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Rachel Brosnahan

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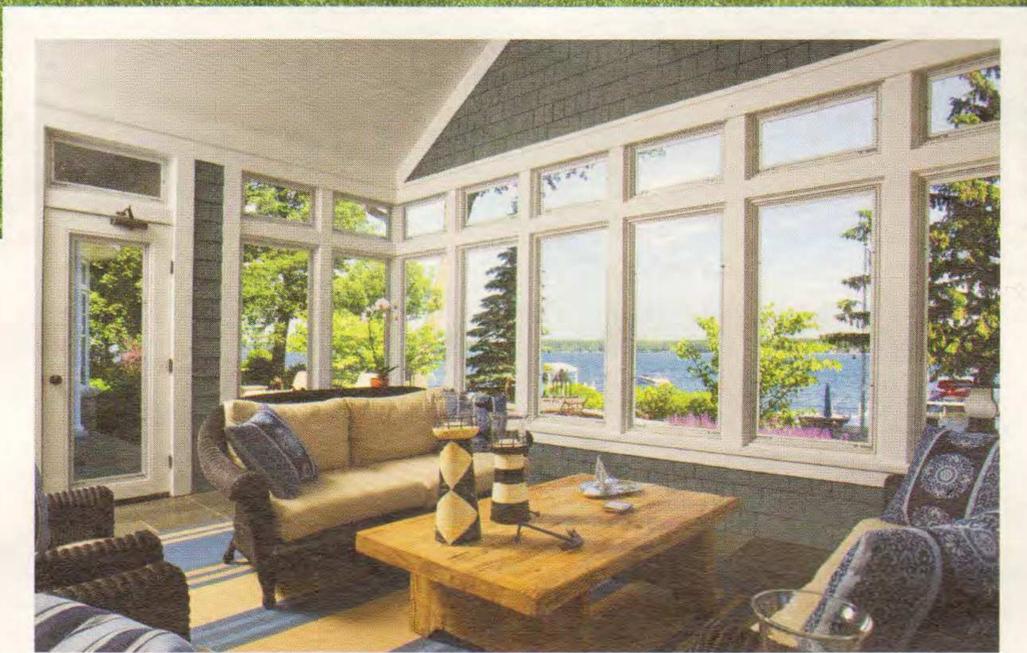
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Lake House

A Glenview couple taps their favorite architect to create a Nantucket-inspired escape on the shores of Lake Geneva.

| *By Sherry Thomas* | *Photography by Linda Oyama Bryan* |

When Rick and Elaine Enriquez bought their modest ranch on the shores of Lake Geneva in 1993, it was meant to be a fun, low-maintenance weekend retreat for their family and friends.

The location alone was worth the investment. The property had some of the best views on the lake.

But the house itself was, well, less than ideal. It was too small, almost from the beginning. And while the views were fantastic, the house was set very low to the shore and was lacking all the aesthetic qualities the Enriquez family dreamed of.

They had visions of Nantucket. They had visions of a Victorian-style turret. They had visions of one day building a lake house they could enjoy with their family for generations.

In 2008, they enlisted the architecture, design and building services of North Shore's Orren Pickell

ON WALDON POND
Above: The Nantucket-inspired home embodies Lake Geneva's Victorian heritage with the finest modern amenities.
Left: A sprawling three-season sun porch maximizes the home's stunning lake views.

CONTINUED...

THOREAU'S LAIR

From below left: Ralph Lauren writer's chair in the wood-filled study; casual coastal chic meets top-of-the line Wolf appliances and Wood Mode cabinetry.

Building Group, and that dream became a reality.

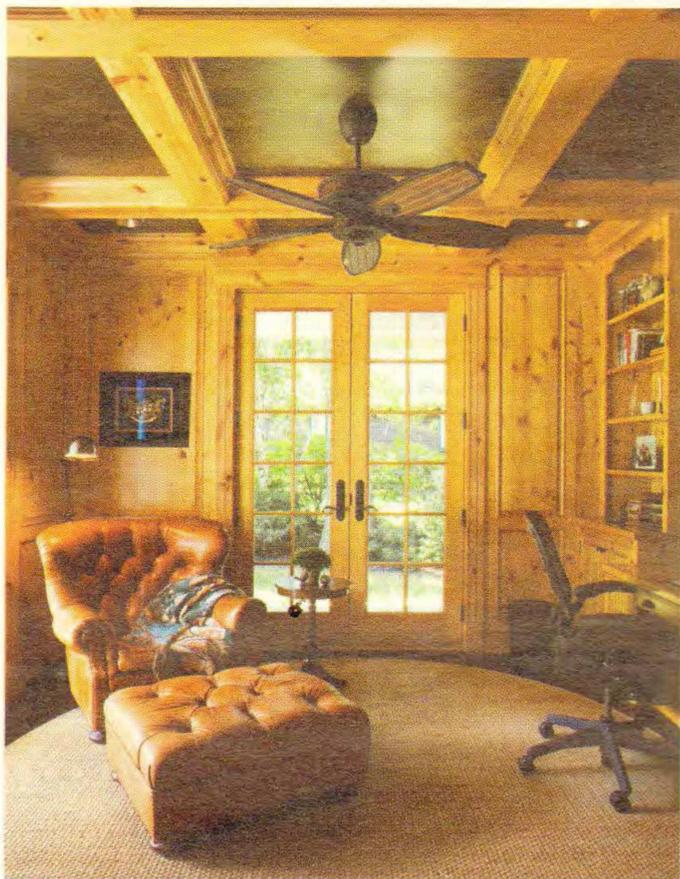
"We wanted to have a lake feel and needed a house not too big, but big enough to accommodate our kids and their families. We wanted to create little suites," explains Rick. "We put in a cedar roof and added as much bead board and wood work as possible, just to give it that vintage, casual lake feeling."

The result is a luxurious five-bedroom, five-and-a-half bathroom home that evokes all the style and ambiance of Nantucket. They got everything on their wish list, including the coveted "turret" feature and wood-laden cathedral ceilings. There is even a fully accoutered lower level entertainment area with a full bar. But when the Enriquez family is in Lake Geneva, the place everyone congregates is the screened-in porch.

"It's our favorite room in the house," Rick says. "The original ranch house had a lower elevation. With the new house, we raised the elevation so it brought us up another 4 feet. Now we're sitting a little higher so you get a really nice view of the lake and sunsets. We love to watch boats go by, watch people walking the shore paths."

With a heated floor and glass windows that replace screens in winter, the porch functions as a three-season room. Enriquez says they often put a table out there for "overflow" at Thanksgiving.

Pickell, president and CEO of Orren Pickell Building Group, says he was thrilled with the outcome of the Enriquez project.



“The [homeowners] really wanted a more classic Victorian style with a Nantucket feel,” says builder Orren Pickell. “Our job was to incorporate this whole look.”

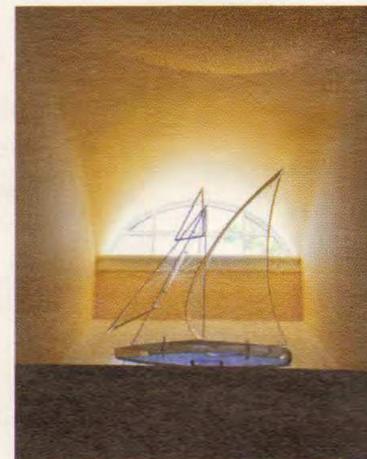
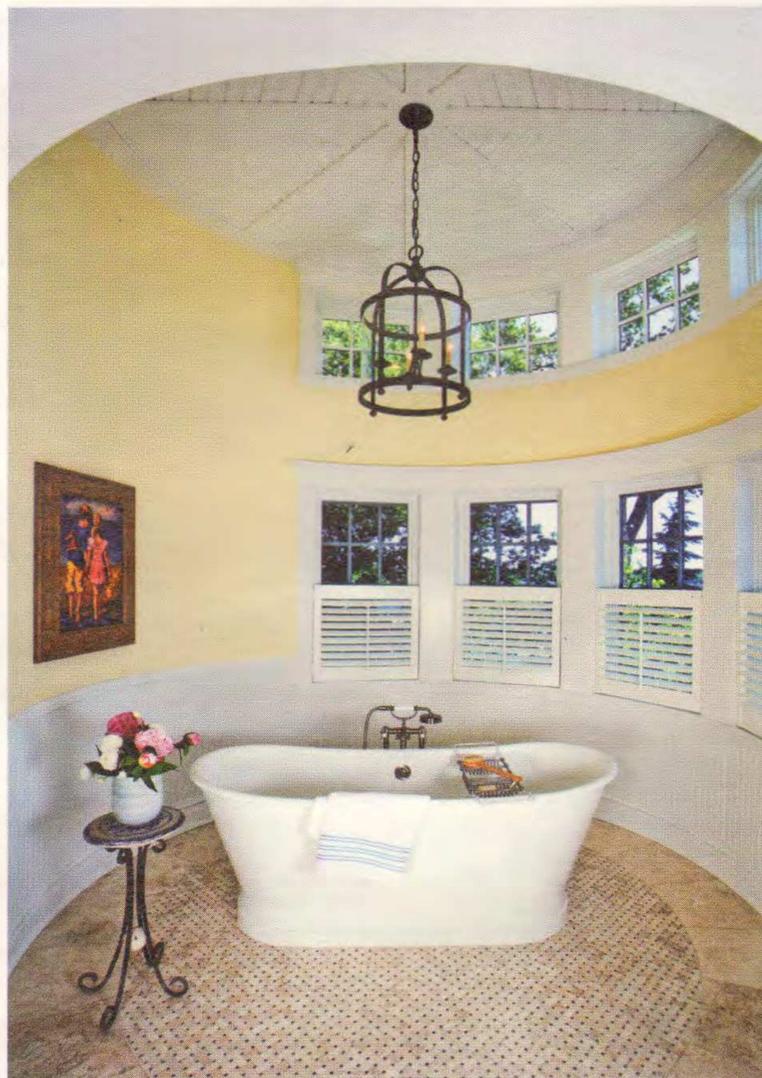


“We started as we do in all of our projects, by asking Rick and Elaine to bring in photographs of interiors and exteriors they loved. We used those for inspiration,” Pickell explains. “They wanted a lot of outdoor living space, so we created a big screened-in porch. They also really wanted a tower out in the back of the house, so we created what is almost an upside-down bell as the breakfast room. They really wanted a more classic Victorian style with a Nantucket feel. Our job was to incorporate this whole look.”

“One of the things I’m very pleased about with the house is there is not a lot of wasted space. We have a philosophy with lake houses in that we want you to use 100 percent of your house on a weekly basis,” he explains.

“It’s always fun to build on a site like this,” he continues. “There’s so much going on. You’ve just got to make sure you take it all in from every vantage point. You’ve got to make sure that every room has a reason to be there, not just architecturally, but functionally. I think we accomplished that on this site.”

Rick and Elaine Enriquez agree. And look forward to generations of happy summer memories at that tiny little lake property that became their Nantucket dream. ■



TAKE ME AWAY
Clockwise from top:
Sumptuous master
bathroom with distressed
cabinetry that evokes the
seaside; a sultry skylight
accent adds interest while a
soaking tub is perfectly
positioned beneath the
center of a turret.