



OUTSTANDING HOMES

Design Specialist: Ivan Meade

Photographed by Joshua Lawrence



MODERN LIVING ON THE LAKE



◀ WATER AND WOOD

The spectacular lake view is showcased through wood-framed, floor-to-ceiling windows. Double doors lead to a deck framed by glass railings and an infinity pool. The home's colours are earthy, with matte finishes offset by the sheen of brass fixtures, including a Jonathan Adler "Meurice" chandelier over a dining table of pine reclaimed from a 100-year-old building. Nailhead details on the Restoration Hardware leather sofa and linen dining room chairs add a rustic touch, as do the textures and colours in the grey-washed rattan lounge chairs made of eco-friendly teak grown in a plantation approved by The Forest Trust.



▲ Double-shade pendant lights hang in tiers to play with the planes of the room and fill the volume. The rough finish of the massive fireplace in cultured LedgeStone brings the outdoors in.

Samantha and Tim Agar's Sparrow Hill House has the rustic charm of a country lodge combined with the sleek sophistication for which its architect Bruce Wilson was famous. This eco-friendly house is an ode to nature, through and through.



Overlooking Prospect Lake, Sparrow Hill House, the home of Samantha and Tim Agar and their boys, is a tribute to the rural beauty surrounding it. “We’ll grow our own food. Make art. Sip wine. Gaze at the stars from our firepit,” writes Samantha on her Sparrow Hill project blog which documents the building of their home, completed by her husband Tim’s construction company, Horizon Pacific Contracting and Sunrooms. Their vision includes both a retreat for their family and, eventually, a B&B in the adjacent carriage house for guests seeking a retreat from the city.

Significantly, Sparrow Hill was the last home designed by architect and designer Bruce Wilson. Meade Design completed the interior design after Wilson’s death, staying as true as possible to his vision. Besides the design, what makes Sparrow Hill House special is the homeowners’ dedication to making the house ultra eco-friendly, striving for LEED Platinum levels.

Using reclaimed, natural, and local materials, including LEED-compliant natural wool carpet in the bedrooms, the home features an exterior of local stone and cedar shingles with a metal roof. All of the interior doors are of reclaimed wood. Other eco-features include rainwater harvesting and smart technology for energy conservation. It’s a home that looks and, just as importantly, feels beautiful.





▲ BILLIARD BEAUTY

The billiard table, oak floor, and cultured stone of the raised fireplace give this room the woody sensibility of a country lodge, while the glass on the stairway and sleek lines make it contemporary. Functional and beautiful, the tile surrounding the billiard table is framed with a border of matching oak.

◀ STAIRWAY TO STYLE

The chunky floating steps of this oak staircase seem both light and substantial at the same time. Glass and wood railings let in the light for an open, airy feeling. Exposed beams in the ceiling at the top of the stairs add a rustic appeal offset by modern, transparent globes.



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EARTHY ESCAPE

Local granite counters contrast with oak cabinets that match the oak flooring throughout (also used here as a border). Shadow lines in the millwork and custom herringbone insets in the floor tile add visual interest, and fixtures of oil-rubbed bronze and antique brass bring in a rustic feel. The wallpaper, with its glamorous metallic floral and flocked texture, adds a feminine touch to the masculine lines of the room as well as contrasting with the more natural, matte finishes in the home.

▼ BATHING DRAMA

Owner-supplied fixtures of oil-rubbed bronze bring an old-world feel to this modern bathtub.



ROOM TO PLAY

A colourful bureau, patinaed barstools, and vintage toys bring playfulness to the boys' room while the colour of the walls feels as serene as the sky on a sunny day.



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NATURAL WARMTH

The LedgeStone used on the fireplaces is repeated as the backsplash, bringing an unexpected rustic touch to the kitchen and creating a connection between the spaces. Seen through the glass door cabinet, it creates the perfect backdrop for showcasing glass and art. In contrast to the stone, the cabinetry is sleek, slab-style doors in oak with recessed hardware. The range hood, with its exposed nailheads and wood, echoes features seen in the home's furnishings. A Malcolm Jeffers painting brings in the colours of the natural world.



▼ INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIVING

The home's roof is set at an unusual "butterfly" angle with the lines of the beams carrying through and drawing the eye into the home's interior. The infinity pool features LEED-conscious glass tiles and a deck of stamped concrete.



SOURCES

- Contractor:** Horizon Pacific Contracting & Sunrooms
- Architect/Initial Interior Design:** Bruce Wilson
- Interior Design Completion:** Meade Design Group
- Flooring:** Listone Giordano (installed by Horizon)
- Windows:** Glass custom selected for the different exposures. Wood windows built by Prestige Joinery
- Tile:** Tile Town (installed by Horizon)
- Painting:** Prime Time Painters
- A/V Home Automation:** Simply Automated
- Plumbing Supplier:** Bartle & Gibson
- Millwork:** Built and installed by CSD Design
- LEED Consulting:** Phyllis Godfrey and Associates
- Structural Engineering:** Mann Engineering
- Swimming Pool:** Deshaw Pools
- Landscape Design:** Jonathan Craggs
- Masonry:** Acropolis Stone



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