

# DETROIT DESIGN



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Featured Homes

## Park It Here

A slice of outdoors paradise — complete with a clay tennis court, pool, and pool house — beckons at a Bloomfield Hills home | Photography by Karl Moses, Julie Petry, Beth Singer  
By **Judith Harris Solomon**



**OPEN-DOOR POLICY** The pool house's airy great room features many of the same color tones as found in the main home.

**B**loomfield Hills residents Kristen and David DeMuth love the outdoors. So when a three-acre property located just behind their home came on the market in 2012, they decided to purchase it. Together with a team that included interior designer Lynn Witmer, principal of Witmer Design in Bloomfield Hills; Victor Saroki, principal of Birmingham's Saroki Architecture; and landscape architect Matt Mosher, of Mosher & Associates and general contractor Mosher Dolan, both in Royal Oak, they created an inviting, park-like space. The outdoor paradise includes a 2,000-square-foot, one-bedroom pool house, a pool, patio, clay tennis court, and gardens. The result is truly awesome.

“FOR THE SAKE OF CONTINUITY, WE TOOK CUES FROM OUR MAIN HOUSE...”  
— DAVID DEMUTH

“Our concept was to create a pool house that was cool and comfortable,” David DeMuth says. The couple says they were particularly influenced by NFL player Tom Brady’s California residence, which they had seen in a magazine. “That was our foundation and our guide, and we took a lot of cues from it — including the accordion glass doors that open up the whole room, the reclaimed wooden beams (a central design accent), the vaulted ceiling, and the honed bluestone floor.” (Adds Witmer, regarding the flooring: “When you hone bluestone, it gives it a more pristine and more sophisticated look.”)



**COOKING UP STYLE** Durable and functional materials create a comfortable atmosphere in the kitchen spaces.

“For the sake of continuity, we took cues from our main house, utilizing color tones, furnishings, art, and light fixtures that would make the house and the pool house relate to each other,” David says. For example, the Urban Electric chandelier in the pool house features a classic and iconic Hermes orange hue, and Witmer says: “The same color runs through both the main house and the pool house.”

“Because the couple frequently opens up their home to the tennis community, to family, and to several charitable organizations, the materials we used needed to be durable and functional, and hold up really well,” Witmer notes.



**COOKING UP STYLE** Durable and functional materials create a comfortable atmosphere in the kitchen spaces.

The pool house’s living area features a wonderful melange of antique and contemporary furniture.

“I gave Judy Frankel (owner of Judy Frankel Antiques in Troy) a shopping list that included a classic, old farmhouse dining table, and she found a great one that’s 10 feet long. Because the table was too low, Judy Frankel cleverly added bands of wood to the legs in order to make it higher,” Witmer says.

The 8-foot-long ottoman, upholstered in a Ralph Lauren fabric, was custom-designed and then manufactured by Baker. Most of the furniture in the living room, including the two armchairs with their forged bronze arms, is from Holly Hunt.



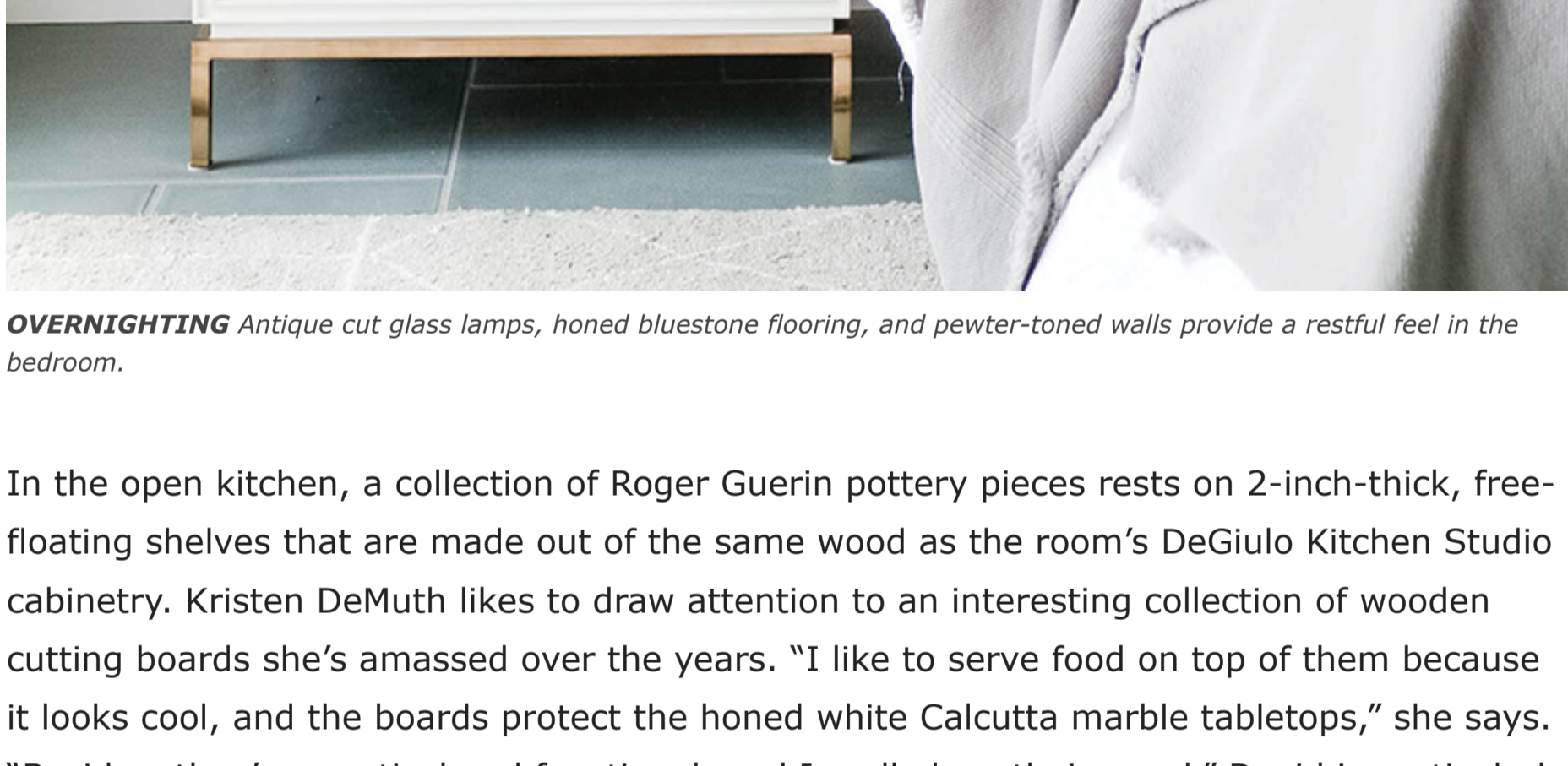
**OLD & NEW** The homeowners entertain and host charity events often, so they wanted their pool house to be able to accommodate lots of activity. Antiques mixed with new furnishings evoke an inviting ambience. Designer Lynn Witmer worked with Troy-based antiques expert Judy Frankel.



**OVERNIGHTING** Antique cut glass lamps, honed bluestone flooring, and pewter-toned walls provide a restful feel in the bedroom.

In the open kitchen, a collection of Roger Guerin pottery pieces rests on 2-inch-thick, free-floating shelves that are made out of the same wood as the room’s DeGiulo Kitchen Studio cabinetry. Kristen DeMuth likes to draw attention to an interesting collection of wooden cutting boards she’s amassed over the years. “I like to serve food on top of them because it looks cool, and the boards protect the honed white Calcutta marble tabletops,” she says. “Besides, they’re practical and functional, and I really love their wood.” David is particularly fond of the kitchen’s Sub-Zero glass-doored refrigerator. “I love to load it up with multiple colorful cans and bottles of soft and hard beverages,” he says.

In the garden, Limelight and Annabelle hydrangeas have been landscaped into “rooms” that have limestone borders. A raised-bed vegetable garden is where the family grows tomatoes, snap peas, corn, tons of herbs, and “whatever our kids will eat,” Kristen DeMuth says.



**OVERNIGHTING** Plenty of windows bring the outdoors in.

### Buyer's Guide

**INTERIOR DESIGN POOL HOUSE**  
Lynn Witmer, Witmer Design, Bloomfield Hills, Witmerdesign.com

**BEDROOM**  
**Artwork** – Untitled, By Norman Blumh  
**Bed** – Sunday Bed In Oxidized Maple, BDDW, New York  
**Chair And Ottoman** – Avenue By Baker, Schumacher In Corsica Weave, Michigan Design Center, Troy  
**Chests** – Custom Mondrian Chests, Thomas Pheasant For Baker, Michigan Design Center, Troy  
**Credenza** – Lakeside Credenza, BDDW, New York  
**Flooring** – Honed Bluestone Flooring  
**Lighting, Ceiling** – Ribbon Pendant, Urban Electric, South Carolina  
**Lighting, Lamps** – Antique Cut Glass Lamps, Judy Frankel Antiques, Troy  
**Wall Paint** – Benjamin Moore, Revere Pewter HC-172



**CLASSIC BEAUTY** Whether it's day or night, the grounds are head-turning.

**DINING AREA**  
**Artwork** – Herringbone Gray And Navy With Black Buttons, Donald Sultan, New York  
**Chairs** – Os De Mouton Chairs, Judy Frankel Antiques, Upholstered in Ralph Lauren, Kravet, Michigan Design Center, Troy  
**Chandelier** – Lindsey Adelman, Branching Bubbles, New York  
**Flooring** – Honed Bluestone Flooring  
**Table** – European Antique Farm Table, Judy Frankel Antiques, Troy  
**Wall Paint** – Benjamin Moore, Revere Pewter HC-172

**GREAT ROOM**  
**Doors** – Optimum  
**Flooring** – Honed Bluestone Flooring  
**Lighting** – Flatiron, Restoration Hardware  
**Lighting, Ceiling** – Cosy Pendant, Urban Electric, South Carolina  
**Lounge Chairs** – Dublin, Holly Hunt  
**Ottoman** – Custom Tufted, Cast Bronze, Baker, Michigan Design Center, Troy  
**Rugs** – Stark Carpet, Troy  
**Sofas** – Villa By Holly Hunt, Upholstered In Great Outdoors In New Linen, Holly Hunt  
**Wall Paint** – Benjamin Moore, Revere Pewter HC-172



**CLASSIC BEAUTY** Whether it's day or night, the grounds are head-turning.

**KITCHEN**  
**Bar Stools** – Pepper Bar Stools In Walnut, Holly Hunt  
**Ceramic Vases** – Roger Guerin Pottery, Judy Frankel Antiques, Troy  
**Countertops** – Calcutta In Honed White  
**Flooring** – Honed Bluestone Flooring  
**Lighting** – Factory Pendants, Urban Electric, South Carolina  
**Roller** – Stark Carpet, Troy  
**Sculpture** – Wood, Zieben-Mare, Franklin  
**Wall Paint** – Benjamin Moore, Revere Pewter HC-172

**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS**  
**Architect** – Saroki Architecture, Birmingham  
**Builder** – Mosher Dolan, Royal Oak  
**Landscaping** – Mosher & Associates, Royal Oak

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