

Custom-designed, this magnificent Wildwood residence integrates "the best of Frank Lloyd Wright" with its natural surroundings.

ative grasses line the winding drive and sway in the near-three-digit heat. A sunburst of black-eyed Susan daisies backs to the dense forest encircling the residence. With its low profile, all-stone exterior, gently sloping rooflines and cantilevered terraces, the 7,200-square-foot structure harmonizes beautifully with its glorious setting.

An unobtrusive walkway leads to the recessed entrance, which is marked by a massive cut-limestone lintel and a spectacular art glass window – instantly recognizable as Frank Lloyd Wright's renowned Lake Geneva Tulip pattern. Stepping through the "hidden" entry door, there's virtually no sense of transition, except for the now-pleasant temperature. Vast banks of windows bathe the spaces in natural light and blur the distinction between indoors and outdoors. Twelve-foot ceilings, raised still higher in certain areas, enhance the spatial volume. Interior walls are blanketed with the same natural Missouri limestone as the exterior, provide a warm contrast.

This seamless organic effect is precisely what the homeowners and architect Dick Busch set out to achieve when designing this extraordinary Wright-inspired haven, situated on seven heavily wooded acres in Wildwood.



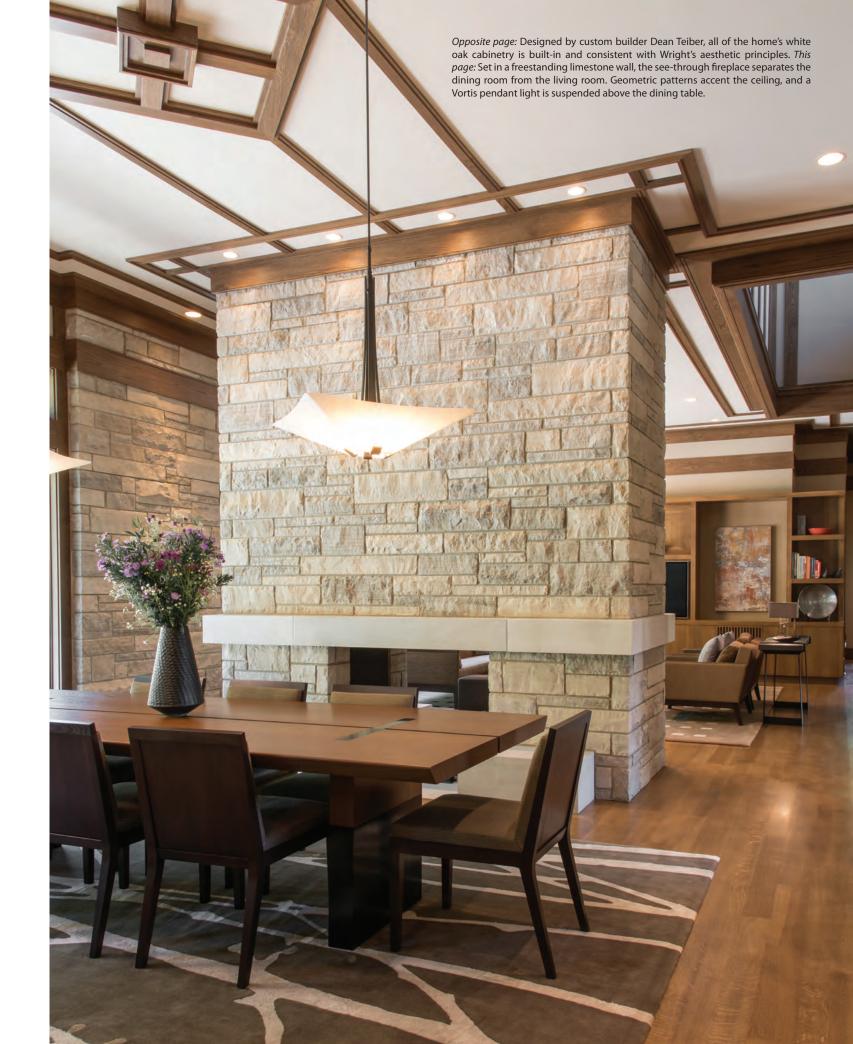
Now retired, the husband is the former company. "For some time, we'd been refer to as "the best of Frank Lloyd Wright." looking for a secluded, natural setting – a place where we could retreat with family of a local architect. After interviewing several, and friends," he explains. The "boundary-less" property, surrounded by hundreds of acres of wooded parkland, proved ideal and was With scrupulous attention to preserving the purchased in 2008.

architectural styling of the couple's future sanctuary either. Married for 43 years, they'd truckloads of the rock and dirt removed were lived in five states and raised their family in transported to the Chesterfield site where the and rich-hued white oak flooring and millwork a variety of traditional homes. "But both of Premium Outlet Mall was under construction.) us have always loved the clean, uncluttered lines of Wright's designs and his use of glass, wood and stone," says the wife. Over the systems and, under the watchful eye of years, they'd toured and photographed the legendary architect's residential projects

assembling a comprehensive list of their executive of a consumer packaged goods favorite elements, which they humorously

Similar care went into the owners' choice they chose Busch in 2012, and the design process was completed in just four months. gorgeous terrain, a minimal amount of land There was never any question about the was cleared, and the foundation was dug in early 2013. (An interesting side note, 800

Twelve wells, each 180 feet deep, were bored for installation of the three geothermal custom builder Dean Teiber, Teiber Construction Co., the owners' vision was throughout the Midwest, researching and transformed into reality. "We enjoyed





A dramatic "layered" ceiling tops the sunroom, which adjoins the open-air patio room. The spectacular two-sided fireplace is gas fueled on the interior and wood-burning on the exterior. *This page:* Off the entry foyer, the vestibule soars to 30 feet. On the far wall is a Kit Hevron Mahoney painting, commissioned by the homeowners to reflect the wildflowers and grasses native to the property.



working with Dean on this project," the husband says. "He and his team's work are outstanding. Plus, the workmen loved the serenity here, and they hated to leave." But by July of 2014, the home was ready for move-in.

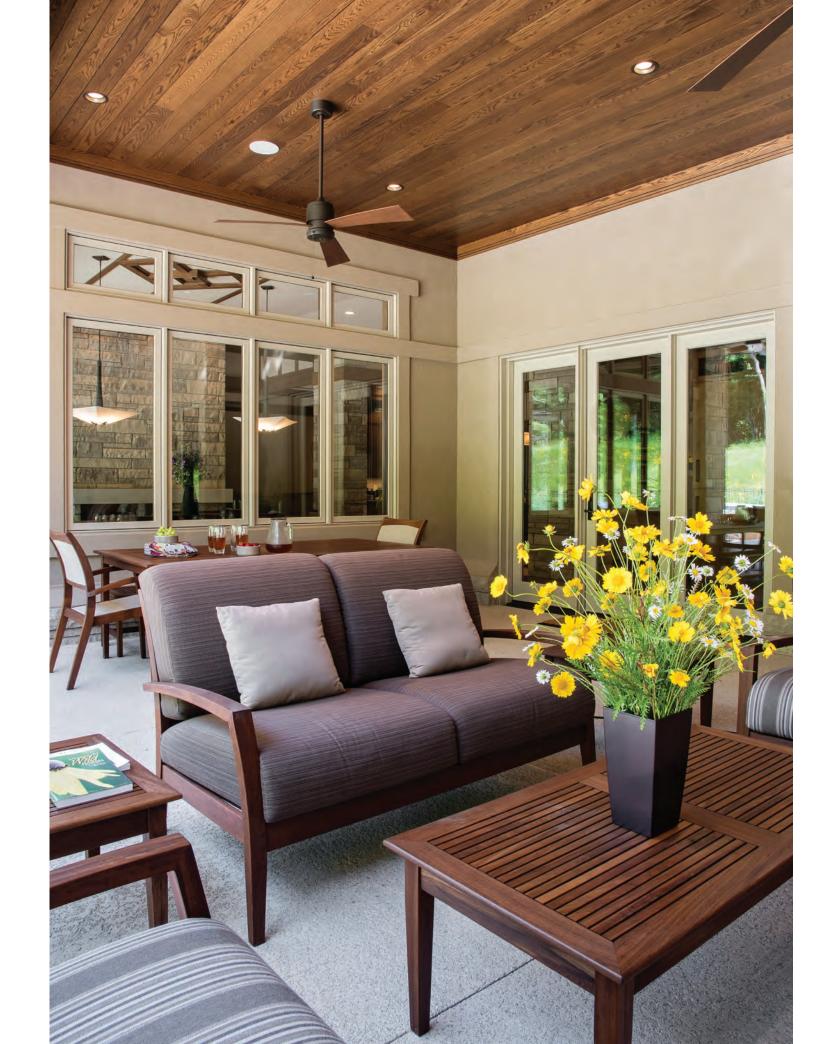
Although fully open, the main-level activity areas are well-defined and flow artfully from one to another. Wright's design principles dominate the interior, with finely-crafted banding and clerestory windows emphasizing the horizontal lines and natural materials establishing continuity. Through walls of glass, every space provides a different view, and the built-in custom cabinetry designed by Teiber, shelving and trimwork are all quarter-sawn or rift-cut white oak, often laid in distinctive geometric patterns.

Seven imposing fireplaces, all variations of Wright designs, are located in various areas throughout the home. The pièce de résistance, however, is a see-through fireplace set in the freestanding limestone wall that anchors and separates the living and dining rooms. Surmounting the living room mantel is a dazzling, semi-circular, 400-pound bronze sculpture, derived from Wright's iconic fireplace in the Hotel Geneva and superbly fabricated by Eureka Forge.

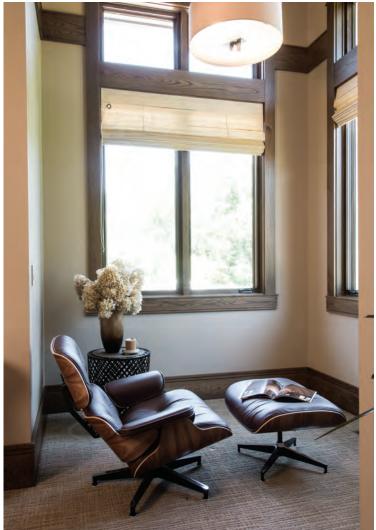
Open to the living/dining area, the spacious island kitchen — a 2016 Platinum award winner by Gegg Design & Cabinetry, featured in SLHL's January issue — is the one notable departure from typical Wright floor plans. "Wright's designs didn't focus on kitchens," the husband quips. "In his era, kitchens weren't as important as they are today, and he focused more on the dining rooms." Nevertheless, this kitchen incorporates the same authentic Prairie-style design elements and natural materials as the rest of

38 august 2016 stlouishomesmag.com august 2016 39





Opposite page: As luxurious as the interior, the patio room features an oak plank ceiling, Brazilian ipe wood furnishings, and decorative concrete flooring. Left: Abundant windows provide a different view from every space in the residence. Right: The "hidden" entry door is flanked by an exquisite art glass window, an authentic reproduction of Wright's Lake Geneva Tulip pattern, licensed and created by Oakbrook Essex Studios.





the home, with simple bronze hardware, Brazilian ipe wood furniture. granite surfaces, a hammered bronze range the appliances and pantry entrance.

open-air patio room.

is irresistible. Overlooking the expansive pool this wing; a guest suite in the opposing wing deck, this outdoor entertainment space is as completes the main-floor layout; and two one of America's most influential architects. luxurious as the interior, with an oak plank ceiling, additional bedrooms are provided on the **See www.stlouishomesmag.com for** decorative concrete flooring and streamlined finished lower level.

hood and minimalist oak cabinetry concealing dramatically to 30 feet, with classic 9-lite acquired specifically for this home and are windows lighting the clerestory. Off the foyer, Plants flourish in the light-filled sunroom, the library showcases another full-height which features a unique "layered" wood limestone fireplace and the only two pieces ceiling that Teiber designed in collaboration of representational art in the home. Both are with the homeowners, limestone walls and commissioned paintings – deer and a red fox textured stone floor tiles. Highlighted by a by wildlife artist Ryan Kirby – again, bringing geometric pattern in wood, the majestic stone the outdoors inside. Or for a breath of fresh air, the Tulip pattern featured in the art glass entry fireplace is actually two-sided, gas fueled in the a cantilevered terrace is accessible from the window, kitchen, and stately entrance gates. sunroom and wood-burning in the adjacent, library and offers spectacular treetop views of the surrounding landscape.

Consistent with Wright's interior design Returning to the foyer, the vestibule soars philosophy, all of the furnishings were clean-lined, predominantly earth-toned and meticulously chosen to complement and focus attention on the architectural aesthetics. Similarly authentic, Oakbrook Esser Studios, working in partnership with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, was licensed to reproduce

Subtle yet sensational, this brilliantly designed residence is as integral to its environment as In spite of the heat, a tour of the patio room

The owners' privacy suite is also located in the towering trees and lush foliage – a sublime refuge for the owners and a worthy tribute to

resources and additional photos.