



**SIDE BY SIDE** From right: The outdoor fire pit is a multi-season amenity for the family; a pair of chairs from Hickory Chair Furniture Co. and a custom-tufted ottoman covered in fabric from Schumacher combine style and comfort in the home's great room.



# BLUE HORIZONS

Traditional elements commingle with bold colors and timeless patterns in a striking new addition to an established Winnetka neighborhood.

*By Tate Gunnerson  
Photography by Anthony Tahlier*

"We feel like we landed in the perfect location," explains Carrie Scharbo of the newly constructed home in Winnetka that she shares with her husband, Mark, and their two young children, a daughter and a son. The couple—he's a supply chain executive, and she's a former actress and news anchor—relocated to the area from New York City several years ago and fell in love with the beachfront community. When a green lot near downtown became available, they jumped at the chance to build their own home. "We liked this location because the kids can walk to school, and it's close to restaurants and the beaches," Scharbo says. "This area has a lot of history, so I wanted it to feel like it might have been an older home that has been renovated."

Indeed, the brick-and-stone-clad home they commissioned seamlessly blends into the historical neighborhood. Inside, modern and traditional influences have been juxtaposed to create the kind of unique and comfortable space that the Scharbos envisioned. "I wanted a home where people—even families with small children—would feel comfortable," Scharbo says. "No rooms are off-limits."

In the kitchen, for example, which Scharbo designed with the



lends a rustic sensibility to the Christopher Peacock kitchen, which combines modern-day appliances with custom old-timey hardware.



«“If you pick things that you really love and stay true to yourself, it will all come together.”  
—Carrie Scharbo»



**SITTING PRETTY** From right: With outdoor furnishings, a cooking area and a stone fire pit, the backyard acts as a second living area until the snow falls; the former actress and news anchor Carrie Scharbo moved to Winnetka with her family and built this house, which nicely suits their busy lives.



help of Sean Daly, a designer at Christopher Peacock (peacockhome.com), the linen banquette cushion has been “vinylized” to be stain-repelling. Although the space is relatively small, Scharbo challenged Daly to incorporate every conceivable appliance, including a Wolf range and a mini Sub-Zero refrigerator for the children. “She wanted all the bells and whistles of a current kitchen but with a warmer, traditional feeling,” Daly says.

To that end, Daly brought in white custom cabinetry and marble countertops for the perimeter, which he juxtaposed with walnut butcher block, a black granite island and black window trim. “The contrast of white cabinetry with butcher block and painted finishes creates a yin-yang theme,” Daly explains.

The same push-pull of influences can be felt

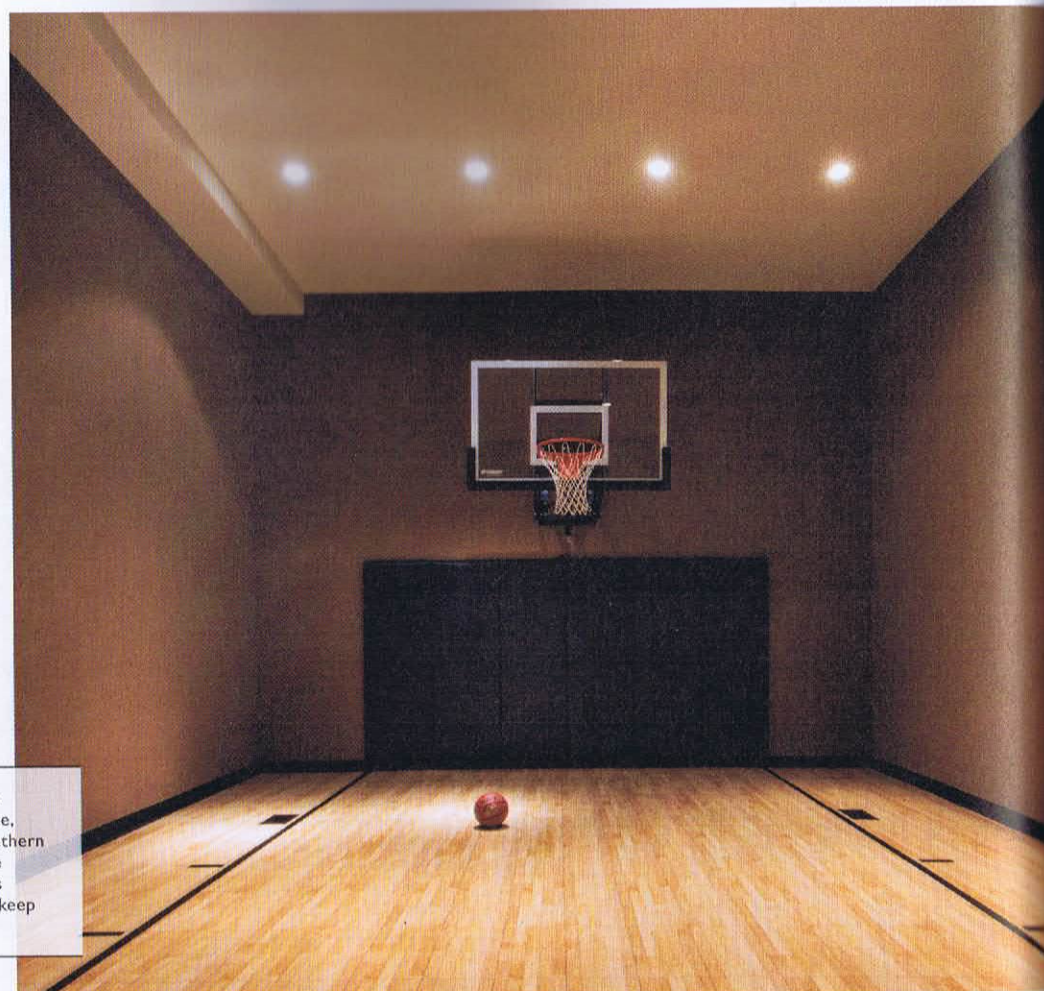
throughout the interior, which Scharbo and an interior designer from Minnesota designed together. “It can be overwhelming, but once you take that initial design step, things start to make sense,” Scharbo says. “If you pick things that you really love and stay true to yourself, it will all come together.”

In the family area, sofas have been placed back-to-back with one facing the fireplace and the other facing the kitchen. “When we have people over, it’s very easy for them to feel like they are still a part of that kitchen conversation,” Scharbo says. Tailored pieces covered in fabric inspired by menswear—a pinstriped fabric on one of the sofas, for example, and a tight gray plaid fabric covering the ottoman—create a comfortable and masculine look. “You’ll see a lot of tweeds and wool,”





**BOYS' TOYS** From left: Mark Scharbo's wood-paneled office, which was inspired by his Southern roots, includes a bar cart; the basement includes this sports court and a home theater to keep everyone busy on rainy days.



Scharbo explains. "I just love that classic men's suit. It's conservative and never goes out of style."

To give each room a distinct personality, Scharbo injected pops of color through fabric and wallcoverings. A navy blue grass-cloth wallcovering in the front stairway introduces texture and coordinates with the runner, which has a geometric pattern. In the dining room, yellow silk draperies with an ornithological theme have been placed against a contemporary damask wallcovering. "The silk curtains are elegant but also whimsical," Scharbo says. "Wallpaper is really addictive. Once you start putting it up, you want more and more of it."

Take the children's bedrooms, for example, where Scharbo used graphic wallpapers to create unique spaces that reflect their personalities. For their son's room, Scharbo created an accent wall using a black-and-white paper depicting the outline of animals. All four walls of their daughter's room, on the other hand, have been covered with a contemporary pink toile pattern

featuring scenes of Paris, Moscow, Rome and other far-flung locales. "We say that this wallpaper could be her bucket list," Scharbo explains.

Because of Mark's busy work and travel schedule, Carrie took the lead on the design of the home and even handled the move. "My husband left our home in Glencoe on a Monday and came back to our new home here on a Thursday," she says. "He was really pleased and excited with how it turned out."

Shortly after moving in, Daly stopped by for a visit with Christopher Peacock in tow. The trio spent nearly two hours discussing the design of the space. "It was a thrill for me to have Christopher Peacock here and to have his stamp of approval on the kitchen," Scharbo says, noting the credit for the success of the project goes to the designer, Daly. "Sean is a great listener who got really excited about the project. He went above and beyond to make the project come to life and reflect our vision." ■



**PERFECTLY PINK** The daughter's room is girly but still sophisticated. Opposite page: Accents of gold and brass play off the neutrals and grays in the family room.