

# LUXE

THE CHICAGO HOME REDEFINED

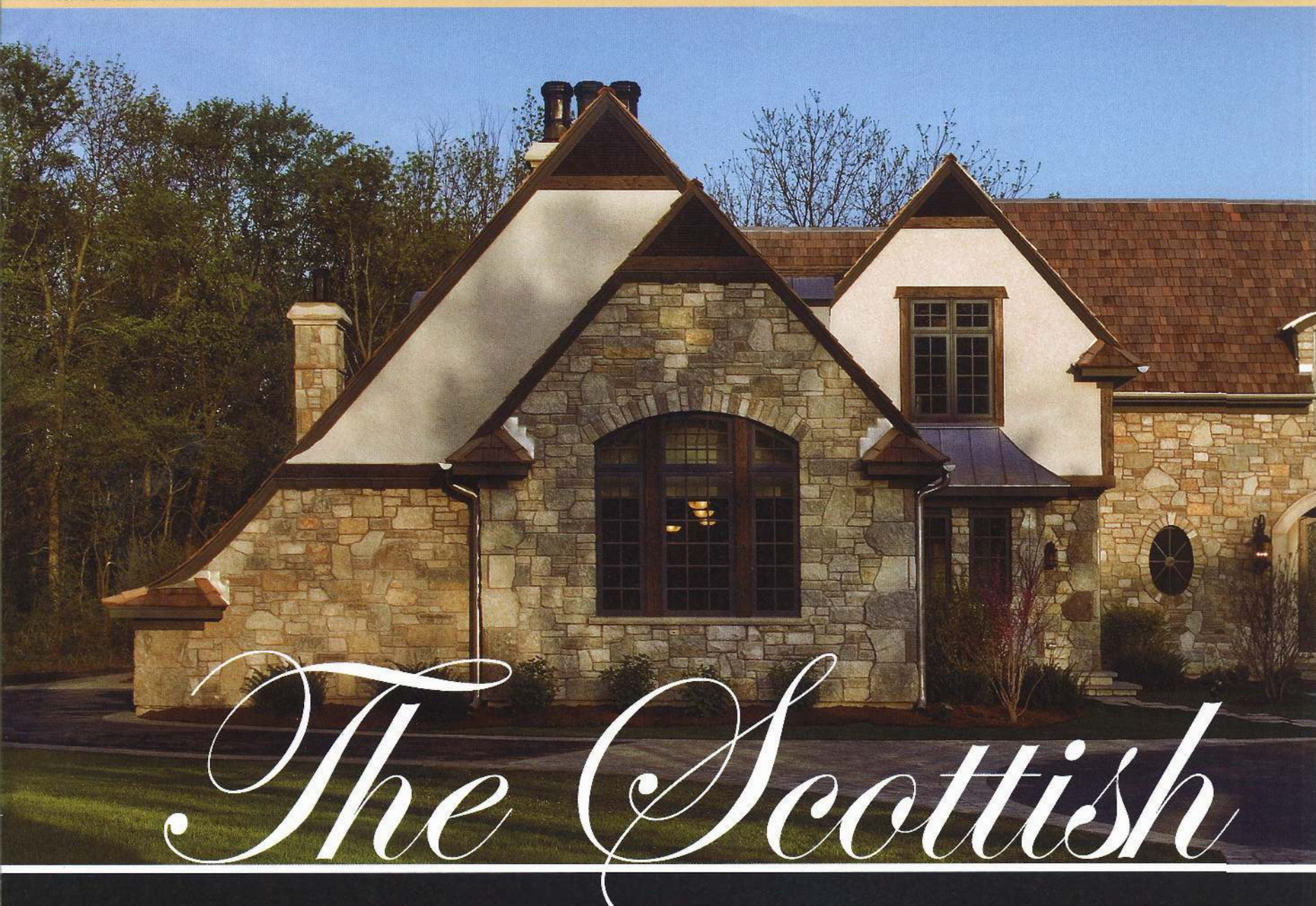


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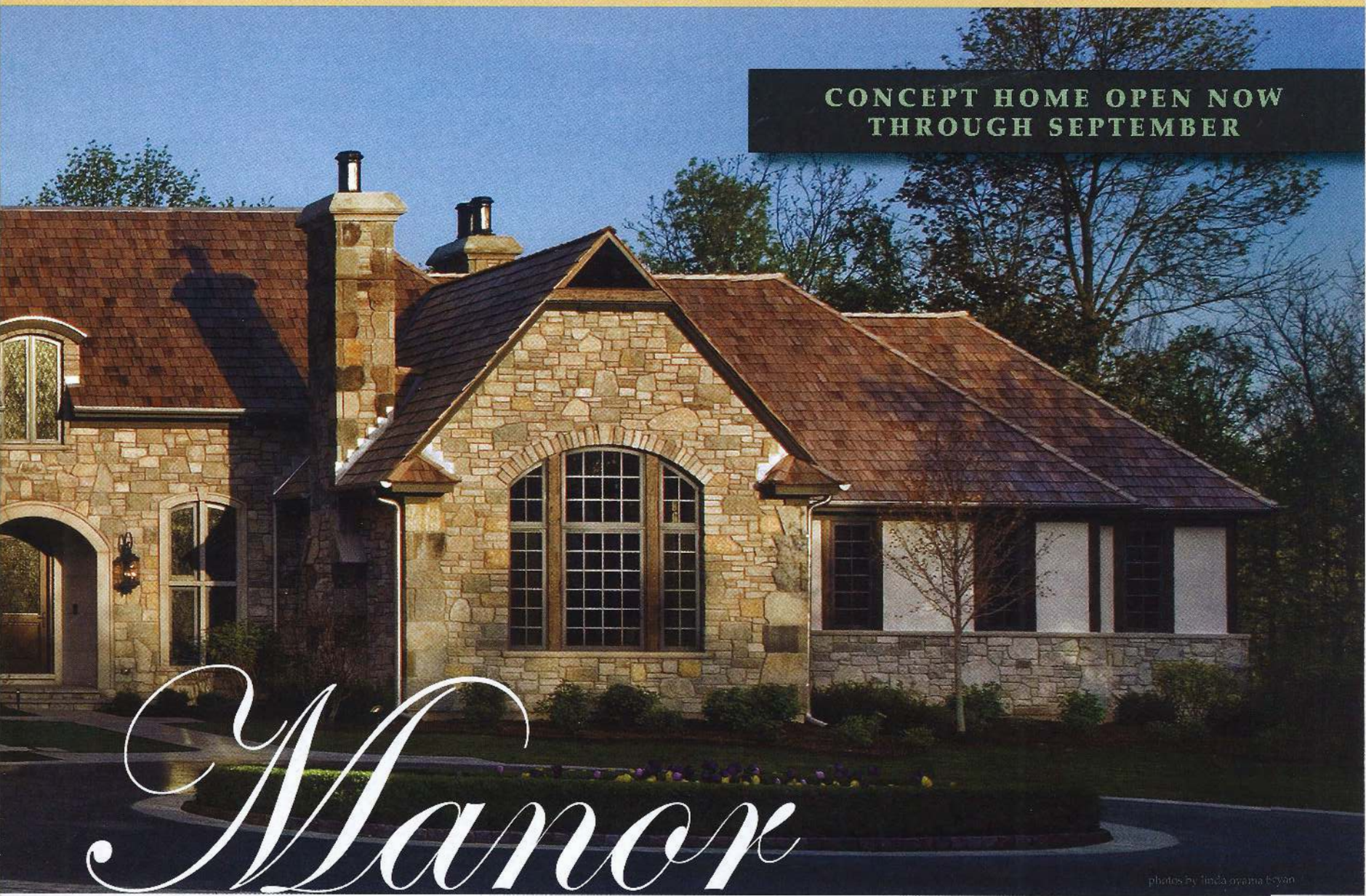
Both grand and functional as well as formal and inviting, the Scottish Manor captures the mood of Scotland's idyllic countryside. Filled with character and remarkable detailing both inside and out, this home offers seven fireplaces and two master suites within its 9000 square feet of ultimate living space. Perfect for entertaining ten or 200. **DIRECTIONS:** From I-94 exit at Half Day Rd. (Route 22): Travel east to Telegraph Rd. and turn right. The Scottish Manor is ½ mile south at the corner of Telegraph Rd. and Aberdeen Ct.

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photos by Linda Orama Egan

  
**ORREN PICKELL**  
DESIGNERS & BUILDERS





PHOTOGRAPH BY LINDA OYAMA BRAN





## KEY TO THE CASTLE

WRITTEN BY RACHEL LEE MARVIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY WAYNE CABLE

WHEN A CHICAGO-AREA COUPLE DECIDED TO BUILD A SECOND HOME, THE AUTHENTICALLY DETAILED MEDIEVAL STRUCTURE THEY ENVISIONED WAS HARDLY SURPRISING. With four little princesses—and a little prince on the way—creating a castle on the shores of their beloved Lake Geneva was almost inevitable. The family had vacationed there for years, and after searching for the perfect

ARCHITECT	Kent DeReus	HOME BUILDER	Orren Pickell
INTERIOR DESIGNER	Pamela Litz-Blevins		
BEDROOMS	5	BATHROOMS	6
		SQUARE FEET	6,854



#### STYLE SELECTION

Neutral-toned rooms deserve to be outfitted with equally complementary accessories, like this hand-rubbed antique brass lamp with a natural paper shade. *Extra Large Fang Gourd Lamp, \$840; circalighting.com*



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place on which to pour their new home's foundation, they fell in love with a 40-acre private community that hugged the water and offered the outdoorsy, kid-friendly lifestyle they sought.

But when architect Kent DeReus, AIA, vice president of architecture at Orren Pickell Designers and Builders in Lincolnshire, Illinois, asked the couple to bring an image of their vision to their first meeting, they were stumped. "We knew that we wanted a castle, but we didn't have a specific picture," says the woman of the house. "Then I watched the first five minutes of *Cinderella* and there it was: the land far, far away." She sketched what she saw and brought it in. "From that moment on, the clients were involved in the design every step of the way," says DeReus. Together, they developed the ideal configuration that would take advantage of the incredible views of the lake and accommodate the couple's desire for openness, while remaining true to their unique vision. DeReus' team delivered a nearly 7,000-square-foot architectural tour de force clad in Wisconsin limestone and stucco, with a slate roof and copper balconies, a turreted entryway, exposed timber beams, and wrought-iron candelabras.







**FIT FOR A KING**

The library features stunning millwork, leather upholstered pieces, and stately exposed wood beams.



**LIGHT WASH**

The porcelain tub in the master bath rests beneath an antique candelabra of glass votives.







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"The final design," says project manager Kevin Batz, also of Orren Pickell Designers and Builders, "looks very similar to the client's original sketch." The layout sets up a grand procession from the dramatic circular limestone tower, through a five-foot-wide stone entryway, across the great room, to the lake beyond. A winding staircase rises from the entry tower, wrapping over the front door. A smaller circular turreted tower—DeReus' favorite part of the house—ascends from the lower level to the second floor, and features tiny slotted windows just like those found in feudal strongholds. It houses the breakfast nook on the main floor and becomes the master bath above.

Pamela Litz-Blevons, licensed interior designer, of Blevons Designs in Deerfield, Illinois, worked with the architect and owners on the interiors. "They wanted this home to be a retreat, one with wide open spaces," she says. Litz-Blevons describes the interiors as "casually elegant, warm and serene." She achieved this feel by working with a warm color palette in golds, moss greens and browns that complements the wide-plank oak floors. The bulk of the furnishings were selected by the woman of the house; many were found at Walter E. Smithe in Chicago.

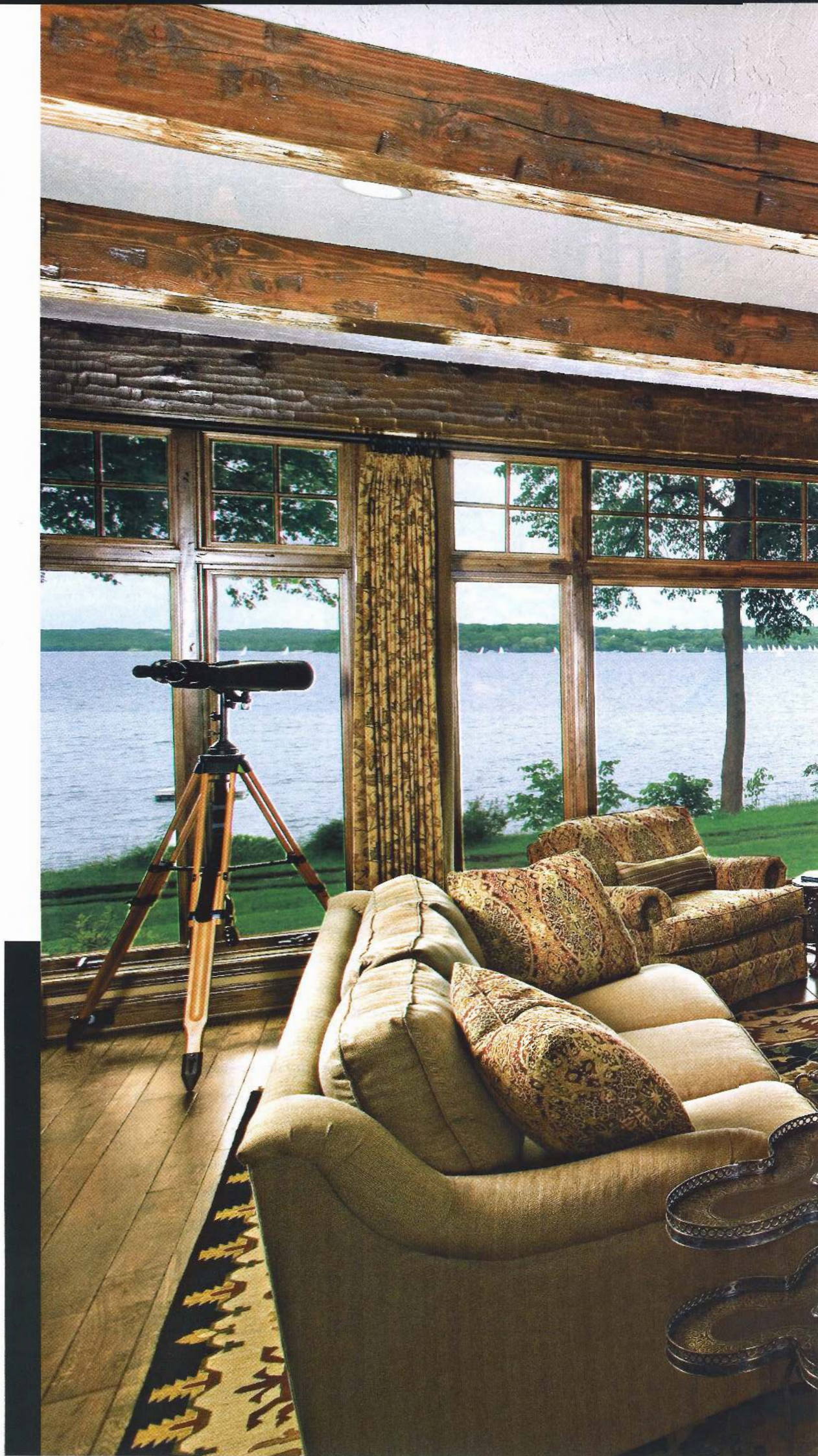
#### ROYAL TREATMENT

French doors open to a private balcony in the master bedroom, where an ornate king-size bed beckons.



**BRIGHT OUTLOOK**

The cozy great room, boasting limestone walls and a magnificent hearth, enjoys a breathtaking view of Lake Geneva.











**INTO THE WOODS**

Like a king on his throne, this turreted home sits grandly on its stone foundation.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LINDA OYAMA BRIN





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While the house lacks a formal dining room, the kitchen accommodates a 12-foot-long table for family-style dining. It's the owner's favorite room in the house. "It has a 180-degree view of the lake, which is spectacular in all seasons. We see bald eagles, deer and sailing regattas throughout the summer," she says.

The family also enjoyed thinking up ways to personalize the house's details. A custom interior window features the initial of the family's surname in the glasswork. And elsewhere, like in the leaded windows at either side of the main hearth, Litz-Blevons designed faux glass repairs—which appear as squiggles—to replicate actual medieval windows. But the most moving detail of the house is the front door. In homage to this close-knit group, the beautiful custom glasswork incorporates the birthstone of each of the home's little princesses and its prince—as well as its king and queen—into its design. **L**

#### REGAL PROPORTIONS

An oversized granite-topped island dominates the kitchen, which leads to the pantry and laundry room.