

Nautical by Nature

SWAN ARCHITECTURE INFUSES A CEDAR
POINT RESIDENCE WITH SCENIC WHIMSY.

BY MARGUERITE HAPPE





Any Northerner knows that Minnesota's many lakes make for an abundance of waterfront homes with striking views. But when architect Andrea Swan walked the perimeter of this property on Wayzata Bay's Cedar Point, she knew the peninsula was undeniably distinctive.

"I fell in love with the lot instantly," she says. "Because it extends into Wayzata Bay, the clients wanted to maximize the 360-degree views of Lake Minnetonka. The peninsula is long and linear, so I knew that the residence would be highly visible from every angle. Our objective was to craft a home with as much glass — and therefore as many scenic vantage points — as possible, but it was also crucial that we retained the clients' privacy."

Swan aimed to preserve the timeless ethos of a Shingle-style home while infusing it with her trademark subtle detailing. As such, the abode reads as a master class in tasteful nautical style — think luxe Chris-Craft textures, custom tiling and mother-of-pearl finishes. For the exterior shingles, Swan worked with Streeter & Associates to integrate a variety of exposures, shapes and patterns. Inside, the fireplace's exquisite custom mosaic echoes this aesthetic.

The residence features unexpected elements that inspire and delight. For the stairway railings, artisan Carter Averbeck employed a unique rope detailing to continue the nautical theme. The master suite has hidden-access doors to a safe room, which in turn leads outside for a quick getaway. The main-level bathroom is centered around a luxurious hot tub with water sources spiraling down from the ceiling. And mirrors placed in front of windows swivel and glide on tracks, a detail designed by Swan, to reveal lake views when not in use.

The clients longed for a prominent wraparound deck, a logical desire for a property with such incredible vistas and a grade that naturally dips on two sides. The close proximity to the lake allowed Swan to map that vision onto the main level rather than the lower level. "In fact, the main level can be completely navigated via the deck," she adds. "It feels as if you're in the most beautiful cruise ship you've ever experienced. When you're in the home, you cannot even see land. It truly seems as if you're out cruising out on Lake Minnetonka."

The synthesis of scenery, style and whimsy resulted in one of Swan's most stunning residential projects to date. The clients worked closely with her throughout the process, noting that she "shifted from architect to project manager to confidant and friend. Every important decision we made was as a team to ensure that the end product was spectacular — which it is." ●