

Chic Retreats

EXPLORE THREE PROPERTIES OWNED BY NEAPOLITANS,
OFFERING A REFINED, RELAXING SECOND-HOME EXPERIENCE

BY MARY THURMAN YUHAS



INSET: SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE ALLEGHENY MOUNTAINS IN WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA

OPPOSITE PAGE: RUSTIC VIBES AND MORE VIEWS FROM THE LIVING ROOM



SARGENT ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY JAKE COONEY AND JOHN IRWIN PHOTOGRAPHERS

Wind in your hair, sand in your toes, fruity cocktail in your hands ... sounds fabulous, and it is. But some lucky Naples residents enjoy the best of both worlds—both sea and sky—by splitting their time between the Gulf Coast and picturesque locales at higher altitudes. Some local couples we chatted with bought second homes to be closer to family and longtime friends, while others splurged on a custom-built residence in a dreamy location with cooler summers. Whatever the rationale, these home buyers are on trend. “What we’ve seen over the past 15 years is homeowners moving to Southwest Florida permanently, but now they are purchasing a second home or condo nearer to family and grandchildren,” says Michael Timmerman, chief market intelligence officer of Club Benchmarking, a Boston-based national private club consulting firm. Breathe in the fresh air and get inspired by these three spectacular second homes.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE EXTERIOR FRONT OF THE MOUNTAIN RETREAT; THE EXPANSIVE KITCHEN; THE THIRD BEDROOM FEATURES SOFT TOUCHES TO COUNTER THE MASCULINE BACKGROUND; THE DINING ROOM BOASTS A UNIQUE CHANDELIER; THE GREAT ROOM AND BAR ARE FULL OF WARM AND WELCOMING DETAILS THAT REFLECT THE PERSONALITIES OF THE OWNERS.

SUPERB SPRINGS

When a Naples gentleman and his wife want to return to where he grew up in West Virginia, surrounded by the Allegheny Mountains, the end result is a stunning summer retreat in White Sulphur Springs. This private couple moved into their 10,000-square-foot residence in 2020 and have since hosted numerous gatherings for friends and family. They quickly became members of The Greenbrier Golf & Country Club at the nearby iconic Greenbrier resort, and their daughter was married at The Greenbrier Chapel.

Design principal and co-owner Troy Beasley, of Beasley & Henley Interior Design in Naples and Winter Park, had designed his clients' primary Naples residence years earlier, so he knew their likes and dislikes. "He is semi-retired," Beasley notes. "His goal was to have a very upscale, mountain-style home because he likes the rusticity and wanted something warm and inviting."

Taking more than two years from start to completion, the building process for the five-bedroom dwelling began when Beasley and the homeowners traveled to Montana to find stone, to Idaho for steel, and to Vermont for the slate roof. "We knew he wanted a lot of unique materials," Beasley says. "The house is a perfect blend of quality materials and elements."



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Beasley's trusted relationship with these clients allowed him to procure whimsical pieces, such as an eagle dressed in a tuxedo in the hall by the office, referencing his client's interest in falconry. "I can surprise him with things and he loves it," he adds.

One of Beasley's challenges was to prevent the strong architecture from being too harsh. "I like a masculine background and then I put softness in it. Soft area rugs, beautiful fabrics, skirted chairs. The skirted chair by the vanity in the master bath and curves in some of the chandeliers keep it from being too harsh."

Beasley says that his favorite area of the house is the great room and the bar. "But in the end, it's the people who live in it who make the home so special because they are so warm and welcoming."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A WHIMSICAL ART PIECE OF AN EAGLE DRESSED IN A TUXEDO POSITIONED IN THE HALL OUTSIDE THE OFFICE; GUEST BATHROOM DETAIL; THE MASTER BATHROOM WITH SKIRTED CHAIR, VANITY, AND VARIOUS CURVED ELEMENTS.





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ABOVE: THE POOL AREA CREATES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR A PATIO-STYLE HOME TO EXIST WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN TOPOGRAPHY. LEFT: THE MODERN BEDROOM DECOR CONTRASTS WITH THE RUSTIC OUTDOOR SCENERY.



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP AND BOTTOM: CUTTING-EDGE ARCHITECTURE IS REFLECTED IN THE GREAT ROOM AND THROUGHOUT THE HOME, WHICH IS NESTLED IN THE CLIFFS AT WALNUT COVE BETWEEN PISGAH NATIONAL PARK AND THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY.



BLUE RIDGE BEAUTY

This private Naples couple moved into their four-bedroom, 7,800-square-foot summer home in 2020, following 18 months of planning and construction. Bordered by Pisgah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway, this distinctly modern mountain retreat is sited in the private golfing community of The Cliffs at Walnut Cove. Perfectly in sync with its majestic surroundings, the dazzling residence is just minutes from Asheville, North Carolina.

Positioned on the confluence of the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, Asheville offers outdoor activities such as hiking, walking, and water sports. As home to the University of North Carolina, Asheville, the city also enjoys a lively art, craft beer, and culinary scene made better by its well-known mix of quirky residents, resulting in fascinating people-watching.

The owners had several key architectural goals in mind when designing their home, which was built by Gabriel Home Builders of Travelers Rest, South Carolina. "It was a retreat from the hot summers

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRISTOPHER DECKER, OWNER/PHOTOGRAPHER, FIREWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

of Florida, but they did not want to give up many of the Florida features they had come to cherish," says Richie Martin, vice-president of construction and design. Those features and characteristics included a modern, low-maintenance home that captures 270-degree views;

most all of the year," he says. "When this home was built, we pushed the boundaries. It was cutting edge for this style of architecture in our area. Today it sets a trend in the neighborhood with new homes bearing a lot of stylistic similarities."



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE LIVING AREA REFLECTS THE HOME'S VIBRANT COLOR SCHEME; EXTERIOR VIEW; THE KITCHEN; THE DINING ROOM WITH STRIKING VIEWS OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S TORCH LAKE.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A FUN-FILLED GRANDCHILDREN'S BEDROOM; THE GUESTHOUSE BOASTS LIVING SPACE AND TWO BEDROOMS; A BEDROOM WITH LAKE VIEWS; THE WINE ROOM ON THE LOWER LEVEL.

LAKE LIFE

As much as Susan and Bill Luther embrace their carefree Southwest Florida lifestyle, every Memorial Day Weekend they close their Naples Moraya Bay condo and head to their summer place in Northern Michigan. The pair remain on beautiful Torch Lake—known for its crystal-clear water and Caribbean-like hues of blues and greens—until the area's glorious fall colors are a faded memory.

"Having a second home has been one of my dreams," says Bill, a retired business owner, who grew up in a suburb outside of Detroit and fondly recalls visiting his family cottage in northern Michigan with his parents. "It's a fun place for us to have people up, and this is the time of my life to have fun. We've even reconnected with distant friends from the past."

With four bedrooms (including a charming bedroom just for their grandkids), a guesthouse boasting a living space and two bedrooms, and an amazing wine room on the lower level, the property has ample room for their three grown daughters and two young grandchildren to enjoy lake life with them.

Proximity to Traverse City and other towns are part of Torch Lake's appeal. For Bill, so are the numerous near-

by golf courses. "Having access to those places and yet being remote enough on the lake makes it ideal for us," he explains. "It's a different relaxation than Naples, and I love Naples. Here it is quieter and more remote—no traffic lights. It's not city life. It's more reserved."

Built in 2016, the 7,000-square-foot home enjoys a lake view from every room. The Naples-based Renée Gaddis Interiors design team pulled hues from the lake for the home's vibrant color scheme. For fun, each guest bedroom sports a unique palette all its own. Ceiling designs and custom woodwork and cabinetry accompanied by ultra-comfortable furnishings strengthen the dwelling's relaxed yet sophisticated design.

Door-to-door from their Torch Lake escape to the couple's longtime family home in the Detroit suburb of Rochester Hills is only a three-hour-and-fifteen-minute drive. "That sealed the deal," Bill says with a smile. ◀◀

