

Spectacular lake views are enjoyed from the covered lakeside terrace year round with electronic Phantom screens. Comfortable, cushioned chocolate wicker furniture and a blue stone floor complement the impressive dry-stacked, wood-burning fireplace.



“We utilized stone and wood for the home’s exterior, which complemented the lot and related to the challenges of fitting the home upon a site with high and low topography while creating numerous levels to obtain lake access.”

– Jack Smuckler, Smuckler Architecture Inc.



Chris and Darla Twomey met in college in Grand Forks, North Dakota, fell in love and got married. In 1983, they moved to Thief River Falls, Minnesota, where Chris began working for Arctic Cat prior to being named CEO in 1986. In 2007, the executive offices were moved to Minneapolis.

“We planned to retire at our Gull Lake home, but Darla wanted to live closer to son Jeff, daughter Kamie and four growing, active grandchildren,” Chris notes. “A Minneapolis location seemed the best choice.”

They looked at several homes, including an open house on Lake Minnetonka. The

couple especially admired how the home was spectacularly positioned on the lot and how sunrises and sunsets were viewed from interior rooms.

On the way home, Darla noticed a Parade of Homes house overlooking Lake Minnetonka and convinced Chris to stop. While she was visiting with architect Jack Smuckler, Chris noticed a display featuring houses Smuckler had built, including the open house they had just toured. They were impressed by Smuckler’s work and the fact that he was an architect who built his own custom designs.

The Twomeys purchased a lot on Lake Minnetonka in 2010 with an existing 1970s home that was later torn down. A 20-by-10-foot, two-level boathouse also occupied the property, sitting 4 feet from the shoreline—a choice viewing area to watch lake activities. “The boathouse was a primary reason we bought the property,” Chris recalls. “We planned to demolish it and build a new one

Captivating Architectural Distinction on Lake Minnetonka

An ideal lake home located on Lake Minnetonka provides relaxation, comfort and convenience.

BY WANDA PERKINS | EXTERIOR PHOTOS COURTESY OF SMUCKLER ARCHITECTURE, INC.
INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON HUELSKAMP, LANDMARK PHOTOGRAPHY



↑ Roadside exterior views display dramatic outdoor lighting, barrel-vaulted roofs and double clear cedar entryway doors and stately garage doors. Entry steps were painted to appear similar to a stone patio.

← Framed with trees, massive boulders and stunning landscaping, the lakeside exterior is nestled within the grandeur of high and low topography, offering several lake access options.



↑The Twomeys' great room is contemporary, spacious and inviting. Varying vaulted and flat ceiling heights define the room, which is complemented by a stunning dry-stacked stone fireplace and exceptional views of Lake Minnetonka. An art gallery hallway with eye-catching architectural shelving provides interest for guests.

↓ An open dining room inside the home's entryway boasts clear views of the front yard and lake views through the great room. Chris says the painting of two strong women reminds him of Darla's inner strengths and gifts



to match our lake home."

"I presented the Twomeys with three preliminary design concepts showing varying ways to incorporate their needs while working with their unique site," Smuckler states. "We extensively discussed which designs they preferred, and they selected a blend of two of the design concepts."

In 2011, building began on their 1-acre lot. Their contemporary 7,300-square-foot rambler with a walk-out lower level has four bedrooms, each boasting gorgeous lake views and a private bath.

"We utilized stone and wood for the home's exterior, which complemented the lot and related to the challenges of fitting the home upon a site with high and low topography while creating numerous levels to obtain lake access," explains Smuckler. "A barrel-vaulted entryway was designed using tongue-and-groove cedar boards for a nautical look, thus creating a strong design entry focus that opens to expansive lake views. An additional smaller barrel vault over the den adds balance."

The clear cedar entry doors invite guests inside to an open dining room, great room

with stunning dry-stacked stone fireplace and modern kitchen. Every room was spaciouly designed for viewpoint advantage. Warm Brazilian walnut floors throughout complement contemporary preferences. An art gallery hallway with architectural ledges was specifically constructed to display art the Twomeys have collected.

"Vaulted and flat ceiling heights are varied throughout the house to craft space definitions in the open plan," Smuckler adds. "Varying ceiling heights are defined by horizontal soffits and indirect lighting."

An ultra-modern kitchen features black walnut and white cabinetry with a stone backsplash, granite countertops, Wolf and

→ Their main-level office is designed in contemporary style with a circular desk, expansive window views and gorgeous woodwork—truly an office of distinction!

↓ A spacious walkout family room with various-patterned comfortable furniture provides a relaxing and fun place for the Twomeys to entertain and unwind. The space features a pool table, game table, kitchen, bar, wine cellar and a nearby theater room and exercise space.

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↑ Darla's kitchen space is luxurious and modern. Black walnut and white cabinetry features pull-out pantry shelving, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and a truly magnificent island with a floating etched-glass top.



↑ The Twomeys' personal winery includes a 700-bottle vertically displayed wine cellar, glass-paneled cabinetry with honed granite countertops and table and unique, molded plywood chairs.

Sub-Zero stainless steel appliances, pull-out pantry shelving and a butler's pantry and office for Darla. A magnificent island is highlighted by a floating octagonal, etched-glass top.

Double doors lead into their master suite, which continues the home's soothing hues of turquoise, butterscotch, ivory and brown. Darla loves the walk-in closet's grand design. "Everything is visible and easily accessible," she notes. "In fact, the entire building process was exciting! Once a week, we'd walk through the studs and envision the finished project. Jack and his wife, Margaret, were wonderful to work with and have become dear friends."

Outside, a covered, lakeside terrace utilizes the entry's cedar tongue-and-groove ceiling with a wood-burning fireplace, cushioned wicker furniture, blue stone flooring and



The Twomeys' master bedroom was designed with the home's soft color palette of turquoise, butterscotch, ivory and brown, utilizing clean horizontal and vertical lines. Generous windows provide beautiful elevated lake views.



→ The master bath includes decorative tile work throughout the walk-in shower, flooring and stand-alone tub platform. Granite countertops, cherry cabinets and pewter hardware complete the elegance of the room.

electronic Phantom screens. It provides a sensational seating and entertaining space.

Their downstairs includes a walk-out family room with pool table, game table, kitchen area, bar and theater room with an old-fashioned candy counter for grandchildren and guests. Although they don't own a winery, the couple discovered one in Napa Valley named Twomey. An oil painting with "Twomey 2011" marks the date their home was built and hangs inside their 700-bottle wine cellar.

"Jack visited our homes in Arizona and Gull Lake to see how we live and use the space within our homes," Chris recalls. "He then used his incredible talents to translate this into our lake home."

The entire Twomey family enjoys boating, biking, hiking and water activities. Chris and Darla love pickle ball, golfing, traveling, entertaining and holidays. And now, their inviting lake home is the ideal comfortable spot to enjoy, relax and grow old together. ✨

DESIGN

Thoughts...

The Twomeys built on a unique site with varying topography. They envisioned a contemporary home with a covered terrace at grade level adjacent to the kitchen. The garage was located so additional storage was accessible from the outside lower level. This is an unconventional design approach, whereby the garage is not next to the kitchen; however, it satisfied their needs. To enhance transition from the garage to the kitchen, an art gallery corridor was designed.

Their home was designed to maximize lake views. The main stairway is opposite the main entry and incorporates an 8-by-6-foot window at the landing. Additionally, the stair location allows guests to walk down a half flight of stairs to an exterior cascade of steps to the lake.

The Twomeys were great to work with in resolving many design issues. They trusted my vision for the interpretation of the three-dimensional interior spaces and architectural details that personalized their home into a unique work of artistry.

Jack Smuckler, Owner
Smuckler Architecture Inc., Edina, Minnesota
Smuckler Custom Builders Inc.,
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Jack Smuckler is a registered architect and licensed builder who has designed and built more than 300 custom homes since he started his business in 1978. His work is primarily in the Minneapolis area, although he has designed custom homes in Fargo; Scottsdale, Arizona; Naples, Florida; Newport Beach, California; and St. Johns, Virgin Islands.