



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE HENKE

# Contemporary Classic

A sumptuously livable lake retreat blends the modern with the traditional.

BY CAROLYN CROOKE

**T**he Streeter home on Lake Minnetonka mixes traditional lake-home elements and modernist aesthetics. These elements fuse so seamlessly, the home defies categorization.

That's part of its genius.

Architect Kurt Baum of Kurt Baum & Associates, interior designer Alecia Stevens, and homeowners Robin Wettengel and Steven Streeter of Streeter & Associates (the builder on the project) collaborated early in the planning process.

The vision was for a classic lake home with a refined feel, infused with strong contemporary elements. "Tremendous thought went into every detail here," notes Baum. "I drew and drew and drew. You draw it, feel it and live it before it gets built."

He points out the steeple roof, shiplap siding, traditional joinery and abundance of natural material as classic features. Yet the clean, sleek lines — on the banks of windows and the millwork, for example — are quintessentially modern.

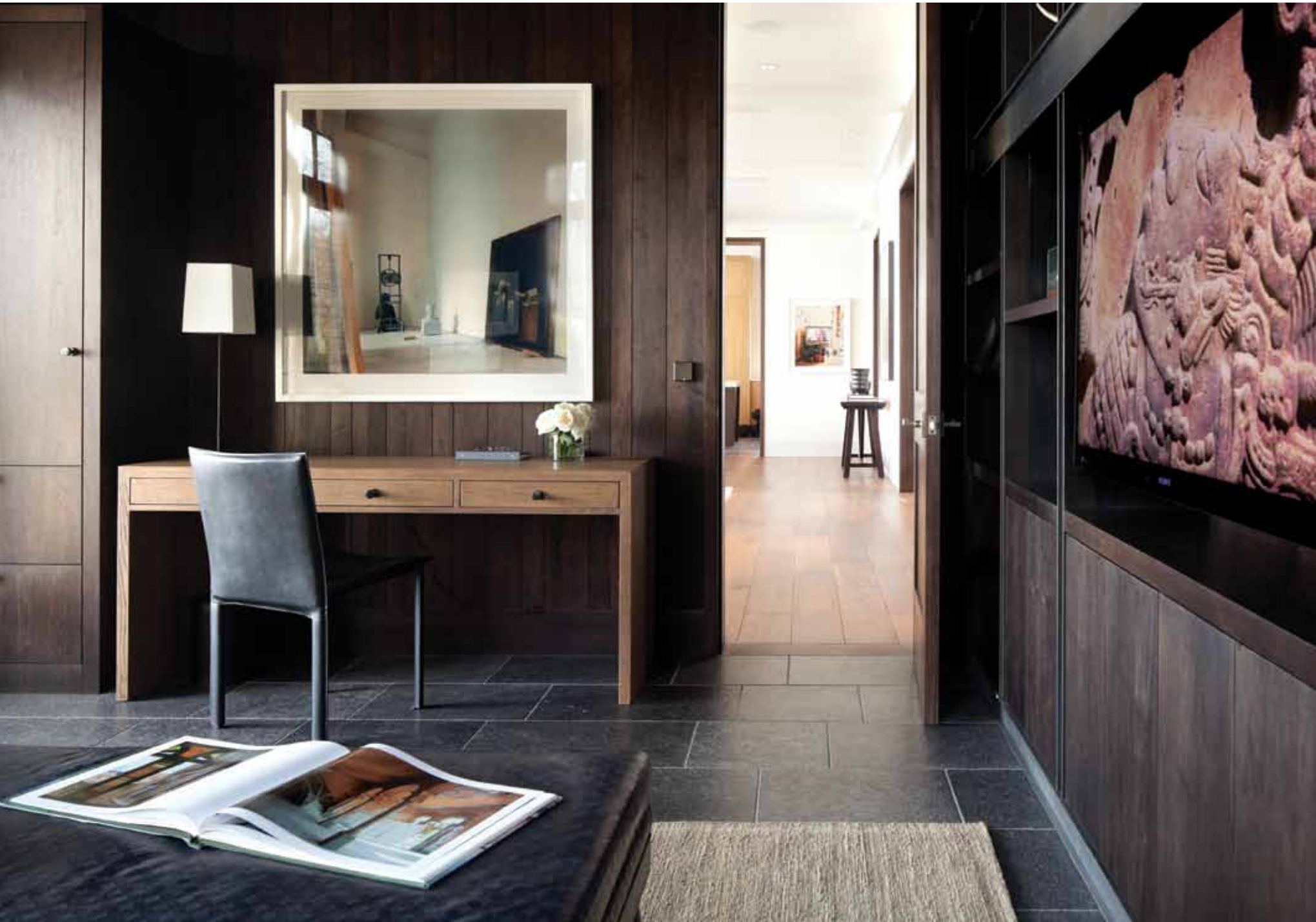
With its straightforward lines and crisp forms, contemporary architecture can give the impression of simplicity; however, it's

considered one of the most difficult and challenging styles, demanding highly skilled craftspeople. "It's quite complex to build these homes," notes Streeter, whose firm is known for its high-end contemporary work. "If you're going to attempt to blend modern architecture with traditional or transitional styles, you must have strength in modern architecture."

A big part of the magic is created through the finishes selected in collaboration with the entire team. "Everything you touch or see is sensual," says Stevens. She points to the walnut floor, with its hand-

---

**kitchen confidential** The striking blend of marble with light and dark wood feels at once classic and contemporary. Note the butler pantry around the corner — the perfect place to tuck away dirty dishes and conceal messy prep work while entertaining.



**refined retreat** The study features a handsome built-in bookcase of hand-rubbed steel and stained walnut alongside walls of stained walnut. The 7-foot-6-inch doors add a sense of stately proportion.

scraped boards and soft, whitewashed finish, and the matte plaster walls (they're troweled with marble dust, courtesy of Darril Otto of Otto Painting Design). "All stone on the first level is honed," she adds, "which creates a soft yet substantial effect."

Textures and furnishings continue the narrative. The home is full of strong lines and right angles, signature of the modern aesthetic. But if you look carefully, you can see the occasional natural, rounded or organic form. "It keeps the home interesting," explains Stevens. "If everything is exactly the same, the effect is contrived."

The roomy kitchen features a generous marble island with oversized industrial lights. And off to the side, just beyond the sink, is the butler pantry — the perfect solution for homeowners who love an open kitchen to entertain in, but not to showcase dirty dishes and cooking chaos. "Open

living has become very popular," comments Streeeter. "But what we're seeing more and more is the idea of a partition, directing the eye away from the kitchen counter to a view of a beautiful bar area, a nearby art collection, wine wall or an amazing lake view. That way you can entertain and enjoy your guests and conversation without noise or distractions. Outdoor spaces, designed by landscape architect Travis Van Liere, feature tall grasses, hardy perennials, stone fireplace, and tree-lined pathways, picking up the clean symmetry of the home. The lush green lawn ends at a wall, the perfect coda for the home's architectural mood. **AL**

*This home will be part of the AIA Homes by Architects Tour, which takes place September 21-22. Visit [homesbyarchitects.org](http://homesbyarchitects.org) for details.*

**delightful décor** Steven Streeeter and designer Alecia Stevens designer Alecia Stevens mixed bold, modernist furnishings — including a number of Jean-Michel Frank pieces from Ecart in Paris — with luxurious textures and the occasional organic form. "I wanted the home to feel like a feast for the senses," she explains.