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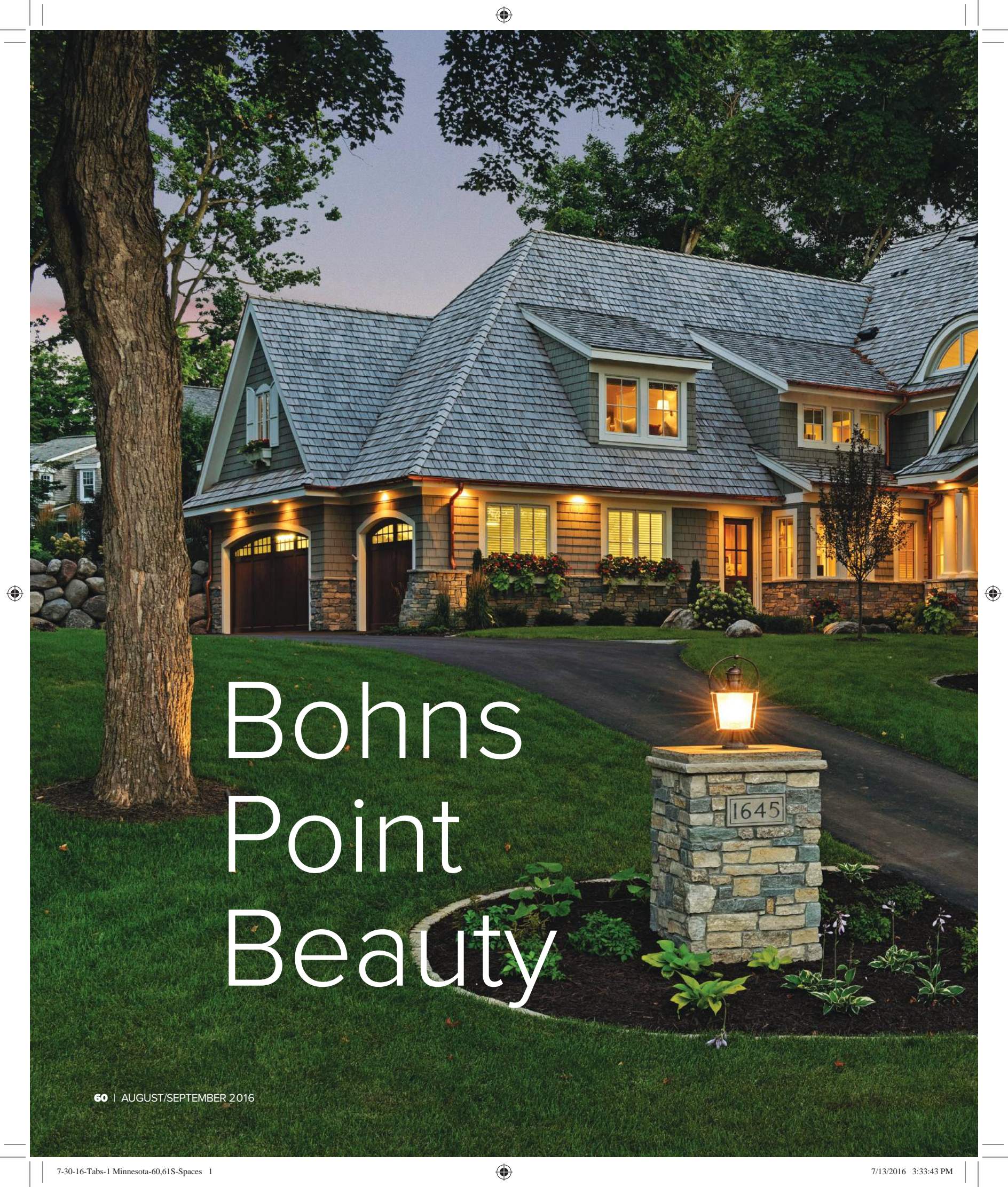
COVER STORY **BOHNS POINT BEAUTY**

Remarkable remodel in Orono

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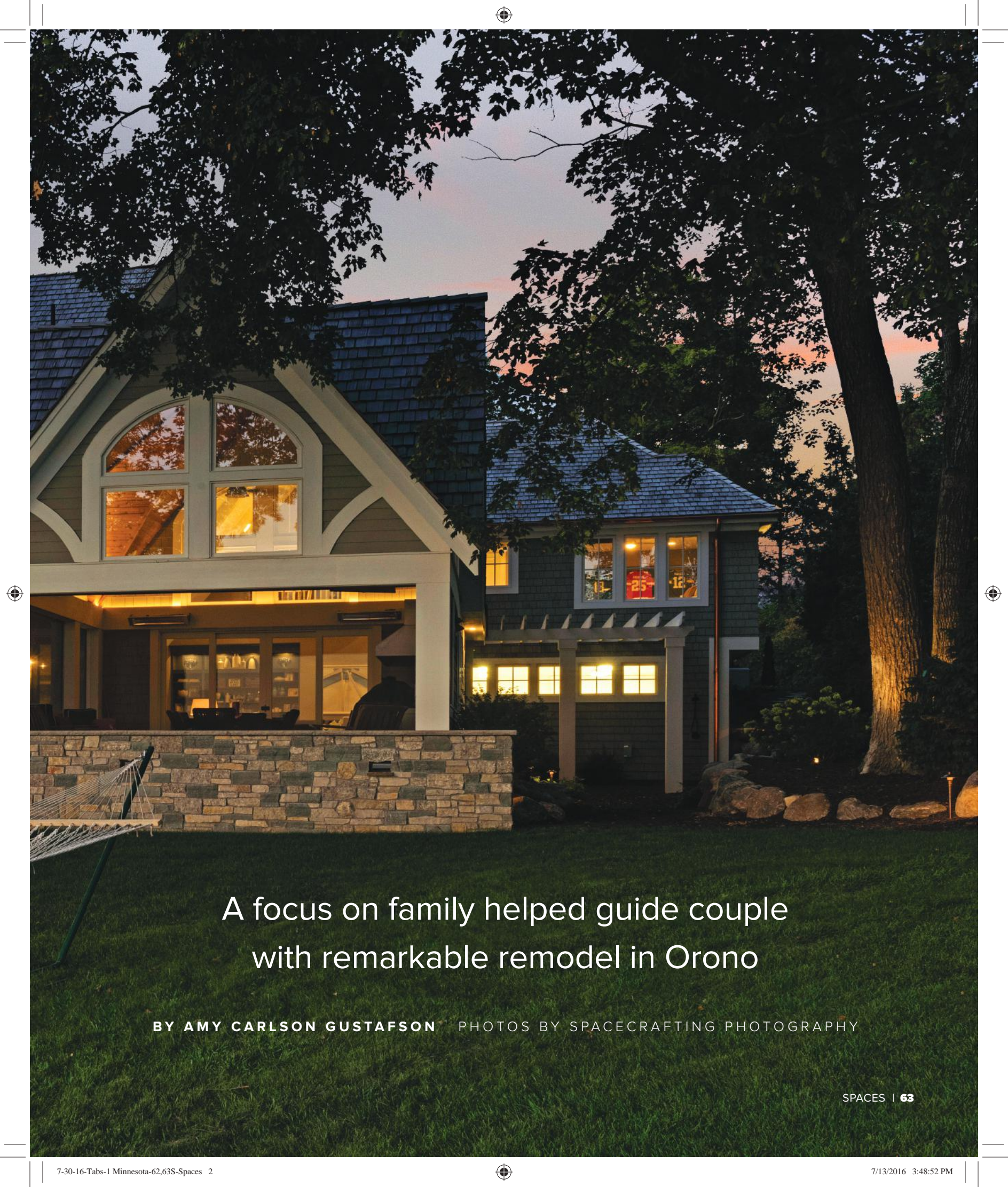
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Bohns Point Beauty







A focus on family helped guide couple
with remarkable remodel in Orono

BY AMY CARLSON GUSTAFSON PHOTOS BY SPACECRAFTING PHOTOGRAPHY





Family, fun and sunsets. Those were all top of the list when John and Klerissa decided to build a house on Lake Minnetonka in the exclusive Bohns Point neighborhood. As heads of a blended family, the Orono couple have four children ranging in ages from 5 to 24. They wanted a home that satisfied the needs of the whole family. Nothing stuffy or too fussy — it had to be an inviting abode, a place for the whole crew to have fun, watch stunning sunsets, share memorable family meals and provide enough space for visitors. It had to be especially comfy for the two younger children living at home — Ethan, 17, and Karenna, 5.

“We wanted to build a home that we could use as our family connection point,” said John, who manages the supply chain for a major consumer products company. “As the kids grow older, we want them to know and feel that they will always have a space with us, even when they decide to have their own families. Also, neither of our extended families live near us (some are as close as Wisconsin and others are as far away as Abu Dhabi). We are a four-generation family and our parents, siblings, nieces and nephews and Klerissa’s grandparents are often visitors. New construction allowed us to work with a vision and goal in

mind of the future, but also have features that would serve us well now.”

Before they purchased an existing house on Bohns Point, the couple met with builder J. Sven Gustafson, owner of Stonewood, LLC, to get a builder’s opinion on what was possible in the space. They also called on the architectural services of Alexander Design Group. Demolition on the existing house started in late 2013.

“To call it a remodel is an understatement,” Gustafson said. “There’s very little left of the original house — close to a complete tear-down. The foundation and the general structure of the house remained, but pretty much everything inside and out is new. They loved the location, but were looking for ideas how to remodel it and turn it into what they wanted and what they envisioned — a fun place for their family.”

The couple settled on the lot on Bohns Point because of its amazing sunsets and access to the lake. They loved the location so much they rented a neighbor’s home during construction so they could watch the progress from next door.

Project manager Michael Sundet says the family living next door during the build was a joy.

“They always had only good things to say



and they were always excited about the progress,” Sundet said. “They were such a great family. They had such good designs in their heads. Bringing it to life was pretty awesome. On a day-to-day basis, I got to see them, talk to them. To their little daughter, I was ‘Builder Michael.’”

In March 2015, the family officially moved into their new 10,000-plus square-foot home complete with seven bedrooms, seven and a half baths, four fireplaces, a three-car garage, a sport court, a bunk/craft room, an eat-in kitchen and, as promised, plenty of gorgeous sunset views.

“It has an East Coast lake style, a cottage style on a pretty massive scale,” Gustafson said. “I don’t think anyone would refer to it as a cottage, but it’s in the style of a cottage.”

Added Klerissa: “We love having a home where everyone can have their own space and bathroom, and just make themselves at home. We were very clear that we didn’t want to live in a museum. The kitchen table is made of Silestone, so it is indestructible — homework, condensation, hot dishes, you can’t hurt it. Our house is comfortable for 5 year olds and 17 year olds. Our friends bring their dogs over. Our house is meant to be lived in. That makes us happy.”



Interior designer Melissa Musgjerd from Studio M Interiors was part of the team bringing the couple's vision of "a fun place for the family" to life. Klerissa said Musgjerd figured out their style right away, which helped to make the place feel like "home" the minute they stepped foot in the new house.

"John and Klerissa were fabulous to work with because they really knew what they wanted, but they wanted it to be a little more fun," Musgjerd said. "If you could say one thing about that house, it's got some fun color to it, it fits the style of their lifestyle where it's still classy, but it's very relaxed.

"We met with Klerissa and had two huge tables of fun fabrics out so we could get a read of what she wanted," Musgjerd continued. "She lived in Miami for a number of years and really wanted those big



pops of bright color. So it ended up we settled on the turquoise, navy blue and fuchsia — that’s what you see in the pillows and the paint on the ceiling. Some of the wallpaper in the powder bathroom is a turquoise and navy color.”

While many of the house’s features were designed specifically with the kids in mind, the third floor “bunk” room and the basement sport court with 20-foot walls are highlights. The entrance to the third floor is hidden behind a swing-away bookcase. It’s filled with fun bunk beds and an arts-and-crafts studio.

“It’s 100 percent geared towards kids,” Musgjerd said. “They loved that space up there. They wanted it to be fun —

it’s hidden — it’s behind the bookcase and you have to go up the stairs. When you walk in, they wanted it to be that fun craft room — paint, color, make whatever you want. But then also having the four bunk beds up there — their 17-year-old son has friends over almost every weekend and that’s where they all want to stay.”

“There is often a group of teenage boys utilizing that basketball court,” Klerissa said. “It is great to have a window from the main level so that we can check on the kids when they are down there. There is a light switch for the sport court near the main floor window too. The kids know that when the light flips, it is time to come up and eat!”



While the couple loves the house's inviting great room, additional spaces for the kids to play and the large recreation area in the basement, the home's little details were also important.

"The cabinetry and woodwork is fantastic, every cut and corner is perfect," John said. "We also love that every room is full of natural sunlight. Melissa did an amazing job incorporating candid and old family photos, Klerissa's grandfather's Navy uniform, several generations of baby shoes and other meaningful pieces from our life. Even when the house was brand new, it truly felt like 'ours.' We also really appreciate that even though it was essentially new construction, we were able to keep parts of the original house, such as the chimney."

If there's one thing the couple can't imagine living without now that they've settled





into their new home, it's the built-in storage found throughout the house.

"We really appreciate and utilize all of our built-in storage," Klerissa said. "We have built-in storage for toys, crayons, coloring books, blankets and pillows, whatever. It makes the house so much easier to tidy quickly when you have a space to put everything away."

John and Klerissa say their favorite part of the house is the multi-purpose screen porch that serves as a family room, dining room and outdoor kitchen when weather permits. It's equipped with radiant heaters so even in cooler temps, the family can still enjoy their outdoor space.

"It's something we're doing more and more of — the convertible porch that has roll down screens so that it can turn from a patio into a porch," Gustafson said. "It

also has roll-down vinyl to keep the wind out. We put infrared heaters in the ceiling and a very large multi-part door that recesses into the wall so it can become an integrated space with their great room."

The couple couldn't be happier with their choice to pursue (mostly) new construction on the shores of Lake Minnetonka.

"Bohns Point provides the environment of an older, established neighborhood, but also has several families with children that are the ages of our own," Klerissa said. "The family we purchased the original house from built their new home just two doors down from us — no one wants to leave!" ■

Amy Carlson Gustafson is an arts and entertainment reporter at the Pioneer Press.