

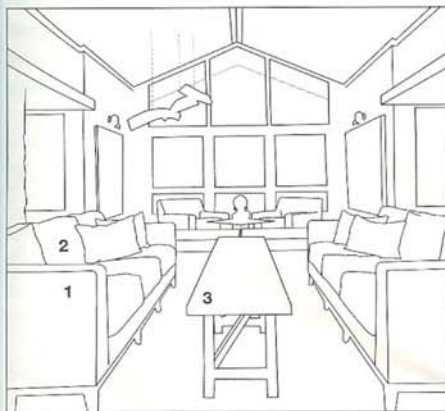
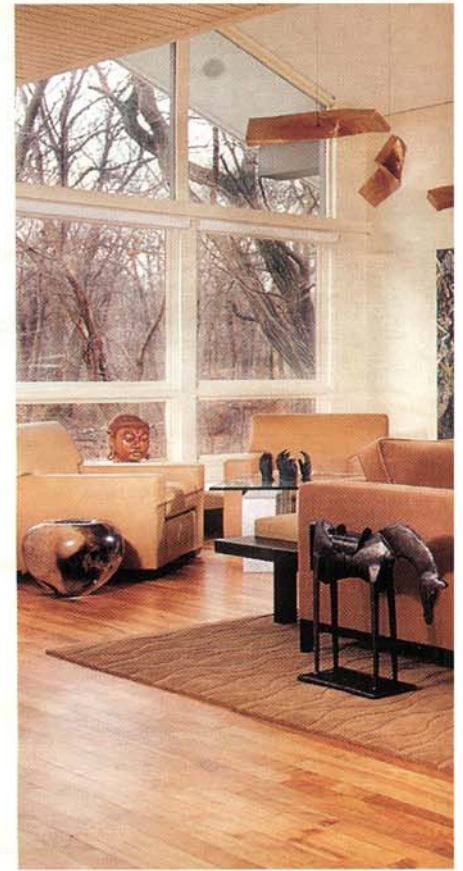
# outside in

Frank Ponterio takes a few cues from nature to bring a little peace to a Lake Forest abode

by **elise hofer** photography by **christine wolfe**

"The idea was to make everything become part of the exterior," says interior designer Frank Ponterio of the results of his 2006 remodeling of a handsome contemporary home in Lake Forest. "The house overlooks this lovely ravine. We didn't want to, well, rob the ravine with over-stimulating design. We didn't want people to just come in and see the room, but rather experience the connectivity, the calm, the harmony."

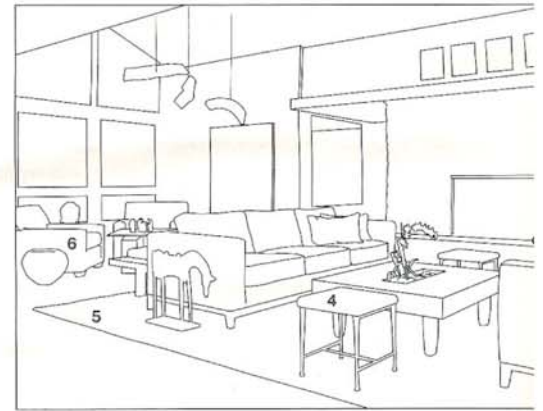
Known for his ability to bring timeless influences to contemporary



## living room (1 and 2)

"I wanted to do something that was warm, inviting and calming," says Ponterio. "And I wanted it to be timeless so that if I walk into this house in 15 years it will still be current. Some of the great interiors done 50 years ago by Frances Elkins or Jean-Michel Frank, for example, you could live in them today."

1. Sofas by Christian Liagre/ Holly Hunt, Ltd.
2. Sofa fabric by Rogers & Goffigon, Ltd., Aplaca/Cowtan & Tout
3. Cocktail table by Ted Boerner

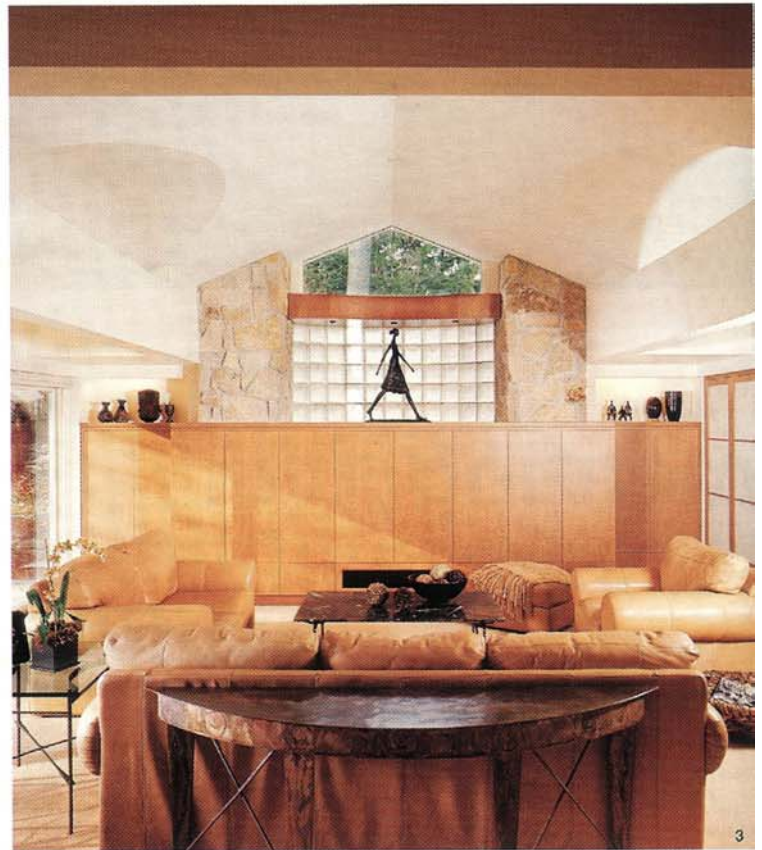




lifestyles, Ponterio, 36, principal of Frank Ponterio Interior Design, has left his "modern classic" mark on more than 150 residential and commercial projects across Chicagoland over the last 12 years. (And last year, his company won the ASID Illinois Design Excellence Awards in three residential categories: historic restoration, singular residential space and showcase room.) These days, his reputation precedes him, particularly because his team does custom millwork, lighting design, furnishings, fabrics and artwork

(not to mention Ponterio's wife, Becky, owns a carpet company that works with nine different mills that can hook him up with just about anything, from hand-tufted silk to hand-sewn hide).

"My philosophy is to incorporate the client's lifestyle needs and how they want to use the space," says Ponterio. "The owners of this house are great people, mellow people. This house suits them. They can kick back, put their feet up and not worry about hurting anything." ■



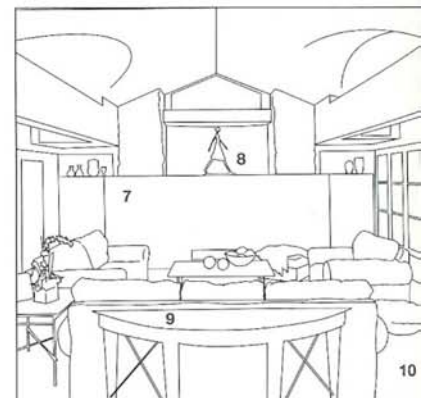
- 1. Bronze stools by Holly Hunt, Ltd.
- 2. Rug by Frank Ponterio Interior Design
- 3. Club chairs by Christian Liagre/Holly Hunt, Ltd.

#### family room (3)

"The house has a minimalist soul," says Ponterio. "The owners choose to live without a lot of ornamentation. For me, personalizing living environments to a client's lifestyle is a priority. The majority of the decorative touches we worked in are things the owners collected over the years, stuff that reminds them of their travels. To keep things visually relaxing, we used natural stones and leathers and avoided crown moldings, chandeliers..."

- 7. Custom millwork by Frank Ponterio Interior Design
- 8. Sculpture, *Woman Walking*, by Thomas Corbin/Holly Hunt, Ltd.
- 9. Sofa-back table by Carl Dern/Summer Hill Ltd.
- 10. Wool carpet by Avalon Carpets/Pedian

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