

# *Northern* Exposure

Authentic  
Norwegian  
architecture and  
a palette of  
Scandinavian hues  
issue a warm  
welcome in this  
new Minnesota  
home.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY HEIDI PEARSON  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY WERNER STRAUBE



cotta risers on  
ain staircase,  
h wraps around a  
housing a piano,  
stant patina to  
ew home. A  
smith crafted  
on stair railings.





Old-world design often conjures visions of stately French châteaux and sun-washed Italian villas. But in an inspiring shift, this Minneapolis home pays homage to the farthest reaches of northern Europe—specifically, the hunting lodges and mountain homes of Norway.

Surrounded by towering trees and presiding over a leafy hillside, the family residence is a study in the refined use of rustic elements. “The main house is really a hybrid of old-world styles with a definite lean toward northern European country homes,” residential designer Jeff Murphy says. “Key to this aesthetic is the prolific use of reclaimed timbers, flush-mortared stone, and custom iron elements.”

Though impressively scaled on the outside, the home is decidedly livable on the inside. “The homeowners were looking for a floor plan that would feel warm and cozy yet have enough space for large gatherings with multiple sitting areas,” Murphy says. To that end, he centered the home’s design around three core rooms—the kitchen, porch, and great-room. It was also important to the owners to create a homework area easily viewed from the kitchen hub. “This took the shape of one of the home’s most beloved features, the turret, which houses the office on the main level and a guest suite on the second floor,” Murphy says.

A palette of pale blues, creams, and natural wood tones furthers the home’s connection to Norway. “The right use of color and texture was essential to imparting Scandinavian flavor,” interior designer Sarah Randolph says. Hand-painted rosemaling (a Norwegian folk painting style) on the corners of the kitchen table and barstools upholstered with a fabric that gives a strong nod to traditional rosemaling shapes and palettes whisper the home’s inspiration. Light-color walls and feminine furniture silhouettes soften masculine reclaimed timbers, hefty light fixtures, stone fireplaces, hammered-copper details, and ironwork.

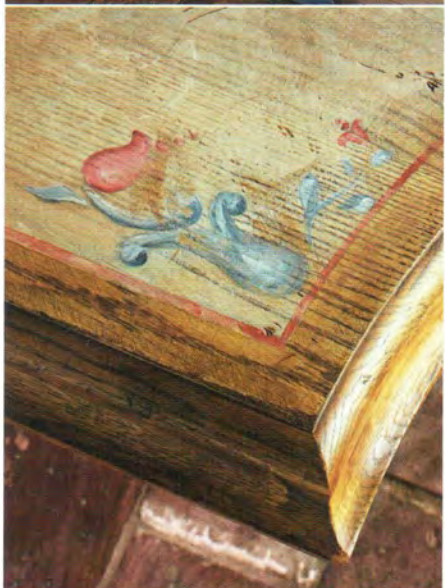
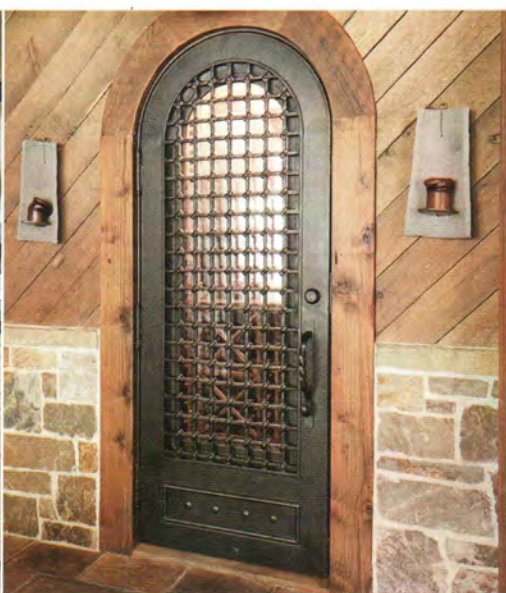
“Authenticity was our biggest guidepost when collaborating on this home,” Murphy says. “We kept using words like *casual* and *intimate*. All of the materials we used evoke a certain warmth and age—like an heirloom quilt handed down through the ages.”

OPPOSITE: A stone fireplace and reclaimed-timber trusses with wood pegging elegantly introduce Norwegian mountain-lodge vernacular to the great-room. ABOVE: A masculine facade adorned with reclaimed boards, batten siding, stone, and timbers is softened by a turret and sloping rooflines.

Reclaimed European  
terra-cotta floor tiles—  
many boasting chicken-  
foot and cat-paw  
prints—create a rustic  
foundation for the kitchen.







CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE LEFT: A blue range brightens the kitchen's stone and wood elements. The entrance to the wine room, which is adjacent to the kitchen, synthesizes the home's architectural elements: iron, reclaimed timbers, and flush-mortared stone. Hand-painted tiles surrounding the master bedroom's firebox evoke a cozy country Scandinavian feel. Reclaimed timbers form support corbels featuring iron-peg assembly. The office's summery blue cabinetry looks regal against fabric-covered walls. A curved-plank door rolls shut off the office. Traditional Norwegian rosemaling enriches a kitchen table.





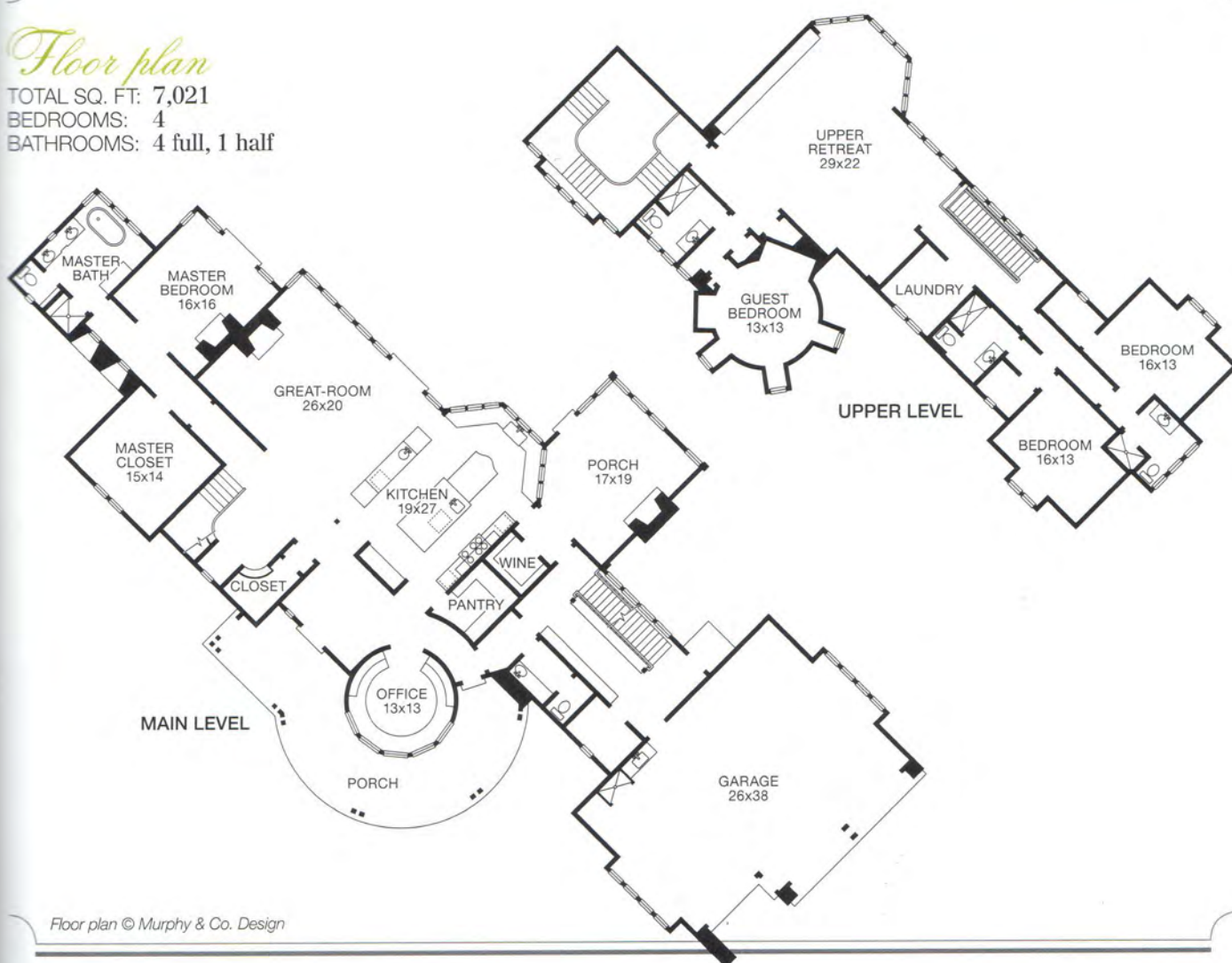
LEFT: A tub carved from a single piece of stone is the star of the master bath, which caters to the owners' heights—he's 6 foot 4 inches; she's 5 foot 2 inches—with complementary dual vanities.

## Floor plan

TOTAL SQ. FT: 7,021

BEDROOMS: 4

BATHROOMS: 4 full, 1 half



Floor plan © Murphy & Co. Design