

NORTHERN MICHIGAN
HOME



GLENNWOOD CUSTOM BUILDERS

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A Piece of Heaven

ON LAKE CHARLEVOIX

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PHOTOS | MIKE GULLON, PHOENIX PHOTOGRAPHIC

REGIONAL FEATURE | Glennwood Custom Builders

For many years, Jeff Collins, president and founder of Glennwood Custom Builders, and his family spent weekends at a quaint retreat on Lake Charlevoix. Once a tool shed for several cabins across neighboring properties, the 1.5-acre estate now includes a Lakeside Mountain Modern home and guesthouse designed for both a private retreat and entertaining large gatherings.



The home balances 5,000 square feet of exceptional livability with walls of glass that envelop the home in the northern Michigan landscape and shimmering blue-green water of Lake Charlevoix. The main residence has two stories with four bedrooms and 4.5 baths. The guesthouse/toy barn, located at the back of the property, is a single-story barndominium with a large garage area, three bedrooms, large bath, kitchen, living room and spacious gym.

"We built a lot of Mountain Modern homes in the Lake Tahoe region," Jeff says. "When you are in those houses, you just feel so connected to nature with all the glass."

Both Jeff and his wife, Melody, say they spend every spare minute they have outside just playing and enjoying the surroundings. Jeff says he's a motorhead, avid hunter and he and Melody especially enjoy big water boating.

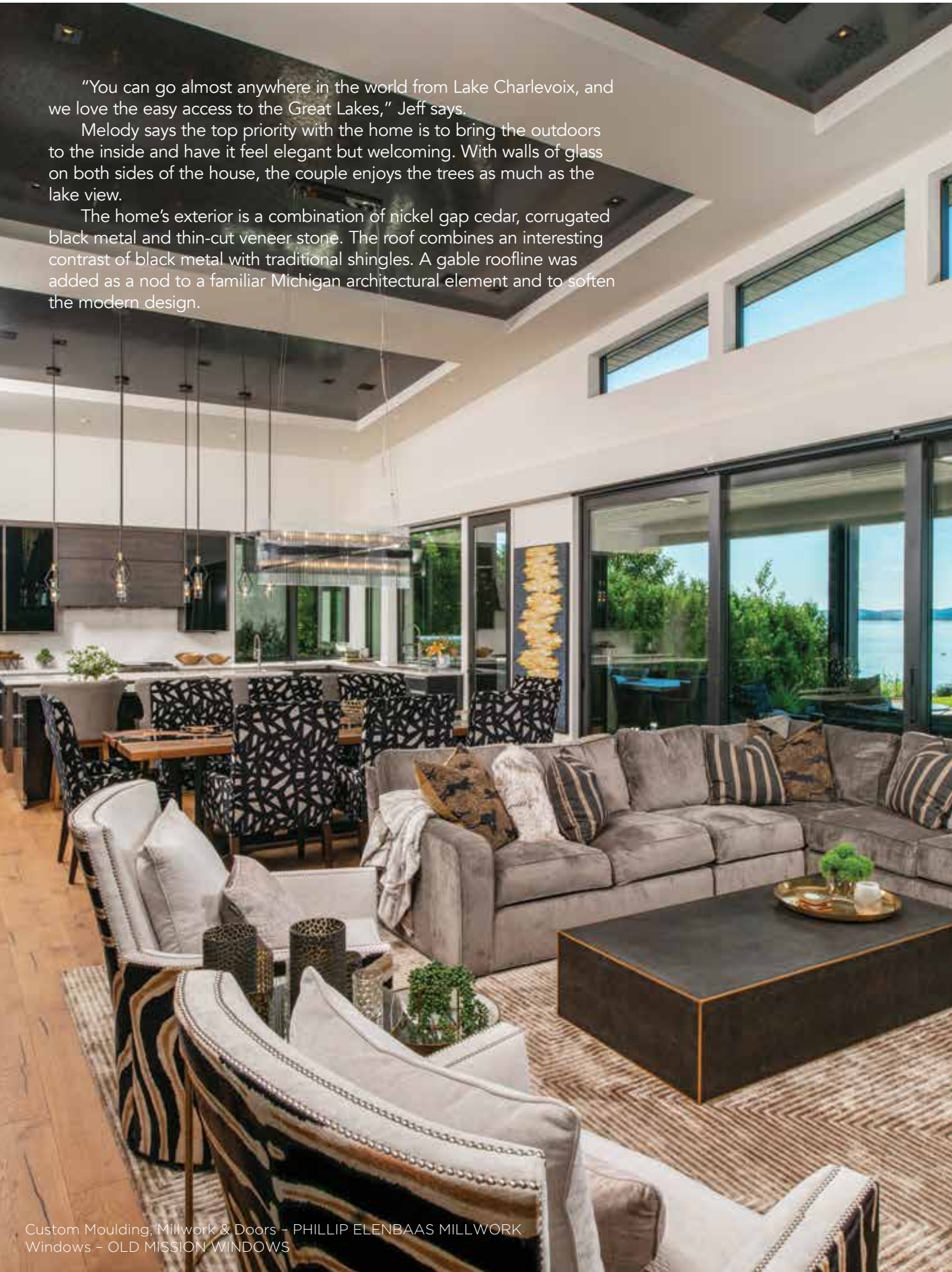
Lakeside Mountain Modern Home

Building Materials - PRESTON FEATHER
Roofing - NORM'S ROOFING & SIDING
Fireplaces & Stone - EMMET BRICK & BLOCK CO.
Concrete Services - VAN KALKER CONSTRUCTION

"You can go almost anywhere in the world from Lake Charlevoix, and we love the easy access to the Great Lakes," Jeff says.

Melody says the top priority with the home is to bring the outdoors to the inside and have it feel elegant but welcoming. With walls of glass on both sides of the house, the couple enjoys the trees as much as the lake view.

The home's exterior is a combination of nickel gap cedar, corrugated black metal and thin-cut veneer stone. The roof combines an interesting contrast of black metal with traditional shingles. A gable roofline was added as a nod to a familiar Michigan architectural element and to soften the modern design.



Custom Moulding, Millwork & Doors – PHILLIP ELENBAAS MILLWORK
Windows – OLD MISSION WINDOWS



"This isn't a hardcore Modern home," Jeff says. "We bring a style to the region that people enjoy, and we get the same comment over and over of 'Wow, we've never been in a home like this'."

After working Out West for more than a decade, Jeff says his experience with drainage systems for homes built in mountainous settings helped him navigate the high ground water and elevation changes of the Lake Charlevoix property. Extensive drainage systems and pitching the driveway in different ways were engineered in the initial building stages. Jeff says drainage is an important thing people don't think about until later.

One of the couple's favorite elements of the home is its walkway and the view through the home to the lake. Once inside, from floor to ceiling, the Modern Scandinavian interior design blends hard and soft surfaces, dark with light tones, and glimmers of gold and silver. Flooring throughout the main level is 10-inch white oak plank, custom-crafted with black epoxy-filled gouges to increase longevity. Any floor gouging mishaps can easily be filled with the epoxy to look like nothing ever happened.

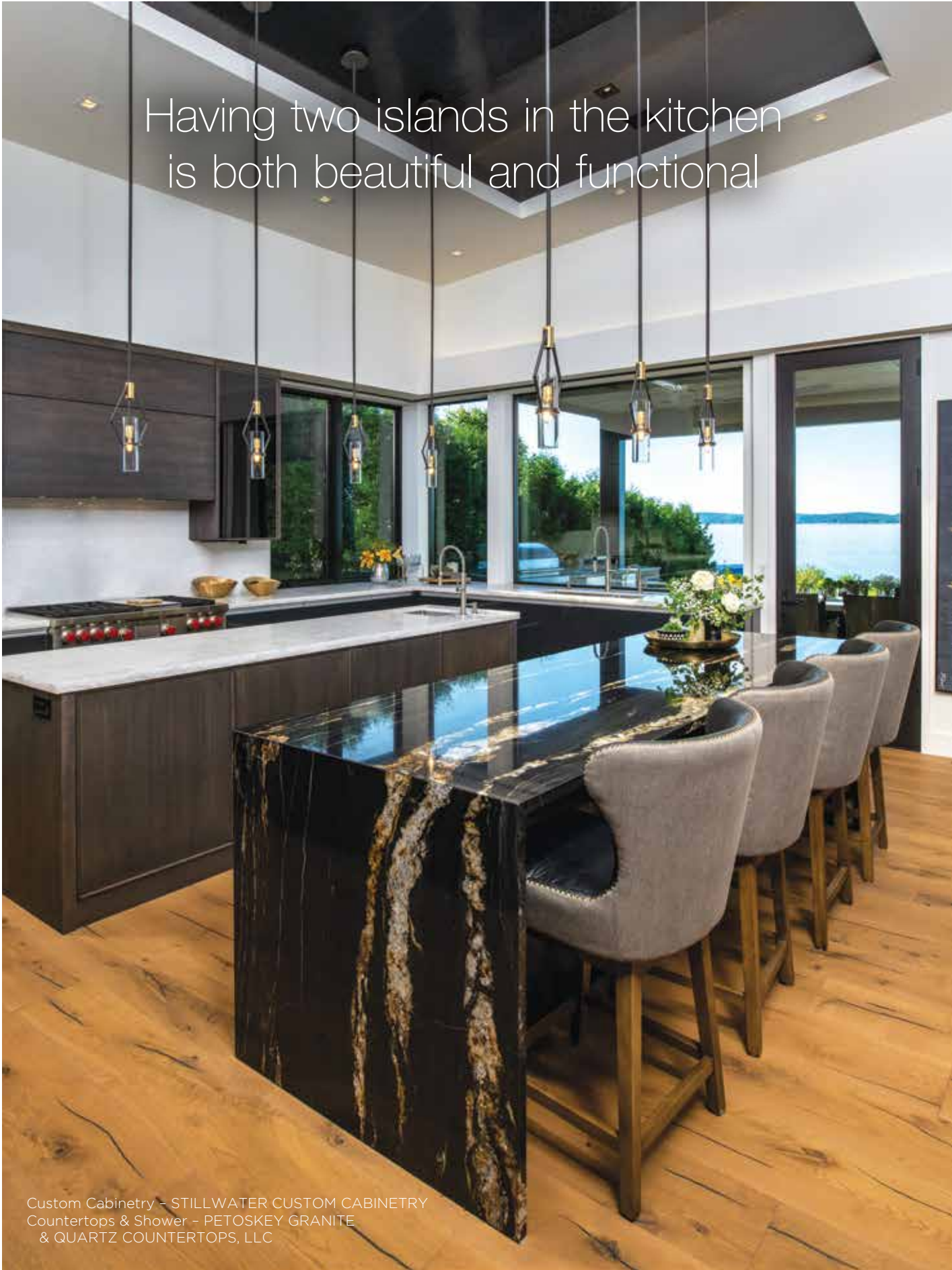


"It's about the contrast," Melody says. "It's so naturally beautiful in Michigan; that's why there isn't a lot of color in the house — the greens, blues and browns outside are our artwork of nature that surrounds the home."

Melody says the kitchen is more of a gathering place than the living room. Kitchen cabinetry is custom-built lacquered laminate, countertops and island countertop are white quartzite, and the waterfall island with seating is a black-and-gold mixture of travertine and quartz. Having two islands in the kitchen is both beautiful and functional, allowing for double workspace and double eating areas.

The dry bar features tiny mosaic glass tiles with glass grout, a crystal quartzite countertop and black lacquered cabinets with an ice maker and beverage refrigerator. The temperature-controlled wine cellar complements the diamond shapes found throughout the home with wine pegs specially designed to follow the shape. Kudu horns from South Africa were sourced from an art gallery to create distinctive handles on the glass doors.

The primary bedroom has a unique 270-degree view of the water — the one room where the water's edge is visible. Two pocket doors separate the primary bedroom from the primary bath, which provide a view of the lake.



Custom Cabinetry – STILLWATER CUSTOM CABINETRY
Countertops & Shower – PETOSKEY GRANITE
& QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS, LLC



Custom Glasswork –
T.C. MIRROR & SHOWERDOOR



"The silver vein travertine shower wall is a showstopper," Melody says. "It's like jewelry to me." Shelving is recessed so the bathroom doesn't show the accoutrements. When Melody wanted beautiful mirrors, and Jeff wanted medicine cabinets, custom-built recessed touch-latch mirrored cabinets were the perfect compromise.

When it's time to relax outdoors, the covered porch includes a barbecue area, a dining table with seating for 14 around a linear firepit, and a hot tub. To enjoy the cooler seasons outside, there are heaters in the ceiling and integrated retractable screens that can drop down to hold in the heat. The feature also keeps bugs out in the evenings during summer dinners.

To give the effect of a built-in pool, the heated, fiberglass pool with automatic cover is surrounded by travertine pavers.

"We love to entertain and share our home with clients, family and friends," Melody says. "Many of our dearest friends started as clients but throughout the intimate process of building their home have become close friends. Being able to use our own home as a showcase for Glenwood allows us to give that personal touch by sharing our ideal home with others."

"This is the culmination of all the homes we have had the privilege to build for other people," Jeff says. "We implemented all our favorite ideas from over 30 years of designing and building amazing homes. This is our version of the perfect house for us!" □



Swimming Pool – POOLSIDE





Jeff Collins | Glennwood Custom Builders – Founder/President

Jeff Collins, founder and president of Glennwood Custom Builders, grew up in a construction family. From a young age, he acquired hands-on skills in almost every trade involved in residential construction.

Jeff graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in building construction management and worked for a large custom builder in the region prior to founding Glennwood in 1999.

Jeff is involved in every aspect of the daily operations at Glennwood. His mission has been to create a collaborative team of passionate specialists to design and construct truly special and unique properties throughout Northern Michigan.

When Jeff is not making his clients' dreams come to life, he can be found with his family mountain biking, hiking, boating, skiing, riding dirt bikes and snowmobiles and flying airplanes.



JEFF & MELODY COLLINS

Melody Collins Glennwood Custom Builders – Marketing/Special Projects Coordinator

A love of all things artsy culminated into Melody Collins's position as marketing/special projects coordinator for Glennwood. Her other passion is interior design with the goal to make all spaces functional, comfortable and beautiful with a special little zing added in to give uniqueness.

Collins graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in crop and soil sciences. In the past, she has worked in various industries from food service to polo horse groomer/trainer, office management, parks and recreation, college course teaching assistant instructor and manager of a potato seed tissue culture laboratory and indoor greenhouse facility.

She is proud of her loving family, Jeff (husband), Hunter (son) and Kira (daughter). Her family is made up of people who help and protect others and give back to the community. When not at work you can find Melody outside, wake surfing, swimming, biking, playing tennis or pickleball.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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