



**LEFT** For this Midwestern home, WWA capitalized on lake views while preserving privacy.

**BELOW** Reclaimed local wood and stone contribute to a soaring lodge-inspired home.

**BOTTOM RIGHT** Rasmussen and colleagues accommodate indoor-outdoor lifestyles in all climates.



## REIMAGINING THE CLASSICS

*Kate Rasmussen Of Wade Weissmann Architecture Specializes In Sophisticated Residences Based On Historical Precedent*

BY **ROGER GRODY**



DESIGNER KATE RASMUSSEN is the Executive Business Strategist at Milwaukee-headquartered Wade Weissmann Architecture (WWA), sometimes working out of the company's Santa Barbara office. Rasmussen was an associate at the firm of celebrity architect Robert A.M. Stern in New York before joining WWA. In her role of developing business strategies, she often sets the vision for luxury residential projects.

Rasmussen holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Notre Dame, later receiving a Master of

Arts in Sustainable Architecture & Urbanism from the University of Wales and has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art in New York. “We tend to rely heavily on residential design based on historical precedent, borrowing from the past and bringing a new, fresh light to it while accommodating current lifestyles,” says Rasmussen of WWA's approach.

Rasmussen, currently a resident of Pittsburgh, observes a nationwide shift towards a more relaxed, less formal and less ornamental style, largely influenced by California and evident in fashion and graphics design as well as architecture. She reports that California's indoor-outdoor lifestyle is popular even with clients in the harsh climates of the Midwest and Northeast. Rasmussen explains, “We try to give them that same feel but make it geographically appropriate, extending the seasons with screening or outdoor fireplaces.”

The designer maintains the pandemic has definitely affected client priorities. “The idea of spending time in a setting that's of your own making, and with people you love to be around, has become incredibly important,” says Rasmussen, whose firm is now meeting demand for large family compounds. Rasmussen's residential projects at WWA include a lodge-inspired Wisconsin home overlooking Lake Michigan where reclaimed local stone and wood were incorporated into a soaring, naturally lit living area that reinforces the



residence's sense of place. Rasmussen and her colleagues renovated an historic estate outside of Nashville in a manner that introduced modern amenities while retaining its original architecture.

With her expertise in classical design, Rasmussen is ideally suited to implementing expansions or renovations to historic properties, retaining architectural integrity while creating spaces for 21st century lifestyles. **CH** [wadeweissmannarchitecture.com](http://wadeweissmannarchitecture.com)

**LEFT** Rasmussen's firm specializes in adapting traditional spaces to modern lifestyles.

**ABOVE** A major renovation of a Tennessee estate retained its historic character.