

By J.P. Anderson // Photographed by Anthony Tahlier

# Northwoods CHIC

Interior designer Brianne Bishop reunites with a former client to transform a Wisconsin lake house into a wow-worthy second home.

Expansive and airy with abundant stone and woodwork accents throughout, the home is made for entertaining.





With magical lake views as a backdrop, the dining room beckons with Green Oaks pendants by Palecek sourced at CAI Designs. Opposite page: Knot Sfera pendants sourced at Lightology, cabinetry by Hogan Millwork featuring custom design by Brianne Bishop Design, Greely counter stools by McGee & Co. and counters by Select Surfaces with stone from Terrazzo & Marble Supply Companies add up to a seriously sophisticated kitchen.

## The Client

There once was a home on lovely Lake Beulah, about 30 miles southwest of Milwaukee. With its cedar ceilings and giant river rocks throughout, the timber construction property boasted great bones and loads of woodsy cabin appeal—but it also needed some serious updates, from opening up the blocked-off kitchen to massaging the tired navy and white nautical theme. Who did the clients turn to for their fairy-tale ending? Chicago-based Brianne Bishop Design, with whom they'd worked in the past and who they knew would help them transform the place into the second home of their dreams. As for Bishop, she was all in. "We were thrilled about the idea of getting lost in the woods on a lake," notes the designer. "Of course there were challenges of taking on such a large remodeling project, out of state, during a pandemic, but we found we really enjoyed the opportunity to be a bit more rural during a time of such uncertainty."



From left: The kids' bath features McCarren double sconces by Circa Lighting and a Radke vanity by Signature Hardware; boasting an inviting array of hard and soft textures (not to mention a showstopping hearth), the roomy living area is the social center of the home.



## The Priority

Opening up the closed-up space was key, which Bishop's team executed with RG Green Builder by removing two walls dividing the kitchen and adding a large island. "The home has beautiful full-height windows overlooking the lake, and opening up the floor plan allowed for these views to be seen from the entire main level," notes Bishop. In addition, Bishop put the kibosh on the navy and white, which didn't work against the warmth of the wood and the stones throughout the home. "It was a bit of a push on our end to get the client to agree to a warmer, richer color palette of cream, olive green and peach (with the negotiation of a light, ethereal pale-blue primary suite)." The project also included remodeling all four bathrooms, all new finishes and fixtures throughout, as well as furnishings and window treatments—all buttoned up by the following summer at the request of the client. "We were all nervous about lead times and construction costs going up," admits the designer, "but, luckily, we were able to execute the project before any significant delays. Construction wrapped up by the new year and we were able to shift gears to furnishings and still have everything completed by summer 2021."







## The Challenge

“Most of our projects during 2020 were out of state, and, luckily, we were able to adapt to remote designing and project managing,” says Bishop. “This project being only two hours from the city was just far enough to not be able to pop in easily but also close enough to do site visits often. We still tried to keep this to a minimum to keep all safe.”

## The Detail

Explains Bishop, “One goal early on was to not have exposed drywall anywhere that the ceiling was original cedar. With a combination of materials, from wood board to grass cloth to reclaimed barn wood, we were able to achieve this and the impact creates the coziest wooden home. Opening up the floor plan really transformed the space, and we always

Walls painted in Benjamin Moore's Knoxville Gray pop against mustard accents in the children's room. Opposite page: At the client's request, the primary bedroom was done in an ethereal pale blue, capturing the room's airiness and contrasting impactfully with the darker tones of much of the home.



“The home has beautiful full-height windows overlooking the lake, and opening up the floor plan allowed for these views to be seen from the entire main level.”

—Brianne Bishop

have to incorporate a found item in every project... and this one is the salvaged barn door in the basement closing off the beautiful laundry room we added in.”

## The Outcome

Mission accomplished, says Bishop. “We had worked with this client before, on their Deerfield home, and they are simply the best—very trusting and willing to go outside their comfort zone. They are in love with their new lake house, and it’s fairly unanimous that the basement is a favorite, especially among their teenage kids.” ■



## DESIGN DETAILS

The home sits nestled comfortably among the sylvan lakeside surroundings.

### TYPE

Single-family home

### LOCATION

Mukwonago, Wis.

### CONTRACTOR & PAINTERS

RG Green Builder  
773.934.1296

### INTERIOR DESIGN

Brianne Bishop Design  
briannebishopdesign.com

### LANDSCAPER

Envirocon  
envirocon.us

### MILLWORK

Hogan Millwork  
708.646.6575

## RESOURCES

### CAI DESIGNS

Dining room Palecek lighting  
caidesigns.net

### CIRCA LIGHTING

Kids bath lighting  
circalighting.com

### THE FINE LINE

Various tile  
finelinetile.com

### FOUR HANDS

Various furniture  
fourhands.com

### HOME CARPET ONE

Upstairs and downstairs carpet  
homecarpetone.com

### INTERIOR DEFINE

Living room sofa  
interiordefine.com

### LIGHTOLOGY

Kitchen pendants and  
primary bath lighting  
lightology.com

### ROMO

Various window coverings  
romo.com

### STUDIO41

Brizo kitchen and bath fixtures  
shopstudio41.com

### THE URBAN ELECTRIC CO.

Powder room and stair lighting  
urbanelectric.com

### ZIRLIN INTERIORS

Various window coverings  
zirlininteriorsinc.com



# FACES OF design

MODERN LUXURY SPOTLIGHT

## Brianne Bishop Principal

### THE AWARD-WINNING

rooms on display here feature custom furniture, hand-painted walls, vintage pieces and unique accents. They're each representative of Bishop's favorite type of client, one who fully entrusts her with their space and is willing to take risks.



### BRIANNE BISHOP DESIGN

Brianne Bishop brings a well-rounded perspective to high-end residential and commercial interior design. She founded her eponymous firm in 2010. "Being architecturally trained, we love to honor the history of a building," she says, "and my construction background allows us to also project manage."

2256 W. GRAND AVENUE, CHICAGO  
312.243.4930  
BRIANNEBISHOPDESIGN.COM  
BRIANNE@BRIANNEBISHOPDESIGN.COM

Photography By Anthony Tahler and James Gustin/Figma

Brianne Bishop is proof that true success is a melding of your experiences, passions and areas of expertise—and for her, it goes as far back as grade school. "I have been working toward becoming an interior designer since second grade," she says. "I knew this is what I was meant to do. Earning my fine arts degree for the design education; a business management degree to run my own firm; and traveling all over Europe, including studying in London, to see architecture and design history firsthand is what molded me to where I am today."

Now she's a dozen years into running her own eponymous design studio, which does everything from gut remodels to interior furnishings. "We love designing livable spaces that can hold up to an active family lifestyle—though not necessarily

appear that way," Bishop says of her team. "Our designs are edgy and bespoke; we focus on texture and scale to bring interest to a space." Currently, she's loving the postmodern revival. "We incorporate this trend in art and accessories, and an accent chair here and there," she says. "We are also welcoming brown and warm tones back with open arms, and texture is having a moment."

Bishop leaves her ego at the door when starting a new project; she's there to serve her clients, many of whom are return customers. Her best advice? "Take your time with design," she says. "Live in a home before making major decisions; wait for what is right."