

GLENNWOOD CUSTOM BUILDERS  
AMDG ARCHITECTS

# Crafted and Curated for the Ages

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REGIONAL FEATURE | Glennwood Custom Builders | AMDG Architects

Inspired by the architecture of Honfleur, France, a city dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century located in the Normandy region, the homeowners had a clear vision for their exclusive Bay Harbor residence. From the grand entrance to the wine cellar, the 12,000-square-foot home has three levels, four bedrooms, four full baths, two powder rooms and is a marriage of old-world with the natural world.

"I was vacationing in Honfleur in November 2014 and kept a photo I took of a home all this time on my feed," the wife says. "I so loved it."

After exploring Harbor Springs — the home of a dear friend — and Bay Harbor, the couple found the perfect 2.3-acre property with 200 feet of Lake Michigan frontage and decided to build a second home that would provide relief from the summer heat of their primary residence.

Stone and Fireplaces - EMMET BRICK & BLOCK  
Custom Hardwood Floors - SURFACES | HEIRLOOM HARDWOOD FLOORING



Emerging organically through meetings and conversations, the team of Glenwood Custom Builders in Petoskey, Grand Rapids-based AMDG Architects collaborated with the homeowners through the details of this complex and expansive home, meeting remotely during COVID-19.

"The process was very iterative, we moved from organizational ideas to early three-dimensional ideas of how the home is sited, how it rolls down to the water's edge, and to determine how we could orient the home for the best views," Brent Dykstra, AMDG senior architect says. "Then we moved to the roof lines. We did stylistically end up very close to the Honfleur photo."

Dykstra says the team had to pay particular attention to be sure they built on the consolidated rock made of limestone bedrock. From both the beach and aerial views of the property, you can see the limestone jutting out into the depths of Lake Michigan well beyond the shoreline.

Only one hitch was mentioned in the building process — excavators discovered the original foundation from a home that had burned years ago on the site. As the previous foundation was removed, many of the pre-existing large limestone steps and boulders around the property were reclaimed and used in and around the home.

The approach to the home begins with a motor court masterfully laid in a herringbone pattern and crafted by Drost Landscape of Petoskey, who also executed the landscape of the entire property including the water feature and 12-person hot tub. As part of the water feature, a bronze eagle grasps a salmon — one of many



Building Materials - PRESTON FEATHER  
 Windows and Doors - OLD MISSION WINDOWS  
 Slate Roofing - BUTCHER & BUTCHER  
 Landscape, Hardscape, Driveway, Stone Veneer - DROST LANDSCAPE  
 Gutter System - RAINBOW SEAMLESS



ways the homeowners honor "Larry," the resident bald eagle of the property that watched over construction from a nearby pine tree.

"Vermont slate roofing with copper flashing and chimney pots, Corinthian granite, limestone headers, lintels and sills, and the roofline along with AZEK board and batten siding and highly skilled masonry capture the overall French Normandy style of the home," Chess Ingram, director of project management for Glenwood Custom Builders says. "And AMDG really captured the homeowners' vision."

The wife says, "The entire roof of the home is slate and I had the corners of the slate clipped so it would look European. We told Glenwood what we wanted, and they found the craftspeople to do it."

Both Ingram and Dykstra speak highly of the design talent, clear vision and organizational skills of the homeowners. Part of their vision was thinking about the weather and how it may affect the home over decades.

"The construction of the home includes steel moment frames — rigid steel frames to accommodate the significant proportion of glass openings on the lake elevation and to resist the lateral loading of Lake Michigan winds," Dykstra says. "Very early on the homeowners expressed a desire for snow guards to be sure sliding ice and snow from the roof don't destroy the landscaping."



Cabinetry-Built-ins and Furniture - STILLWATER CUSTOM CABINETRY  
Labrodrite Granite Arch Niches, Desk and Tabletop,  
Fireplace Surround & Hearth - CAPITAL GRANITE



Kitchen Cabinetry Design - KITCHENS BY DESIGN  
Blown Glass Lighting - VIZ ART GLASS  
Tile - CAPITAL FLOOR COVERING





As the home progressed, the wife lived onsite in the 1,500-square-foot apartment located over the three-car garage. "I wanted an ensuite to live in and be onsite for the contractors," the wife says. "It's so much better to live onsite during construction. I used Holly Hunt acoustical wallpaper and it really helped with the noise."

Light fills the home through Kolbe windows and doors. The flooring throughout is a combination of custom oak from Northern Michigan and vintage limestone sourced from European cathedrals and convents. The home uses radiant heating for maximum efficiency and dust reduction, and no ceiling is less than 11 feet tall — Ingram says they go up from there.

The main floor comprises the arrivals area, powder room, expansive kitchen and dining areas, great room, television room, master suite and office with pickled walnut paneling. The upper level has two ensuite bedrooms and an upper television loft as a space for guests to gather. The lower level includes a 1,500-square-foot state-of-the-art woodshop, recreation room with a bar, wine cellar, powder room, Pilates and hot yoga room, weightroom, spa with a steam shower, dry sauna and regular shower and the entrance to the outdoor hot tub.

Outside, there's a canine campus for the numerous Siberian huskies the couple raises complete with 8 foot iron fencing, custom built dog houses and cooling fans to keep the canine family members cool in the summer. "The dogs deserve to live as nicely as we do," the wife says.

The stunning arrivals area includes vintage limestone flooring and a 12-foot Venetian chandelier. The homeowners flew the chandelier's Italian glassblower to the home





to install it himself. The wife traveled to Rajasthan, India to select hand-knotted oriental rugs woven to exact measurements for each room throughout the home.

"She thoughtfully designed the interiors with inspiration from the natural world," Dykstra says. "I think she's very talented and the interior design reinforced the natural world theme. The interior architecture provides opportunities to showcase her art and artifacts and Glenwood executed with a high level of precision and attention to detail."

Over the four years to complete the home, the homeowner traveled to New Zealand, Thailand, Italy, France, India, Iceland, Belgium, Argentina and Mexico to source materials and art for the home. "I did not use an interior designer — I did it all myself," the wife says.

The great room with a 26-foot coffered ceiling and sweeping views of the lake includes a custom-built wood-burning Rumford fireplace made of Corinthian granite with limestone surround and mantle. Throughout the home there are two gas and three wood-burning Rumford fireplaces.



The interior architecture provides opportunities to showcase the homeowner's art and artifacts



Kitchen cabinetry is Amish-made in Ohio where the homeowners flew Glennwood carpenters to tour the Schlabach Wood Design facility while the cabinets were being crafted. More than 70 slabs of quartzite are featured in full height slab walls in every shower and for all of the home's countertops including in the kitchen. The wife says her husband does all the cooking and four dishwashers make cleanup easier — no handwashing. Toe kick lighting is also used in the kitchen and bathrooms to enhance the ambiance of the areas as well as provide night lighting. The kitchen island and dining lighting, reminiscent of the work of world-renown artist Dale Chihuly, is what the wife says is "the look for less" by VIZ Glass.

Custom-fabricated labradorite with its mesmerizing sheen of iridescent colors was used for the office desk, fireplace surround and mantle. The semi-precious stone also holds commissioned sculptures emulating the form of the COVID-19 virus in several niches.

"We actually built a cave that is a naturally conditioned wine cellar with a natural limestone floor and granite stone walls," Ingram says. "It's deep enough below the earth to maintain a certain temperature and humidity for the wine."

Adjacent to the wine cellar is a recreation room with a counter and backsplash made of calcium carbonate shale, sourced from a private quarry in Southwestern Wyoming. The fish and other creatures embedded in the stone are 50 million years old fossils from a tropical freshwater lake.

"Everything is unusual here and out of the norm for Northern Michigan," the wife says. "We travel a lot for the business — we can see things from all over the world and have people who can help with shipping."

The exquisite accouterments of fossils, semi-precious stone, hand-glazed moulding, handwrought railings and cellar door insets, unique artisanal lighting and carefully curated art complement the expansiveness of the space and the ever-changing hues of nature streaming through the immense windows.

"Choose the right architect who can design your vision, and the right builder to build it for you — it's all about the team who will pull it off," Ingram says. "This was a collaborative team effort between the homeowners, the AMDG Architects team and the Glenwood Custom Builders team and that's what made the project so enjoyable and the home so beautiful and high quality." □



Full Slab Quartzite - PETOSKEY GRANITE & QUARTZ

