

# M I C H I G A N H O M E

WINTER 2015

*lifestyle*

GREYSTONE HOMES

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# BUILDER SPOTLIGHT

## GREYSTONE HOMES

WRITER | MARY ANN HUMPHREY PHOTOS | STEVE SIMPKINS OF STUDIO GRAPHICS

**B**uilt on a bluff about 150 feet above Lake Michigan with views of North and South Manitou Island, this 4,305 square foot home combines Craftsman style with an Asian flair.

Homeowners Gregg and Marilyn Zank spent four years in Japan while Gregg worked for Dow Corning, and returned with a love of its minimalist aesthetic. They incorporated some of these ideals into their home; Kelly Wall and his Greystone Homes team built the open floor plan with an unobstructed view of the lake. “There is not one beam or post hanging down,” Gregg says. “From kitchen to dining room to living room, they engineered around everything in the way.” The whole western side facing the lake is composed of windows and sliding glass doors. “The house is so bright, it brings the outdoors in,” Gregg adds. The living room is sunken two steps to differentiate it from the rest of the house, and they built custom benches of ash along the windows so they could relax and watch the sunset or see the freighters going by. The composite decking walkway leading from the house to the garage features natural cedar custom pergolas with an Asian feel; they offer coverage from the weather with an open ambiance. The deck which runs along the lakeside of the house also has a custom pergola off the master bedroom area which provides privacy along with shelter from the weather.



BUILDER SPOTLIGHT | Greystone Homes



Because of its location in a critical dunes area, they needed a permit from the DEQ. Another condition was that to avoid erosion, all the runoff water from the site could not go over the bluff and had to be redirected, Kelly explains. The large amount of wind required the home to be well sealed, Kelly says, and it is highly insulated with a precast basement system which was set in place with a crane.

Architect John Walters helped them get started. “He came over for tea, and spent four hours talking to us, in order to create what we needed,” Gregg says. “He asked, ‘What do you do when you get up? And then do you have coffee?’ He wanted to know exactly how we live in order to design a house just for us.” He designed a house for them to live in, not a house they had to fit themselves into. He even determined where the light comes in during the different seasons, and positioned the home on site accordingly. The home has three bedrooms and five baths, with a den/craft room off the master bedroom for Marilyn.

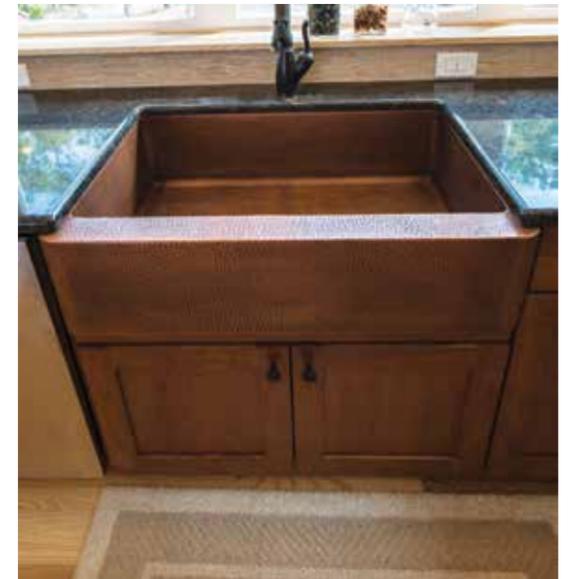
Many ash trees on the property had to be removed during the building process, and these were milled for all the flooring and trim work. Gregg is a woodworker, so he used some of the maple trees that had to be harvested for projects in the home. For the basement bar top, he finished and sanded a piece of maple with a live edge. “It’s a nice piece, very rustic,” Gregg says. He made the bar stools and a few other tables of live cedar slabs, with smaller trunk pieces for the legs, which he bought from an Amish farmer near Clare. In the entryway, he crafted a bench with a thick ash top and walnut legs. “The nice thing about doing a custom house for a woodworker is that you can fit the perfect thing in,” Gregg says. They also took the leftover ash lumber from the floors and made newel posts for the stairs and some interior doors throughout the house. They found cherry beam mantels for the fireplaces in Ohio, and used a combination of Traverse split face, Charlevoix castle rock, and Huron pioneer natural stone on the great room and basement fireplaces. The custom limestone hearths have ash built-in benches on either side.

Kelly built custom den entry doors for them using repurposed antique cut glass windows they acquired from Gregg’s colleague. “A friend from Dow Corning’s family, originally from New York, had them in their home in New York,” Gregg explains. “When he moved to Michigan, they moved with him. He had them in his basement for more than 10 years.” The kitchen includes glacier glass pantry doors with a hammered copper farmhouse sink and a separate wet bar area. The cabinets are all Medallion cherry, with fewer upper cabinets in order to keep the view unobstructed, Kelly says. They used Brown Pearl granite on the perimeter countertops and Oracle granite on the island to complement the ash flooring.

The mahogany front door also features cut glass, and is flanked by two stone base columns, a cedar soffit and a bluestone covered porch. The basement has a walkout with a bathroom and custom cedar dry sauna. Gregg says that the sauna was one of the ways that architect John Walters anticipated their wants and needs. “One day, my wife and I were looking at the plans with John,” he says. “Marilyn asked why the bathroom area was so big. John replied that it wasn’t a bathroom, it was a sauna. I said, did we ask for a sauna? He said, no, but I thought you might want one,” Gregg relates with a laugh.

The interior décor features Japanese furniture and vintage wedding kimonos they brought home from their stay. Marilyn uses their different colors and patterns as wall art for different seasons. Hibachi ceramic pots and Japanese artwork blend well with the craftsman style, Gregg says.

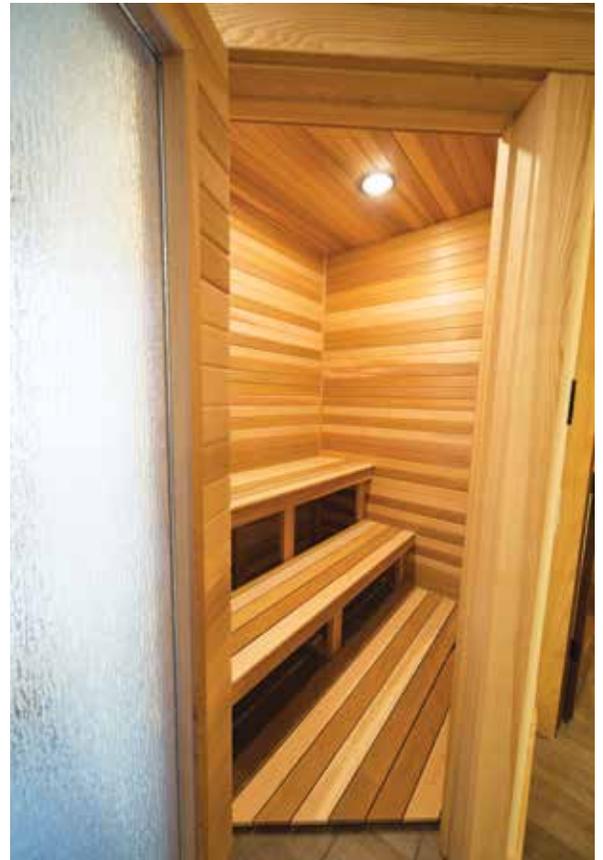
Kelly Wall was more than perfect for the challenge of building this house on the bluff. He started out designing and building handmade furniture, which grew into a passion for building finely crafted homes. He creates well-proportioned homes with attention to detail, as this home exemplifies. Kelly has an engineering degree from Brigham Young University, and established his business in 2001. “Kelly did a fantastic job,” Gregg enthuses. □





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## GREYSTONE HOMES

BUSINESS ESTABLISHED: 2001

The owner of Greystone Homes, Kelly Wall, has a Chemical Engineering degree from Brigham Young University. What began as a hobby and a passion for designing and building handcrafted furniture has grown into a passion for building finely crafted homes. Fine furniture is well proportioned and exhibits attention to detail. Likewise fine homes exhibit the skills of the craftsmen who build them while maintaining a sense of proportion and architectural style. We work hard, employing craftsmen who are the best at their trade, to combine function with craftsmanship to create your custom home.

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