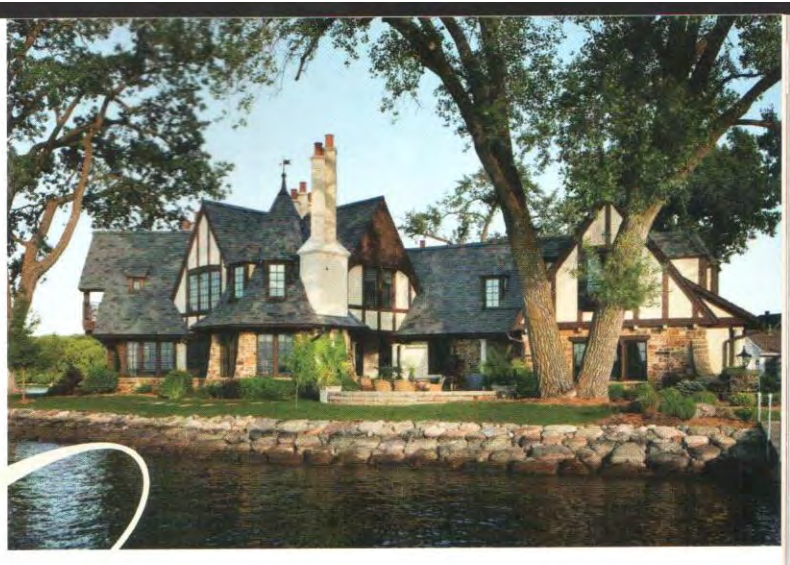
High Contrast

A relaxed interpretation of Tudor design yields a Minnesota lakeside retreat that's sophisticated without standing on ceremony.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY HEIDI PEARSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY WERNER STRAUBE

A hand-carved limestone fireplace created by a local artisan anchors the library of this home on Minnesota's Lake Minnetonka. Built-in bookshelves above the windows and below the bench seating preserve lake views.

THIS PHOTO: The great-room's stone fireplace is true to the Tudor Period, but the streamlined furnishings are decidedly modern-day. ABOVE RIGHT: The facade abounds with Tudor details, including a slate-shingle roof.



Great architecture often embraces its surroundings. But in this new Tudor-style home on the shores of Minnesota's Lake Minnetonka, the formula is flipped: The stately home is quite literally embraced by its surroundings, with lovely lakeshore curving around the site on three sides.

The prized peninsula setting proved an exciting challenge for residential designer Jeff Murphy. "The lot size is actually quite compact, but the owners needed a home capable of accommodating large gatherings, and they wanted every room to take advantage of the panoramic lake views," he says.

Faced with strict zoning laws and committed to honoring the modest scale of the neighborhood's existing houses, Murphy designed a residence with angles and curves that maximize interior sight lines while keeping the roof pitch low. "By design, the scale of the home feels smaller on the outside and larger on the inside," Murphy says. "There are 10-foot-high ceilings on the main level, but the exterior doesn't feel tall."

An open floor plan suits the homeowners' contemporary needs, yet the home feels authentic to the Tudor Period thanks to historical elements that include stone walls, timber corbels, and dark-stained wood mullions. "The Tudor style can vary in its forms and layout—it's not as formal as more symmetrical styles," Murphy says.

The "modern take on Tudor" approach is also carried out in the interior appointments. Interior designer Willis Watts contrasted traditional backdrops, such as umber walls and timeworn rugs, with contemporary furnishings and accessories. In the library, for example, the visual heft of richly grained English oak paneling and built-ins is tempered by modern artwork and 21st-century club chairs. In the kitchen, Watts achieved delightful disparity by pairing classic leaded-glass cabinets and honed-granite countertops with a graphic linear backsplash tile and an industrial island.

The result of the home's deliberate surprises is a personality that doesn't take itself too seriously. "This is lakeshore living at its best," Murphy says. Whether it's the setting for a summer party spilling out onto the terrace or a holiday gathering with snow outside, "this home makes people feel comfortable and happy," he says.

"Although there are lots of formal elements in this home, it's really very relaxed."

—INTERIOR DESIGNER WILLIS WATTS

LEFT: A wall of lake-facing windows in the kitchen maximizes water views and welcomes in light. A curved plaster ceiling detail softens the room's hard angles. BELOW: A curved wall with French doors beckons guests to the outdoor dining terrace. The refectory-style dining room table was custom-made with reclaimed English barnwood.

OPPOSITE: Collar tie timbers and suspended art lighting embellish an upper-level hallway gallery. CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE LEFT: A tiered iron chandelier illuminates the staircase. Iron balcony railings and diamond-shape offset chimneys distinguish the home's rear facade. A recessed window floods a guest bath with light. A plaster arch creates a cozy niche for the bed in this guest suite. Iron corner strapping crafted by a local blacksmith wraps around the great-room mantel. Contemporary furnishings and accessories serve as casual counterpoints to the keeping room's traditional architecture.

OPPOSITE: A turret provides a sleeping space worthy of royalty. Simple linens keep the focus on the serene views and the quirky-shape windows. LEFT: Limestone tile sets off the soaking tub in a guest bath, which boasts tree-house-style views through the limbs of an ancient cottonwood.

Floor plan

TOTAL SQ. FT: 5,020
BEDROOMS: 4
BATHROOMS: 3 full, 1 half

Floor plan © Murphy & Co. Design.

BUILDER—**Dan Madison**, Dan Madison & Co., 7500 E. McDonald Dr., Suite 102A, Scottsdale, AZ 85250, 480/948-6352; *danmadisonco.com.*
LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION—**Mike Karmo**, Karmo Landscaping, Inc., Chandler, Arizona; e-mail: karmolandcaping@aol.com.

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High Contrast
RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER—**Jeff Murphy**, Murphy & Co. Design, 2 Division St., E, Suite 203, Buffalo, MN 55313; 763/682-9294; *murphycodesign.com.*
INTERIOR DESIGNER—**Willis Watts**, Delaware River Trading Co., 905 Juniper St., Suite 110, Atlanta, GA 30309; 404/874-5583; *williswatts.com.*
BUILDER—**Thomas Bren Homes, Inc.**, 2073 W. Wayzata Blvd., Suite 50, Long Lake, MN 55356; 952/475-6777; *thomasbrenhomes.com.*

Modern Refinement

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Enlightened Approach
INTERIOR DESIGNER—**Graham Viney**, Graham Viney Design CC, One Ravine Steps, Bantry Bay, Cape Town 8001, South Africa; e-mail: graham@vineydesign.co.za; *grahamvineydesign.co.za.*

pages 98–105
Rebellious Nature
ARCHITECT—**Jeff Soler**, Soler Architecture, Inc., 619 N. Kilkea Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90048; 323/852-0590; e-mail: jsoler@solerarch.com; *solerarch.com.*
INTERIOR DESIGNER—**Jennifer Dyer**, Jeneration Interiors, 1414 N. Harper Ave., Suite 19, West Hollywood, CA 90046; 310/601-0841; e-mail: jd@jenerationinteriors.com; *jenerationinteriors.com.*
BUILDER—**Bill Gorton**, William Kent Development, Inc., Tarzana, California; 818/345-8518; *williamkent.us.*
LANDSCAPE DESIGNER—**Michael Fiore**, 2434 Lincoln Blvd., Fourth Floor, Venice, CA 90291; e-mail: michael@michaelfiore.com; *michaelfiore.com.*

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Woven Together
DESIGN-BUILD FIRM—**Eric Rothman**, design director, **Jenny Rothman**, interior designer, HammerSmith, Inc., 807 Church St., Decatur, GA 30030; 404/377-1021; *hammersmith.net.*

Graceful Getaways

pages 118–125
Sunny Disposition
ARCHITECT—**John P. Shackelford, Jr.**, John P. Shackelford, Jr., Architect + Interior Design, 225 Redfern Village, St. Simons Island, GA 31522; 912/634-0924; e-mail: john@jpshackelford.com; *jpshackelford.com.*
INTERIOR DESIGNER—**Nancy Stoddard**, John P. Shackelford, Jr., Architect + Interior Design, 225 Redfern Village, St. Simons Island, GA 31522; 912/634-0924; e-mail: nancy@jpshackelford.com; *jpshackelford.com.*
CONTRACTOR—**B. T. Ramsey**, B.T. Ramsey Co., Inc., Sea Island, Georgia; 912/634-1973.
LANDSCAPE DESIGNER—**Candace Brewer**, Candace Brewer Long Landscape, St. Simons Island, Georgia; 912/638-0446.

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Ripple Effect
ARCHITECT—**John Myefski**, Myefski Architects, Inc., 630 Davis St., 5th Floor, Evanston, IL 60201; 847/440-8294; *myefski.com.*
INTERIOR DESIGNER—**Tracy Hickman**, Hickman Design Associates, 1046 W. Kinzie St., Suite 102, Chicago, IL 60642; 312/733-9520; *hickmaninteriors.com.*

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Novel Narrative
ARCHITECTS—**Joe Paul and Mark Cutone**, BPC Architecture, 2 Broad St., Nantucket, MA 02554; 508/228-2722; e-mail: info@bpc-architecture.com; *bpc-architecture.com.*
INTERIOR DESIGNER—**Donna Elle**, Nantucket; 508/228-4561; *donnaelle.com.*
CONTRACTOR—**Rhett Dupont**, Cross Rip Development Corp., Nantucket; 508/228-1007; *crossripdevelopment.com.*
LANDSCAPE DESIGNER—**Julie Jordin**, The Garden Design Co., Nantucket; 508/325-4080; *juliejordin.com.*