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Endless View: Chapter Three — Design

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ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD TILMA/BRAD DOUGLAS DESIGN

Chapter Three of the 2018 Great Lake Story focuses on the design of “Endless View,” a modern home with three bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths plus a guest apartment on Ludington’s Lake Michigan coastline. Homeowners Bruce and Julie Lowing desired a retreat where they could enjoy life by the water and worked with the stellar building team of Scott Christopher Homes and designer Brad D. Tilma, Brad Douglas Design.

Together, the design/build teams and homeowners re-envisioned what the lakefront property could be — demolishing the original, aging home, and opting for a new build that would honor the legacy and beauty of the lot.

Tilma said as he designed the home it was the “ten million dollar view” of Lake Michigan that anchored his vision. “It was all about the view. I wanted them to have a lake view in every room of the house,” he explained. To achieve this end, Tilma created a glass and stone facade for the dual-levels, including 16-foot sliding glass doors and expansive panes that wrap around the home and even make an appearance on the garage.

The Lowings wanted a home with intimate, relaxing spaces, while also having plenty of room to entertain friends and family. With two children in college, they requested a guest apartment, which Tilma outfitted above the adjoining garage. It features one bedroom, a kitchen, bathroom, and yes, a view of the water.

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The street-level foyer serves as a seamless barrier for the more private spaces, allowing the master suite to remain off and away from the large, open-concept living and dining areas. It also creates an unobstructed view of the lake all the way from the front patio -- thanks to large panes of glass on the east wall -- and allows the ever-important morning light in. "We tried to get light from every single direction," Tilma said.

His team also designed built-in roller shades for the entire main floor and for the bedrooms in the lower level to allow the homeowners to control the amount of light coming in. "Sometimes window coverings can be a bit of an eyesore, but we went to great lengths to ensure they fulfilled their function without taking anything away from the beauty of the home," Tilma said.

There are two bedrooms and two baths on the home's lower level, and an exercise room wrapped in glass on three sides to provide maximum inspiration for workouts. "We also created a lake entry that leads to an area complete with lockers, bathroom and changing space," Tilma said.

Tilma said he worked closely with the interiors team, including Via Design, Inc., Klingman's Furniture, Belden Brick and Supply, and Hedke Painting. "I like to be involved in the interiors as much as possible," he said.

"The team at Scott Christopher Homes is just off the charts. It takes a good builder to do a project like this. It isn't often you see something look better in real life than on paper, but with Endless View, the home takes your breath away just as much as the views."

We invite you to follow Great Lake Story as we reveal a new chapter in each issue of Michigan BLUE Magazine or at mibluemag.com. In the next chapter we'll take a closer look at the indoor and outdoor spaces of the home.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BUCK

