

# 24/Seven

EYE ON DESIGN

## BRINGING NATURE IN

A Bloomfield Hills couple wanted a modern look — with plenty of windows — when updating their 1961 William Ku-designed home  
*p. 49*

RETAIL *p. 44*

FASHION *p. 46*

EYE ON DESIGN *p. 49*

LIVING DESIGN

# NATURAL WONDER

Fall colors pop at this newly renovated mid-century home in Bloomfield Hills where massive windows bring the outside in

BY MEGAN SWOYER

PHOTOS BY  
JEFF GARLAND

**ELISE AND STEVE** Guidos had a change of heart regarding interior design preferences when they moved into their Bloomfield Hills home in 2019 with the intent to downsize.

"They used to love traditional design, but they now prefer a modern look," says interior designer Staci A. Meyers, owner of SAM Interiors in Bloomfield Hills, who oversaw the renovation. "A lot of my clients are switching from what they had, preferring a whole different look."

That modern, clean-lined look is a perfect fit for the 1961 home, designed by architect William Ku early in his career. (Born in Shanghai in 1922, Ku served as vice president and chief designer at Troy-based Minoru Yamasaki and Associates, where he was named president after Yamasaki's 1986 death.)

The heart of her clients' 4,800-square-foot home (including four bedrooms and 3.5 baths) is

undoubtedly the great room. Wrapped in huge windows, it offers a fantastic view, especially in the fall, when the surrounding hardwoods turn to brilliant oranges and vibrant reds. The trees' swirls of golds and yellows pop against and complement the rich cerulean and sapphire hues of the interior.

"Those fall colors look great with the blue furnishings," says Meyers, who herself lives in a 1960s ranch-style home in Bloomfield filled with iconic mid-century modern furniture. Her favorite part of the Guidoses' great room is its impressive relationship to the outdoors: "It's that connection with nature and all that natural light."

Homeowner Elise Guidos has always loved the color blue. "It reminds me of water, and I feel peaceful when I'm looking at water. I get a real calm from it."

Here's more on this house of blues' prettiest room.

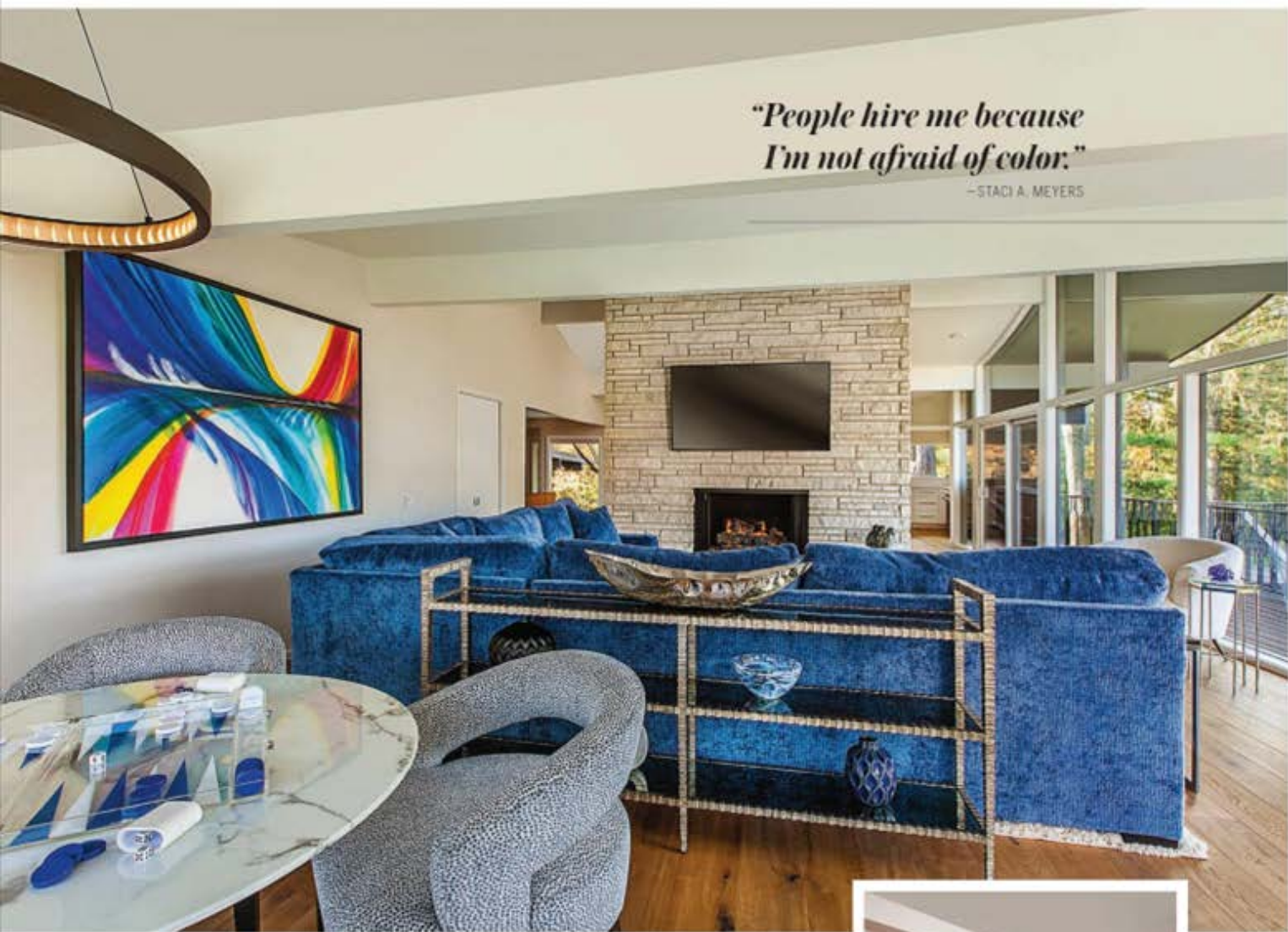
CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

**Through the looking glass:** The original home design featured a lot of floor-to-ceiling windows, but Meyers says the team decided to add even more so that anyone sitting at the game table could also see the nature that surrounds the home. "We thought that extra light there would be appealing," she says. For the windows and other aspects of the renovation, Meyers worked directly with Steve Guidos, who's retired from commercial construction but served as the project manager.



*"People hire me because  
I'm not afraid of color."*

—STACI A. MEYERS



**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19**

**Game for fun:** The marble-topped game table (from Zuo Modern), where family and friends often gather, is surrounded by chairs (from Universal Furniture) that were custom-designed by SAM Interiors and covered in a blue-and-cream cheetah print.

**Filter finesse:** There are no window treatments in this room, so Meyers recommended that an ultraviolet filter film be applied to the windows. "If you don't have draperies or shades or a type of filter, over time, things like flooring, furniture, and artwork will fade."

**Fine flooring:** The great-room renovation features new hickory hardwood flooring in coffee, from Viking Hardwood Flooring.

**Beam me up:** "I love the architectural beams in the room, but they needed some TLC," Meyers says. "We cleaned them up and made them a pure white to simplify them. I love that they go all the way through — they are the architectural bones of the house."

**Stoked for a cleanup:** "We retained the existing stone of the fireplace but cleaned it and added new gas logs to freshen it up." She also added lighting below the cantilevered hearth.

**Chic art:** Antonio Molinari, a fine artist and creative designer at Lincoln Motor Co., created the abstract art seen above. The artwork shown in the photo to the right is by Laurie Tennant Botanicals.

**Blue hue:** "The blue of the sofa is very specific to the client. It's like a cobalt blue meets a touch of purple, a periwinkle," Meyers says. "People hire me because I'm not afraid of color." Adds Elise Guidos: "I not only wanted a blue couch, but I needed it to be big and super cozy for my large family. I love to entertain our extended family." Meyers says the sofa, from CR Lane, is incredibly comfortable and quite a statement piece: "It feels like a really soft poodle." The neutral-toned armchair and ottoman, also from CR Lane, ground the blues in the space.

**Poppin':** Meyers chose a white paint (Sherwin-Williams' Crushed Ice) for the walls. "It's not a crisp bright white," she says. "It has a soft shade to it and is a nice way to make things pop, like the

architectural details."

**Added touches:** The occasional table and the coffee table near the sofa are from Stone International.

**Hear ye, hear ye:** The designer says it's important to put down a rug (this one's from Nourison Home) if you have a large wood floor because it helps soften the room's acoustics and you can hear better. "Plus, a rug makes things soft, and it's warm on your feet. The room is layered with comfort."

**All hands on deck:** An outdoor deck with a stairway leading to the pool area beckons along one side of the great room. Most of the outdoor furniture is blue, too. The outdoor sofas and chairs are by Pavilion (a Miami-based company). ●

