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A Place *to* Gather

ARTFUL DESIGN AND MASTER CRAFTSMANSHIP COMBINE IN THIS LAKESIDE ESTATE THAT HONORS TRADITION, CELEBRATES THE PRESENT, AND ENDURES AS A FAMILY RETREAT FOR YEARS TO COME.

TEXT **ANDREA FANNING**
PHOTOGRAPHY **MICHAEL KASKEL**

VENICE
THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
EGYPT AND THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

For Ann and David Meyers, the perfect vacation home not only needed to be a place where all four seasons could be enjoyed, but also one that would become part of their family's legacy. When the couple visited Maryland's Deep Creek Lake in 1995, they knew they had found the ideal surrounds. They returned to the outdoor playground in the Allegheny Mountains year after year for vacations, all the while searching for the right spot to build and pondering ways to fill the blueprints with European style, lakeside amenities, and approachable elegance.

"We wanted a concrete, sustainable, ecological home that looked like it had been built years ago yet could also withstand the test of time," says Ann Meyers. It took almost two decades, but they finally found the right lot in 2014 and assembled their "dream design and build team," including John Kudravy, Michael Bliss, and Joseph Toff from Kudravy Architects, along with Jeff Haines of Glendale Construction. They planned a technologically modern home with geothermal heating and cooling, cleverly hiding the advances beneath the master craftsmanship. Stone masons, carpenters, roofers, and blacksmiths all added their unique artistry to the build. Then, to achieve the desired decor blend of Old-World aesthetic and classic sophistication, the homeowners turned to interior designer Stephen Shutts.

When Meyers contacted the West Virginia native about the project, she explained the desire for halls and walls that would echo with odes honoring favorite styles and places such as the Italian Renaissance, English countryside, and South of France. When she mentioned the home included a four-story tower, the designer was especially intrigued and quickly came on board. Says Meyers, "Stephen's way of coordinating antiques with a mixture of family furniture and modern pieces made the house grow with a sense of unity that looks like it has been here for years."

"Ann and I were on the same page from the beginning when it came to colors and textiles," says Shutts. "We both wanted to keep most of the walls simple and light." They chose a stucco finish mixed with paint in Creamy by Sherwin Williams for a touch of warmth. "I did incorporate some drama in a few spaces, such as the bedroom and powder room, which both have wallpaper," the designer says. "But other than that, we chose to make the walls recede, allowing for the focus to be on the art, the architecture, and incredible exterior views."

To further imbue the house with a sense of antiquity, Shutts

"I AM A HUGE PROPONENT OF BEAUTY FOR BEAUTY'S SAKE. MY GOAL IS TO CREATE SPACES THAT ARE TRANSCENDENT." —STEPHEN SHUTTS

Previous pages: With a soaring fireplace showcasing a marvel of masonry, the great room is one of the family's favorite spaces. Accents in the form of custom seating and proportionate lighting help create inviting vignettes and maintain the European appeal. These pages, opposite: The tower was designed to act as an architectural hinge to connect the two wings of the home at an angle, thereby providing optimal views of the picturesque surroundings. Above and below left: The front entry and foyer showcase stonework by local craftsmen and lighting by Bevolo, Troy, and Ralph Lauren Home. To evoke an immediate sense of provenance and history, Shutts incorporated an array of antiques that he and Ann found in and around the area. Above: A second sitting area in the great room plays host to spectacular views.

Above and below: The dining room affords a lovely view of the tower's interior, as well as the gourmet kitchen and great room. Right: The floor plan includes an open-concept feel but relies on traditional elements such as timber posts to help define specific rooms. "When you're working with spaces in volume and mass, you have to balance furnishings and accessories," says Shutts. "The goal is to keep it livable, approachable, and human."

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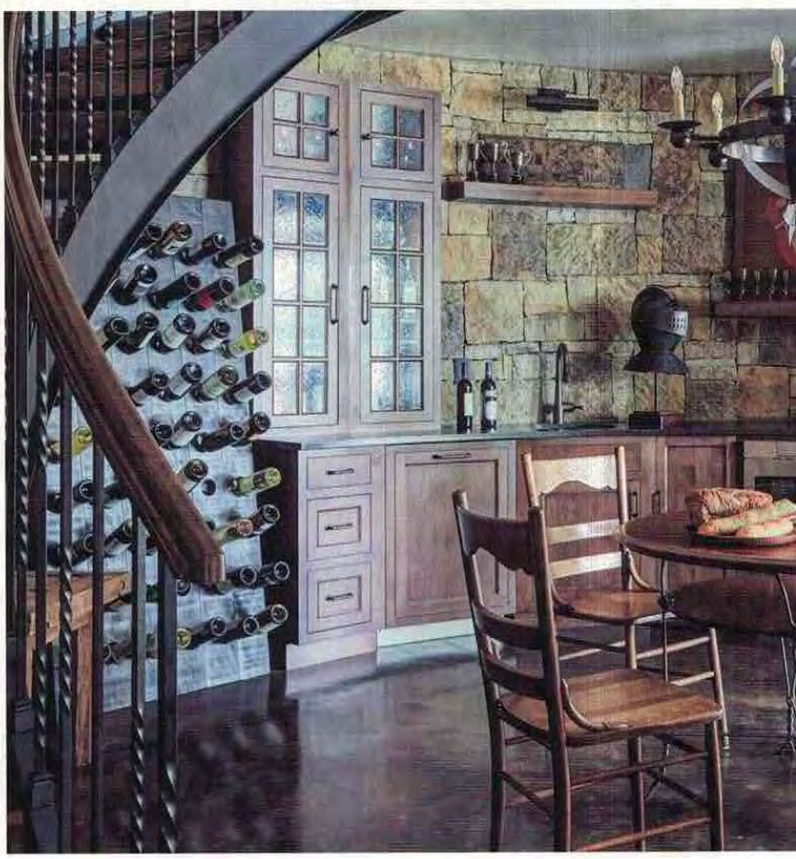
Above and above right: The family dog, Tucker, enjoys sunning in the mudroom after a day of play by the lake. The space offers convenient bench seating for shedding muddy boots, as well as stone floors to handle constant foot traffic. Right: The basement level of the tower boasts a wine cellar complete with more handcrafted cabinetry. Opposite: The tower's spiral staircase leads up to an observatory level with inspiring views of Deep Creek Lake.



curated design elements in a range of textures. Travertine stone, Taj Mahal quartzite countertops, velvet, mohair, and wool textiles all have a place here. In addition, the designer included three different tartan-inspired patterns throughout the home as a nod to Meyers' Irish heritage. From custom fixtures to procured antiques, he created a scheme that is decidedly refined yet completely comfortable. In the large living spaces, artfully designed vignettes add interest alongside handcrafted ironwork and stonework. "In a modern world of imitation and reproduction, it was such a joy to work with natural, authentic materials, as well as craftspeople keeping the traditions of the past alive," says Shutts.

It took four years of design and construction, but the result is an exquisite 12,000-square-foot home with plenty of room for loved ones near and far. From high atop the tower, the 360-degree views reveal a deep-orange sun sinking into the horizon, casting a rich glow across the home's faux-slate roof and onto three generations of family. Ages and interests may vary, but they all have one thing in common: When they are together at Deep Creek Lake, they're home.

Above: Inspired by visits to the Italian coast, the small guest bathroom makes a grand impression with exquisite blue-and-white tile, tasteful antique accents, and a chandelier over the clawfoot bathtub by Dennis and Leen. Below and right: The master bedroom epitomizes chic serenity with a subtle wallcovering by Andrew Martin and French blue drapery panels trimmed in Scalamandre. A stone wall with a built-in fireplace adds to the romance of the space and continues the timeless appeal of this artful abode.