

Made TO Order

BY Lee Ann Sandweiss PHOTOGRAPHY BY Shannon Zahnle

Natural light bathes the interior of the Woods' home.



IN

a perfect world, we would all live in our dream homes with every space and detail exactly the way we wanted them. The houses featured in this year's Homes & Gardens issue were made or remade to do just that — to accommodate the specific needs and desires of their inhabitants.

A young couple who love rural life built a modern farmhouse with special emphasis on the current and future needs of their growing family. A retired couple converted a small,

1950s ranch near Bryan Park into a hacienda-inspired abode. An interior designer transformed a house of moribund design to suit her own (and her husband's) contemporary taste and to better blend into an established upscale neighborhood. And, instead of downsizing, a couple of empty nesters expanded their home to accommodate their varied interests and to host large family gatherings.

Made to order, each of these homes is truly unique.



The Woods' design aesthetic is an updated take on the classic farmhouse.

Loren and Lindsay designed their home to be family friendly. (l-r) Loren; Roux, 3; and Lindsay holding Georgia, 4 months.



A Postmodern Farmhouse

Loren Wood builds dream houses for other people, but two years ago he and his wife, Lindsay, broke ground on their own dream home in the woods of eastern Monroe County.

"This was the opportunity to build exactly what we wanted and to incorporate design elements that were important to us. This is not something that you can ever do to the fullest extent when you are helping someone else realize their own vision," explains Loren, 37, who was a high school math teacher before starting his company, Loren Wood Builders, in 2010. He began construction on his own home in May 2012, working with his crew between other jobs. He did much of the carpentry himself and finished about a year later.

"I would say that our kids and pets dictated location more than anything," says Lindsay, 35, who practiced law before choosing to stay at home with son Roux, 3; daughter Georgia, 4 months; and dogs Kit and Harvey, both shepherd-mix rescues. "We wanted to build in a place where we were all very connected to the outdoors. On our little farm, kids and dogs both can have the run of the land."



The laundry room features a built-in sleeping cubby for the family dog, Kit, a 14-year-old German shepherd-Labrador retriever mix, and a pull-out tray that holds food and water bowls.

'We definitely did some intentional DESIGN around the dogs — their sleeping cubby, food station, multiple mudrooms.' —LINDSAY WOOD

The Woods' 3,600-square-foot home is an updated take on the traditional farmhouse. Designed by architect Ernesto Castañeda, founder of Bloomington Office of Design + Architecture, it is a solid, assertive structure on the landscape, with steep gabled roofs. The interior is contemporary, with abundant natural light, an open floor plan, and a floating central staircase. The house has four bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, and spaces designed for rural living with pets and children.

Says Lindsay, "We definitely did some intentional design around the dogs — their sleeping cubby, food station, mul-

tiple mudrooms. Actually the mudroom is designed with the little kids in mind, too, as is the outdoor shower. Living rurally, it's important to take those muddy boots and paws into account. The main floor is intended to be open and communal so that we all interact as a family. Thus far it's been very effective at facilitating that kind of interaction."

The Woods were as deliberate about using energy-efficient components and natural building materials as they were about family-friendly design.

"The house is LEED certified at the gold level. Commercial Service of Bloomington, Mann Plumbing, and The Lone Wolf



1. The kitchen features countertops of local limestone, a raw-steel oven hood, and open upper shelving instead of cabinets.

2. A wide floating staircase connects the house's lower and upper levels.

3. Lindsay and the kids hang out in the master bedroom.

4. Roux's bedroom has an African wildlife theme. Lindsay applied the stencil silhouettes to the dresser.



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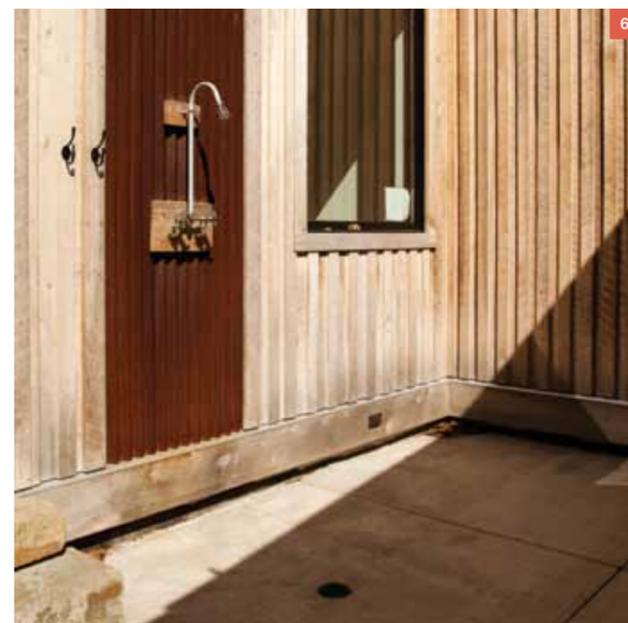
Electric Company were instrumental in navigating the certification process," says Loren. LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. "Inside, we tried to use organic, earthy materials that really felt close to their natural state. The handmade cement tile, the limestone fireplace and countertops, the cedar porch, and even the fixtures, were all chosen for their texture and depth."



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5. The master bath shower has a cedar-planked floor and glass enclosure extending into the ceiling and wall tile to give it a seamless look.

6. An outdoor shower is ideal for cleaning muddy little feet and paws.



A '50s Ranch Reinvented Near Bryan Park

Becky and Al Jacquay gave architect Barre Klapper a wish list with a lot of action verbs when they asked her to redesign their 1955 ranch: change, break, raise, make, and switch. When the project was finished, all of those things had happened, and the results were transformative.

The Fort Wayne, Indiana, couple had owned and rented out the house on East Southdowns Drive since 1998, along with several other Bloomington rental properties. The house was a typical, nondescript post-war ranch, but its location was golden — just steps from Bryan Park. The Jacquays always knew it would be their retirement home. They loved Bloomington, and their family had spent many summers here. Plus, Becky and five of the couple's six children had gone to Indiana University.

"We were attached to the house and loved the location," says Al, a retired art teacher and former president of the Fort Wayne Education Association. "Plus we had done a lot of work on it ourselves, but the house had a couple of problems that we couldn't resolve."

The Jacquays asked Klapper, then with Kirkwood Design Studio, to help solve two problems. "We wondered how we could incorporate a porch on the front of the house so we could enjoy the different energies of all the people walking to and from Bryan Park, and how we could get a different look in the front of the long low horizontal house," recalls Becky.

'We had done a lot of WORK on it ourselves, but the house had a couple of problems that we couldn't resolve.' —AL JACQUAY



1. The Jacquays' reinvented ranch has a hacienda vibe and a new front porch with pergola.

2. The kitchen features an antique stained glass window, quartz countertops, and cherry cabinets by B.A. Everroad Woodworking of Columbus, Indiana.

3. Raising the ceilings and adding wall cabinetry and shelving were on the Jacquays' remodeling list.

4. Becky and Al Jacquay have ample room in their reinvented ranch for their three English bulldogs (l-r: Opal, Myrtle, and Queso) and visiting family.

In late 2012, the Jacquays secured a variance they needed to add a 10-foot porch to the front of the house, and Klapper began to finalize the construction drawings. In early 2013, the couple interviewed several contractors and hired Steve Percy of Sierra Remodeling, who guaranteed that the work would be done by October 2013 and agreed that the Jacquays could help with the demolition.

Every weekend from late February through June, Becky and Al made the 350-mile round trip drive from Fort Wayne to remove the house's limestone facing and parts of its interior. By Memorial Day the



BEFORE The original façade of the Jacquays' 1955 ranch was typical of houses in their neighborhood near Bryan Park.



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new porch and steps were in place, and by late June most inside walls, drywall, and paneling had been removed.

Sierra Construction did most of the work on the Jacquays' long wish list in July, August, and September. Their tasks included raising the pitch of the roof in different spots, adding a vaulted ceiling to the interior, and reconfiguring the original floor plan for new living and dining rooms and a master suite. Klapper's design only added 240 square feet for the porch to the original footprint, but the house is completely unrecognizable from its drab predecessor.

"I don't think the house fits into any particular architectural style," Klapper says. "It has a bit of Southwestern feeling, owing to the trellis and the earth tones of the new stone base and light-colored orange synthetic stucco walls."

The Jacquays, who made 29 weekend trips to Bloomington during the project, are thrilled with the results and look forward to finally settling in Bloomington and savoring the synergy of Bryan Park from their front porch.

5. The new front porch functions as an outdoor room from which the Jacquays can observe the activity around nearby Bryan Park.

6. The master bedroom features a new vaulted ceiling.

7. Multicolored slate replaced limestone around the fireplace, which was originally wood-burning but is now retrofitted for gas-burning logs. Transom doors were added and the original wood floor was replaced with new oak flooring.



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BEFORE Prior to the remodel (pictured left), the fireplace room was cramped and uninviting.

Bringing a Great House Back to Life



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Lisa and Jeff Smith have owned eight houses during their marriage, but the one they found in Bloomington's Woodcrest neighborhood in July 2011 is very special.

"The Woodcrest district is a hidden gem right in the heart of the east-side shopping area. The homes are still some of the most beautiful in town, and I wanted to create something special to reflect the timeless character of the neighborhood," says Lisa, who grew up in Bedford and owns Lisa Smith Interiors.

When they purchased the house, Lisa already had a vision for the 1978 four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath contemporary structure. To her designer's eye, it was dated, inside and out, and needed to be refreshed.

The renovation began in September 2011 and took seven months. "There was a running contest throughout the remodel to see if there was anything we



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1. Originally a 1970s contemporary, the Smiths' house is now classic Colonial style.

2. The Smiths expanded the kitchen by eliminating a half bath and utility area.*



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would leave untouched," recalls Jeff, a Bloomington native and owner of Third Street Car Wash.

Says Lisa, "The first order of business was to bring the exterior back to life. The façade was a popular 1970s treatment — a two-toned combination of red brick on the first story and tan siding on the second. Ultimately we chose the classic Colonial look because it was friendly and welcoming."

The exterior's facelift included the addition of brick to the second story, gabled rooflines, a copper roof, columns, a new front porch, and an enclosed breezeway. "The icing



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3. Bold patterns in the draperies and area rug pop against a predominately natural interior palette. Lisa Smith enjoys incorporating antiques such as the secretary with modern furnishings.*

4. "Ultimately, everything got a new floor, finish, or facelift," Lisa says. The most dramatic changes were new windows and doors.*

5. Jeff and Lisa Smith have owned and remodeled eight houses.

**photos by Jane Daniels photography*

'There was a RUNNING CONTEST throughout the remodel to see if there was anything we would leave untouched.' —JEFF SMITH

on this cake was the white paint, top to bottom and all around. It brought the old and new together and gave it a pretty, new face. I always quip that I've never met a brick I didn't want to paint!" Lisa laughs.

Approximately 4,000 square feet of existing interior space was reconfigured to enlarge the rooms that mattered to the Smiths. They expanded the kitchen by eliminating a powder room and utility area. In the master suite, they downsized the huge bedroom and used the space to create a new walk-in closet with ample his-and-hers storage and a washer/dryer set, and a larger bathroom with a double vanity and walk-in shower.

The Smiths also finished the basement, which now includes Lisa's studio/office and a full bath. "We added a large window to let in light, and to give the space some personality, and

we added even more brick veneer. I tried to leave it unpainted, but gave in within two weeks and painted it white," confesses Lisa. "The biggest kick came from painting the concrete floor white! It brightens the whole space and completes the warehouse studio look."

The lower level, like the rest of the interior, is an eclectic blend of traditional and contemporary elements in a neutral palette that both Lisa and Jeff favor.

"I guess we are just very lucky that our taste and design appreciation are very much the same. We both like simple but clean and classic looks," says Jeff. "I love how the house turned out, because it has the feel of a 2014 home but with the cozy and comfortable feeling that you have lived there your entire life."



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6. The Smiths transformed a room with dark paneling and beams into a warm and inviting family room filled with transitional furniture and contemporary art.

7. Originally oversized, the master bedroom suite was reconfigured to expand the bath and closet.

8. The Smiths closed in the breezeway connecting the house to the garage with an Adoni black slate tile floor.

9. Lisa's favorite room is this powder room with hand-painted wallpaper and an Italian commode cabinet that holds a Carrera marble bowl.

10. A large window was added to Lisa's lower level studio to let in light. The concrete floor was painted white to brighten the whole space.

Photos by Jane Daniels photography



'Before the renovation I could touch BOTH WALLS when I stood in the middle of the kitchen.'

—NAN STAGER



A Home that Keeps on Growing

The old saying, “A place for everything and everything in its place,” perfectly describes Nan and Joel Stager’s home. With each of the house’s renovations, the Stagers added an appropriate place for some aspect of their expansive lifestyle, from antique cars to Barbies.

When Joel, an exercise physiologist at Indiana University and director of the Counselman Center for the Science of Swimming, bought the 8-year-old Dutch Colonial in 1986, it had no garage — a condition that the antique car collector soon rectified. Nan, who says she “married into” the house in 1998, helped Joel conceive of the first major remodeling project. They hired Bert Gilbert, owner of Gilbert Construction, to redo two of the house’s three bathrooms and add dormers to admit more sunlight into the upstairs bedrooms.

In 2010, the Stagers wanted a bigger house and again turned to Gilbert. The ambitious project included expanding the kitchen and deck and adding a



1. The Stagers almost doubled the square footage of their home to accommodate large gatherings of their combined families. The basement renovation provided Joel with a man cave to work on his 1948 MG TC and practice guitar.

2. The Stagers expanded their home in two major renovations. A mishap with a backhoe during the second project initiated the creation of Joel’s lower-level retreat with its car-sized entrance.

3. Joel and Nan’s philosophy for expanding their home was “If you build it they will come,” referring to the four adult children and six grandchildren they have between them. A large kitchen was a top priority.

4. Solidity and comfort are the hallmark qualities of the Stager home’s interior. The coffee table is a repurposed Lineberry factory cart that came out of a tobacco company in North Carolina.



great room, doubling the house's size from 1,500 to 3,000 square feet.

"We wanted to make our kitchen larger and more functional. Before [the renovation] I could touch both walls when I stood in the middle of the kitchen," explains Nan, who is director of the undergraduate programs and senior lecturer for the School of Public & Environmental Affairs at IU. "We now have a dining room that allows us to host large gatherings, which we couldn't do in our old house."

Adds Joel, "We wanted more space for our combined families to come and stay and be comfortable. With four kids and spouses and six grandchildren, large gatherings pretty much describe each family holiday!"

The square footage was partially increased as the result of what turned out to be a fortuitous accident. "Within the first 45 minutes of the project starting, a backhoe ran into our septic system, and they had to dig out the tank. As a result, we now have a basement instead of a crawl space. And to get the block for the basement the crew dug an entrance instead of steps. I figured, why not put in a door large enough to fit a car

through while we're at it," Joel recalls.

The basement is now the ultimate man cave where Joel currently is working on a 1948 MG TC, one of six antique vehicles he owns, and where he practices playing guitar. He used salvaged bricks from a factory in Louisville, Kentucky, and lumber from poplar trees cut down on his property for the multipurpose basement. "It all makes for a great space and even better acoustics. I'm all about old bricks and wood," he says.

During the renovations, the Stagers incorporated exacting details that mattered to them, such as the locally harvested and milled red-oak flooring installed by John Cantwell, indirect lighting, and Arts and Crafts-inspired inlays in the custom cabinetry by Mark and Michelle Hewins. Odd spaces were made useful and significant, such as the area under the staircase that became a play nook for their granddaughters and their Barbies.

Except for landscaping and some minor work on the garage, Nan says they consider themselves finished with home renovation projects. "For now," Joel whispers. ✨



5. The Stagers said buh-bye to a cramped kitchen where Nan once could hold out her arms and touch both walls.

6. Their dining room is now large enough for parties and large family gatherings.

7. The Stagers' first major remodeling project added dormers to admit more light to upstairs bedrooms.



8. The fireplace mantle, in what the Stagers call "the greeting room," was salvaged from an old house in Bedford.

9. A light-filled nook in the guest room invites study or online relaxation.

10. Nan and Joel found inspiration in Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in Chicago, displayed in this book.