAVING, 1928-1942**, is on display in Saarinen House, the Art Deco masterwork and home of Eliel Saarinen, Cranbrook's first resident architect, and his wife, Loja, the head of the Art Academy's weaving department. The exhibition tells the story of the studio's important contribution to Cranbrook under Loja's direction, and showcases stunning handwoven rugs and textiles rarely on public view. Hours: Fridays and Saturdays at 2 p.m., Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m. Tickets: \$15 adults, \$13 seniors (65+), \$11 students with ID. Includes admission to Cranbrook Art Museum. Saarinen House/Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 248-645-3307, [center.cranbrook.edu](http://center.cranbrook.edu).

## OCTOBER

### 10/1

**HBA DESIGN CHALLENGE: INNOVATIVE DESIGN WITH A HUMBLE BUDGET** is presented by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan's Professional Women in Building Council. In partnership with Humble Design, this creative fundraising event features professional, student, and enthusiast designers, stagers, and organizers. Each participant will create a design vignette to reflect the Humble Home, using furniture and accessory pieces from the Humble Design inventory. Guests are invited to stroll through the display of vignettes, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and libations, and vote for their favorite designs. Hours: 6-9 p.m. Tickets: \$35 in advance, \$45 at the event. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Rd., Royal Oak. 248-727-8261, [hbadesignchallenge.org](http://hbadesignchallenge.org).

### 10/1 & 15

Enjoy a captivating **GROUNDS TOUR**, during which participants will take a self-guided walking tour of the grounds of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House and the Henry Ford Estate - Fair Lane. Learn about Jens Jensen, the renowned landscape architect who designed the grounds, and see how his

vision and philosophy have come to life and played out over the past 90 years. Hours: 6-8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 nonmembers, \$8 members. Advance purchase required. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores. 313-884-4222, [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org).

### 10/5-6

**THE MICHIGAN ANTIQUE FESTIVALS, DAVISBURG**, sets up shop in five indoor buildings, including the historic Ellis Barn. Each building will be filled with unique displays and vintage items. Hours: Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-4 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets: \$6 adults, children 11 and under are free. Springfield Oaks County Park, 12451 Andersonville Rd., Davisburg. 989-687-9001, [miantiquefestival.com](http://miantiquefestival.com).

### 10/7

Kick off the autumn season with a **COZY FALL DINNER** cooking class. Learn how roasting bags bring out the most flavor in your fall ingredients. The menu includes roasted chicken with capers, olives, and caramelized lemon; roasted acorn squash with shaved pecorino; and duck fat pommes Anna. Be sure to save room for a decadent dark chocolate soufflé at the end of your meal. Hours: 6:30-9 p.m. Tickets: \$69. Sur la Table, Somerset Collection, 2801

W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite 264, Troy. 800-243-0852, [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com).

### 10/11-12

The **56TH ANNUAL BLOOMFIELD CHARITY ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW** welcomes 30 highly respected dealers from the metro Detroit area, and includes a country store and café, along with a silent auction. DuMouchelles will be on hand to offer appraisals on Saturday between 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (\$10/item, maximum of three items). Hours: Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets: \$12. Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 1100 Lone Pine Rd., Bloomfield Hills. 248-646-5886, [bloomfieldcross.org](http://bloomfieldcross.org).

### 10/11-13

The **NOVI HOME SHOW** has anything and everything you'll need to remodel and/or design your home. Browse exhibits in kitchen and bath interiors, windows and doors, flooring products, furniture, and cabinetry. Local home improvement specialists and designers will be available to offer advice and talk about trends. Hours: Friday 2-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets: \$10 adults (13-54), \$9 seniors (55+), children 12 and under are free. Parking is not included.

Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. 248-737-4477, [novihomeshow.com](http://novihomeshow.com).

## 10/12, 19, & 20

**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT SMITH HOUSE + PHOTOGRAPHY** offers a unique view of this special home, landscape, and the story of a couple whose vision and determination allowed them to achieve their dream. Hours: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets: \$55 adults, \$20 full-time students with ID. Reservations are required. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 248-645-3307, [center.cranbrook.edu](http://center.cranbrook.edu).

## 10/17

At the **MAKE IT & TAKE IT WORKSHOP: PUMPKIN FLORAL ARRANGEMENT**, join your local English Gardens for some creative fun while sipping a signature cocktail. Participants will be provided with all the materials and inspiration necessary to create their own pumpkin floral arrangement to take home. Hours: 7-8 p.m. Tickets: \$34.99. English Gardens Dearborn Heights, West Bloomfield, Clinton Township, and Royal Oak. [englishgardens.com](http://englishgardens.com).

## 10/30

**THANKSGIVING: TURKEY AND TRIMMINGS** will cover all the basics of brining and roasting poultry. In this cooking class you'll make dry-brined roasted turkey, wild mushroom gravy, perfect buttermilk mashed potatoes, and pumpkin mousse with bourbon whipped cream to end the meal. Hours: 9 a.m.-noon. Tickets: \$69. Sur la Table, Arbor Hills, 3050 Washtenaw Ave., Suite 109, Ann Arbor. 800-243-0852, [surlatable.com](http://surlatable.com).

### NOVEMBER

## 11/3

Celebrate the holiday season at the **ENGLISH GARDENS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**. Inspiration will abound thanks to all-new displays of professionally

decorated trees. Enjoy photos with Santa, caroling, kids crafts, and refreshments. Bring your camera and the garden center will take your family photo. A portion of the day's sales will be donated to the Festival of Trees, the largest fundraising event for Children's Hospital of Michigan. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. English Gardens' six full-service locations. [englishgardens.com](http://englishgardens.com).

## 11/7, 14, 21

**LADIES NIGHT** at English Gardens promises an evening of shopping, music, and refreshments in the festive holiday setting of your local garden center. Hours: 5-8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the event. One-hundred percent of the registration fees will be donated to Forgotten Harvest. English Gardens Royal Oak, Nov. 7; Clinton Township, Nov. 14; and Plymouth, Nov. 21. [englishgardens.com](http://englishgardens.com).

## 11/22-23

The **NORTHVILLE HOLIDAY HOME TOUR** will highlight five beautiful homes decorated top to bottom for the holidays. Advance tickets go on sale Oct. 1 and can be purchased at Haven of Northville, Pear-Aphernalia, the Northville Chamber of Commerce, Gardenviews Northville, and the Northville Community Foundation. On the day of the event, tickets can be purchased between 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ward Church inside the Main Canopy, Entry 1. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 the day of the event. No children under 12 will be admitted. Ward Church, 40000 Six Mile Rd. (park by Entry 1 or 3), Northville. 248-374-0200, [northvillecommunityfoundation.org](http://northvillecommunityfoundation.org).

## 11/23-12/1

The 35th annual **FESTIVAL OF TREES AND PREVIEW GALA** will usher in the holiday season with beautifully decorated holiday trees, a gift shop, and more. All monies raised support pediatric research at the Children's



### GORGEOUS GOURDS

English Gardens' *Make It & Take It Workshop: Pumpkin Floral Arrangement* invites participants to create flower-filled gourds.

Hospital of Michigan Foundation. Hours: Preview Gala Saturday, Nov. 23, Patron ticket-holders, 7:30-11 p.m.; 6:30 p.m. early admission for VIP ticket-holders. See website for complete listing of hours for Festival of Trees. Tickets: Preview Gala VIP, \$125, includes wristband for access to the Sky Lounge with heavy hors d'oeuvres and open bar; Patron, \$75, includes light appetizers in the main ballroom and cash bar. All will enjoy entertainment, a silent auction, and the fabulous sweets and treats buffet. Festival of Trees general admission is \$5 adults, \$3 children, under 2 years are free. The Festival of Trees will honor veterans and men and women in the Armed Forces with free admission on Nov. 26. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 734-748-3822, [fot.org](http://fot.org).

## 11/26-27

**ZINGERMAN'S CORNMAN FARMS' THANKSGIVING TO-GO** is an undoubtedly delicious gourmet Thanksgiving To-Go meal crafted from the very freshest of local ingredients. Guests can conveniently order online and pick their meal up at the farm. Hours: Nov. 26 1-7 p.m., Nov. 27 noon-8 p.m. Zingerman's Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter.

734-619-8100, [zingermandscornmanfarms.com](http://zingermandscornmanfarms.com).

## 11/29-30

The **FANTASY OF ART SHOW & SALE**, presented by The Livingston Fine Art Association, features 30 artists who will display and sell their work. Hours: Friday 3-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Howell Opera House, 123 W. Grand River Ave., Howell. 517-540-0065, [livingstonfineartassociation.com](http://livingstonfineartassociation.com).

## 11/29-1/5

**HOLIDAY BELLES TOURS AT FORD HOUSE** is an invitation to step back in time and enjoy a guided tour of the Fords' beautiful lakeside home decorated for the season. View some of Mrs. Ford's original ornaments and decorations, and see how rooms were arranged for Christmastime soirees for her granddaughters in the 1960s. Hours: Wednesday-Saturday noon-7:30 p.m., Sunday noon-4 p.m. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$8 children 6-12, free for children 5 and under. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores. 313-884-4222, [fordhouse.org](http://fordhouse.org).

— By Tanya Zager Chisholm

*These dates and information can change; call ahead of event to confirm. Send events for consideration to [tzchisholm@gmail.com](mailto:tzchisholm@gmail.com).*

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Detroit: 313-831-7770  
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## Art of the Mix

**ROOMS FULL OF CREATIVITY** were all abuzz during the opening night of the annual Community House Art Show & Sale, which takes place at The Community House in Birmingham and draws artists from throughout Michigan. The event was held in May for the first time (it's usually in the fall, but will now be a springtime highlight). Everything from jewelry to photography wowed jurors and attendees alike. More information: [communityhouse.com](http://communityhouse.com)

- |  |   |   |                               |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Molly McNeese                                       | 5. Kathie Ninneman, Barbara Heller, Melissa Parks | 9. Debbie and John Schrott                                | 13. Diane Roach Smith         |
| 2. Bill and Valerie McNeese                            | 6. Karen Shiener                                  | 10. Robert Dempster, Caroline Gleeson, Charles Gleeson II | 14. Karen Buscemi             |
| 3. Carol Marshall, Kathleen and Dave Devereaux         | 7. Don Haffner, Carol Benson                      | 11. Alexandra Milot, Ariana Trussen                       | 15. Patty Ghesquiere          |
| 4. Danielle Susser, Patty Eisenbraun, Galina Sarkisian | 8. Dan and Heather Milot                          | 12. Brian and Rose Bolyard                                | 16. Samantha Ebert, Jenna Ode |

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# Core Values

It's family time at this pretty autumn tablescape, loaded with fresh apples, cider, and donuts

By Megan Swoyer | Photo by Martin Vecchio

**MATHESON AND PIPER TOLLES** love their Franklin Cider Mill outings, and so do their mom and dad, Lauren and Bryan. Every fall, the family heads to the ever-popular mill to stock up on crisp apples, and fresh cider and donuts. "We typically do the cider mill in the morning, and then we like to snuggle up outside and enjoy the treats at home on the patio in the late afternoon," Lauren says. When the fireplace is ablaze, this Birmingham patio is the perfect cozy spot for fall family time. ■

## SIP & SAVOR

Lauren Tolles, owner of design-build firm Maison Birmingham, sets her Knoll table with dishware from West Elm and custom-embroidered napkins from Serena & Lily. A blanket from Williams-Sonoma is perfect for snuggling, and — cheers! — how about some craft beer from Founders Brewery in Grand Rapids for the adults? See more of the Tolles home in the feature section of this issue.



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