



THIS PAGE A 9-by-12-foot window and striking beams complement the scale of the great room's soaring ceiling. OPPOSITE PAGE The French style of the owners' suite translates into comfort.



French Import

Continental charms abound by the bay

BY LUCIE B. AMUNDSEN | PHOTOS BY JON HUELSKAMP, LANDMARK PHOTOGRAPHY

Along the narrow wooded roads of Minnetonka, the lake effect is palpable. Even if you can't see the water, your mood lightens somehow with each curve.

The pleasant feeling carries into the Crosby Cove neighborhood near Gray's Bay, where a French country-styled home perches high on its steep lot. Butter yellow stucco and blue-washed trim pay homage to the owners' extensive European travels, as does the provincial turret. The heavy, milled-cherry front door hints at the visual feast on the other side.

A mesmerizing six-paneled, arched window dominates the great room, spanning 9 feet and soaring to 12 feet. Exposed beams and heavy trim soften the 22-foot-high ceilings, giving this formal room a distinctly welcoming feel. Abundant sunlight and knotty white-oak flooring offer everyday luxury. The cast stone fireplace invites the family to gather around. For more for-

mal get-togethers, a dining room awaits through a foot-thick archway.

The gourmet kitchen beckons with its inviting red walls—just one of the classic colors that the designers at L. Cramer Designers + Builders pulled from the French-inspired palette. The refrigerator door, range hood, and cabinetry are all of fine, furniture-grade wood finished to a soft patina. This slightly aged look, along with details such as artfully handpainted tiles, hearty oil-rubbed bronze fixtures, and extra thick doors, augments the European feel.

The adjacent gathering room's cushy seating and wall-mounted plasma television make gathering near the kitchen a comfortable pursuit. "This is where the informal eating and relaxed living will take place," says Jennifer Cramer-Miller, vice president of sales and marketing for L. Cramer Designers + Builders, adding, "and it's so near the lovely screened porch."



THIS PAGE, TOP Hand-painted tiles, oil-rubbed brass hardware, and furniture-finish cabinetry marry function and aesthetics. BOTTOM The deep red of the main floor powder room, as well as the kitchen, is part of the provincial palette. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP A natural slate surround brings casual warmth to the lower-level media room. BOTTOM A waterfall-fed pool and comfortable patio invite outdoor play.





The view from the porch and patio showcases the retreat-like backyard. A pool landscaped with decorative rocks and a cascading waterfall takes center stage.

A wet bar is located within the home's walkout level to service both the water recreation area and an adjacent media room. Double doors, hardly a towel's throw from sunbathers, welcome wet-footed guests onto slate-tiled floors.

And company will certainly be calling to this 6,800-square-foot home. Six bathrooms and three guest bedrooms can handle a crowd. A private air-jet bath and a rain-style showerhead await the guests of honor.

The same bathing amenities can be enjoyed by the hosts in the generously sized owners' suite. A room-sized walk-in closet offers convenience, and elegant details, such as intricate crown molding, add style.

An elevator stands ready to whisk visitors or residents to any of the three levels. "People are starting to plan ahead so that they can always be in the home they designed and continue to love," Cramer-Miller says of the accessible amenity.

Sure to be loved by visitors and residents alike is the unique library loft. Peering down the heights of the great room, this bookshelf-lined space has a long window seat overlooking the water. This cozy sanctuary cries out for the *New York Times* and a mug of coffee. French Roast to be sure. **MH**

LUCIE AMUNDSEN WRITES FROM HER HOME IN ST. ANTHONY VILLAGE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RESOURCES FEATURED IN THIS STORY, PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 172.



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