



# LAKESHORE Living

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# OUTSIDE the box

Ultramodern home truly one-of-a-kind

STORY BY SUZANNE WEISS

Shane Black has a home like no other.

The town of Two Rivers man, who favors vibrant colors and eye-catching elements, has channeled much of his creative energy into designing his ultramodern house.

"It's all an innate ability I didn't tap into until I decided to build," said Black, who has no formal architectural training. "I looked through various magazines and found nothing out of the ordinary so I started sketching shapes. I drew a pyramid ... that gave me the inspiration for the leaning walls. Once I got the idea for the leaning walls, it took shape quickly. It was as if I intuited the perfect design. I like the asymmetry of the entire structure. Until the design coalesced, I didn't realize how unique it would be."

The 2,500-square-foot, three-bedroom, 2½-bath home on 12 acres of land bought from his father, also utilizes passive and active solar heat, super insulation, a continuous vapor barrier and air-to-air heat exchanger.

"My primary concern with it was to be environmentally friendly, to have a low impact on Earth and show others you could do that with a larger-sized home," said Black, who started building the house in 2000 and completed furnishing it about two years ago. His home, at 959 Crystal Spring Road in the town of Two Rivers, recently was open to the public as part of the Wisconsin Tour of Solar Buildings put on by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association.

The gleaming white exterior is flexible acrylic stucco made to withstand the expansion and contraction that occurs with seasonal temperature changes. Large windows punctu-

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Clockwise from top left: Shane Black's home at 959 Crystal Spring Road in the town of Two Rivers. PHOTO BY DOUG SUNDBLACK designed and built this coffee table in the family room of his home; the first floor lounging area. PHOTOS BY SUE FISCHKE





Master bedroom with the whirlpool tub.  
PHOTO BY SUE FISCHKE

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ate the design and allow in plenty of light.

"Once I drew the exterior ... I knew I needed an interior as ultramodern as the exterior," Black said. "I pored over hundreds of magazine and websites looking for unique products and fixtures." In many instances, when he couldn't find what he liked, he designed and built it himself.

Inside, visitors see a hand-ground stainless steel and etched glass staircase leading up the second level. It incorporates a circular design element that is evident throughout the home. Above head is a sky blue ceiling with painted clouds to give it a look of the outdoors.

On the left is the open kitchen with upscale cobalt blue cabinets and tiled floor to match. The curved blue stools echo the shape of the freestanding eating island. Above hangs a curved light fixture with sapphire glass balls illuminated by halogen bulbs. At night, the island's acrylic top and circular inserts are illuminated from within. That and other illuminated elements, such as the staircase, give the home a look reminiscent of a "Star Trek," "Star Wars" or "American Idol" set.

"It glows like a starship at night," Black says. "It's like night and day, literally and figuratively."

The room at right, which could be used as a library, sitting room, lounge or living room, offers a stark yet pleasing contrast with its tangerine and ruby color scheme. Vivid orange seat-



The second-floor living room view of the backyard of Shane Black's contemporary home. PHOTO BY SUE FISCHKE

ing and a colored resin surface coffee table, which Black designed and built, play off of that color scheme. Next to this room is Black's home gym.

Hanging room dividers set off each space. The dining area features transparent tangerine-colored chairs and a matching light fixture over the glass table. The patio doors look out at a tranquil backyard pond surrounded by rolling fields.

Many of the furnishings in the home are made by famous designers, including the German-made Philippe Starck wall-mounted toilet and urinal in the first-floor bathroom. The walls are painted a deep blue to resemble a night sky with clouds of cosmic particles floating in space. A cobalt glass sink on a chrome pedestal and circular mirror round out the design.

The home's spacious upstairs master bedroom is done in emerald green. Built-in sleek black cabinets and a round black shag run continue the circular theme. Behind the ensuite whirlpool tub is a transparent emerald-colored acrylic divider accented with crinkled Mylar. Behind the panel are two separate areas, one for a walk-in shower and the other for the commode. Two sinks, one on each side of the room add symmetry. Black made the sinks, which are from a polyester resin dyed an emerald color.

A bathroom down the hall is done in a contrasting Bordeaux color scheme. Visitors crossing the angled bridge leading to the upstairs family room can hang on to stainless steel railings, beneath which are horizontally strung steel aircraft cables.

The family room has a multiple tray ceiling, midnight blue walls, a large-screen television set and comfy beanbag chairs. Off to the left are two doors leading to additional rooms that can be used for bedrooms or office space.

Black enjoyed the creative process that went into his \$299,000 home so much that he started the Shane Black Design business so he could design for others. For information, visit [www.shaneblack.com](http://www.shaneblack.com) or call (920) 553-5106.

Black plans to find opportunities for his talents in California and has his home on the market.