

Anchors aweigh! With a soaring 16-foot-high nave ceiling, white wood struts and beams and a sextet of linen-wrapped, leather-trimmed drum pendants by Ralph Lauren for Visual Comfort selected expressly for their boat-like pulleys and knots, it's smooth sailing in the second-story rec room. The cushioned stools and striped sectional, all from Lee Industries, pick up the red, white and blue of the framed American flag—a family keepsake that's been signed by all the astronauts who walked on the moon!

# PERMANENT *Vacation*

An architect with midwestern roots of his own transforms a family's Wisconsin summer home into an airy retreat for year-round lakeside living.

**Wade Weissmann** believes in putting the art in architecture—so much so that both his hand-drawn concept sketches and the subsequent formal renderings created by his talented team are often saved as keepsakes by clients. Which is how the Wisconsin-raised architect came to reinvent an obsolete cottage on Geneva Lake: Recent retirees Mark and Patty happened across an exhibition of his drawings of previous lakefront projects on display in a local men's shop and got in touch soon after.

"They'd essentially sequestered themselves to one room," Weissmann recalls. "The old home didn't lend itself to their new lifestyle, with their four grown children, other family and friends coming and going. Patty loves to entertain, but the kitchen was the smallest part of the house!"

Because of land regulations, completely razing the place would require any new build to be set farther back on the property—distancing the lake house from its primary asset, the lake, where the couple dock their vintage Chris-Craft boat—so instead, Weissmann and Doug Jorndt of contractors Jorndt Fahey worked with the existing foundation, extending up and expanding out from the streetward facade. To design the rooms, Weissmann partnered with frequent collaborator Emily Winters of Peabody's Interiors. And with the homeowners as well.

"They had his-and-her collections—Patty's Russian dolls and sewing supplies, Mark's model ships and political memorabilia," says Weissmann. "We'd walk through the

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Nautical stripes recur in the central hall, *left*, where Clarence House OD Paradise Stripe in Navy covers the seductively overstuffed tête-à-tête love seat. “It was completely refurbished,” architect Wade Weissmann says of the French antique. “Springs, cushioning, upholstery: Only the frame was intact!” The primary colors of the graphic yacht flags draw the eye up, but look closely: An alcove on the landing displays Patty’s whimsical collection of *matryoshki*—Russian nesting dolls—gathered on travels around the globe.

Custom inglenooks, designed by Weissmann and built by Burmeister Cabinetry, frame the stone fireplace in the formal sitting room, *below*. A map of Geneva Lake hangs above the mantel: The real thing is just steps away, through the adjoining sunporch. Weather permitting, open transoms and double-hung windows welcome in breezes off the water.



house together during framing, searching for nooks and crannies to fit it all!” Not only did Weissmann manage to situate the duo’s beloved stuff, he snuck in a secret “crow’s nest” too—a sleeping loft with a boat-paddle balustrade accessible by hidden staircase. Clandestine rooms aside, the house as a whole is geared toward large family gatherings, lots of guests and lively game nights, with views of the water from all the main spaces.

“There’s a point on the first floor where the entry foyer, central hall, formal sitting area and sunporch line up,” Weissmann says. The rooms open one onto the other, not unlike Patty’s nesting dolls, until at last ending with a wow-factor display of Geneva Lake. “I love the layers, how they unfold,” the architect marvels. “It’s such a simple plan, but so effective. It takes your breath away.”



Hickory Chair spool chairs and ottomans, upholstered in an indigo botanical print, face the stone-fronted fireplace in the hearth room. Custom Roman shades are cut from a complementary Osborne & Little fabric. The trompe l'oeil cabinet in the corner conveys the couple's fondness for folk art pieces; the antique mantel clock on top was a present from Patty to Mark.



Spindles also make a statement in the kitchen, forming the framework of the leather-cushioned Hannah stools by Vanguard, *above*. Brumous Tempesta quartzite tops the counters and bevel-edged island where everybody loves to hang out; walls of white subway tile keep things fresh. The custom copper range hood and thick butcher block table, handcrafted from locally sourced barnwood, add rustic touches, as does the Kohler farmhouse sink. “The windows face east,” Weissmann explains. “In the morning, when you’re brewing your coffee, there’s the most beautiful filtered sunlight.”

## Lakeside, Superior

Designer Emily Winters of Milwaukee-based Peabody’s Interiors, in partnership with Wade Weissmann Architecture, transformed this lakefront summer home into a year-round residence with these touches:

- 1. NAUTICAL ACCENTS** Visual winks to waterside living can be found in everything from the ship-wheel chandelier and rope-wrapped table lamp in the formal sitting room to the porthole windows of the rolling doors in the recreation space.
- 2. ORIENTAL RUGS** Some are new, others antique, but they all give the rooms a classic gravitas that anchors the more lighthearted components of the cottage.
- 3. FAMILY HEIRLOOMS** Items like the sunporch’s rocking chair, handmade by

homeowner Mark’s grandfather, or the patchwork quilts passed down from his Amish and Mennonite forebears, bring heart and history to a home.

- 4. QUIRKY COLLECTIBLES** Hunting trophies, trompe l’oeil furniture, antique mantel clocks, colorful folk art: The couple’s keepsakes, displayed throughout the house, reflect their personalities and evoke their happiest memories.
- 5. FUN AND GAMES** True, nothing’s as fun as boating on the lake and picnicking under the sun, but on rainy days a retro pinball machine plus go-to board games like Monopoly and a good old-fashioned deck of cards provide endless entertainment for housebound family and friends.

The pantry’s the place for popcorn, *top right*, or a gobful of gumballs, if you prefer. Picnics for boat trips get prepped here. Cabinets in Sherwin-Williams Naval store cookies, chips and other provisions. Shaped like an armillary sphere, the bronzed brass Visual Comfort chandelier points away from the treats and a triptych of vintage recipes.

Custom paneled cabinetry, *right*, keeps kitchen appliances out of sight. Glass-front doors put heirloom crystal and silver on display. Ready to relax after a long day? Grab a chilled bottle of vino from the wine fridge, a glass off the shelf, then sip in the late-day sunshine!





Facing the lake, the Universal Furniture daybed on the sunporch, *above*, features the red, white and blue palette found elsewhere in the home. Patty stitched the pillows herself. Two Summer Classics wicker lounge chairs with ottomans breathe easy in the all-season space. Serving as a coffee table, a weathered wooden trunk hides a pirate's treasure of blankets and beach towels.

A mini armada of model boats floats from room to room; one takes pride of place on the reclaimed-wood mantel, *right*. For a game of checkers, just tip over the Century Lissara cube. The colorful sun god standing in the corner is a cherished family souvenir.



All aboard the bunks! To accommodate an overflow of overnight guests, the second-story game room includes four such beds (two shown), with oars forming the upper guardrails to guide visitors through a sea of dreams. Cage lights above allow for late-night reading of *Moby Dick* while snug under heirloom quilts. On the oval, glass-topped pedestal table, a fierce round of Monopoly awaits. The grand arched window offers glorious views of the lake.