

midwest

Winter 2005

Home

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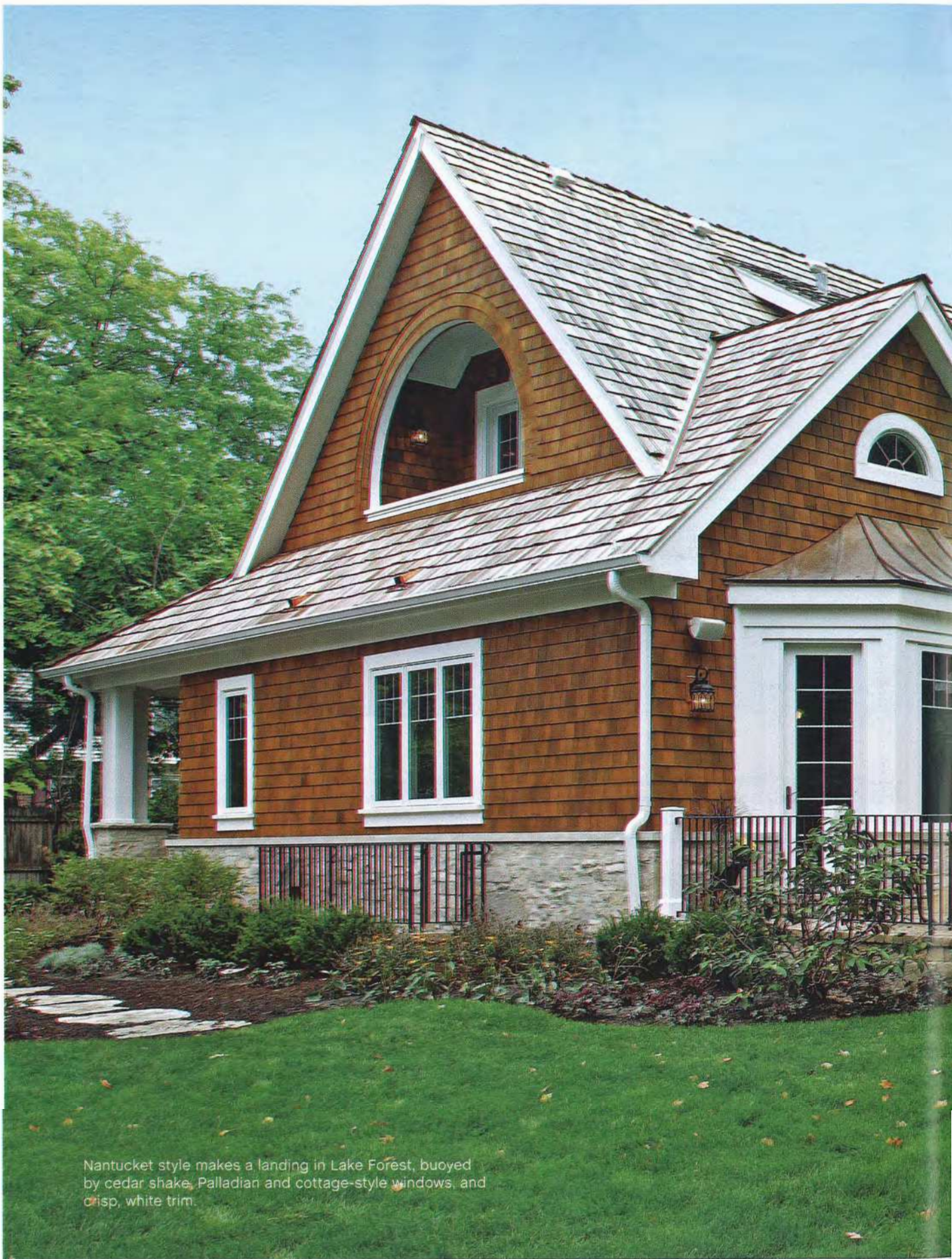
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INSPIRING HOMES

LUXURY HOME TOUR | COLLECTOR'S ISSUE

WINTER 2005 / \$3.99





Nantucket style makes a landing in Lake Forest, buoyed by cedar shake, Palladian and cottage-style windows, and crisp, white trim.

graceful GRANDEUR

This home's elegant approach extends
a welcoming embrace

BY KIT BERNARDI | PHOTOS BY LANDMARK PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN



This exquisite Nantucket-style home in Lake Forest, just blocks from Lake Michigan, is reminiscent of the grandeur and romance of classic estates on the Eastern seaboard. Or perhaps a ship from an earlier era, floating in a sea of woods. "The gracefully pitched, tongue-and-groove mahogany floor feels like you are standing on the deck of a majestic schooner," says Anthony Perry, president of Orren Pickell Designers & Builders.

Grand and gracious, this 7,435-square-foot, seaside cottage sets the stage for fond, lifelong memories of candlelit dinner parties, family-room billiard contests, and backyard birthday celebrations with grandkids. "We designed this home primarily for empty nesters who enjoy entertaining," Perry says. "The mix of formal and casually elegant space encourages family members to return and friends to stay."

An expansive veranda extends a special welcome to visitors, giving sweeping embrace to the entrance and front of the home. Floors of rich mahogany and double-columned, white pillars wrap around the cedar shake and fieldstone façade. Other handcrafted, classical and whimsical architectural details include pilasters; Palladian and cottage-style windows; an arched, white oak entrance door; and coved ceilings and custom millwork throughout. Inside, cherry floors composed of varying plank widths create visual interest underfoot and offer a pleasing contrast to the classical millwork framing doorways.

Restful shades of hazy blue accentuate the foyer's white crown molding and beading detail. A built-in cabinet and bench provide convenient storage for front-hall miscellany—coats, shoes, and dog leashes. The adjacent formal dining room charms with white wainscot embellished with patterned inset panels that echo the recessed ceiling





OPPOSITE PAGE Rich mahogany floors and white pillars give the veranda genteel charm. THIS PAGE White crown molding and warm cherry floors lend elegance to many rooms on the main level.



detail. A deep wall niche creates the perfect setting for a beautiful cabinet or buffet to become the room's focal point. French doors open to the glorious veranda.

Across the hall is the handsome library, lined with built-in bookcases and filled with light from a window bay and French doors that open to the veranda. The room's molasses-colored woodwork instills repose and reflection.

The secluded master suite is tucked away on the first floor. Palladian windows grace two walls of the beautiful bedroom, giving it the feel of a serene solarium. French doors open to a tumbled paver stoop and path leading to the home's backyard patio. The spacious master bath features his-and-her sinks and toilets. Rich cherry wood and frosted-glass cabinets complement the gray-green soapstone countertops and oval soaking tub. Granite tiles set in a herringbone pattern create geometric art on the back wall of the steam shower for two.

Upstairs, three bedroom suites—each with a full bath and a walk-in closet—offer luxurious accommodations to family and guests. Two of these bedrooms enjoy outdoor access to private decks, and a large laundry room is nearby. A charming, loft-like space at the top of the cherry staircase makes a cozy spot for curling up with a high seas adventure classic.

The gourmet kitchen and a spacious great room with 12-foot vaulted ceiling epitomize this home's ambiance of luxurious ease. The restful aquatic palette of blue, gray, and white recalls a calm seascape, while the marble backsplash and countertops subtly contrast in shades of pewter and white. Custom white cabinets, some with glass fronts to display treasures, make this kitchen as beautiful and



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP The owners can find respite in their two-person steam shower and oval soaking tub. Twin water closets and vanity areas make efficient work of morning preparations. BOTTOM Custom woodwork and French doors feel like a traditional office. THIS PAGE, TOP Crisp white and maritime-inspired hues make this kitchen a nautical delight. BOTTOM Two walls of Palladian windows fill the master suite with light.

efficient as a neatly trimmed yacht. Two commercial grade ovens simplify party preparation for large or catered affairs. For the home chef who enjoys chatting with guests while cooking, ample seating around the kitchen island and the bay-windowed breakfast area ensure easy conversation.

The great room, boasting expansive windows framing lush woodlands, is another gathering place. The fireplace, crowned with trim detail, lends every corner of the comfortable room a warm glow. French doors open to the terraced, tumbled brick patio with a stone fireplace.

The home's lower level offers still more entertainment options with a billiard area, media room, and family room. Spaces to accommodate a wine cellar and full bar await a homeowner's personal touch. The sunny guest suite has a large stone-faced window well that could be landscaped as a sunken window garden. Ample space remains, suitable for home office or exercise studio, with plenty leftover for additional storage. **MH**

KIT BERNARDI IS A CHICAGO FREELANCE WRITER SPECIALIZING IN TRAVEL, ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND INTERIOR DESIGN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RESOURCES FEATURED IN THIS STORY, PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 116.



BUILDER

Orren Pickell Designers & Builders

HOME LOCATION

Lake Forest

SUPPLIERS

Edward Hines Lumber Co.
Merrill Lynch