The Forever Home

For designer Shelley Johnstone Paschke, happiness is a home that lasts forever.

By Lesley Veza
Photography by James Yoon and Tony Selver

Rare is the interior designer who wants to live in his or her current home forever, foregoing the fantasy of buying an empty lot and designing one from scratch. But a forever home is the dream of designer Shelley Johnstone Paschke of Shelley Johnstone Design and ShellStone Designs, whose decades of nurturing interests in the Chicago area are now automatic to her life. Her Crisfield home, built in the 1950s, was the original house on a quiet, picturesque Ridge Lane, modest in size, but set on a single quiet home—plenty of room to grow. And as Paschke’s family dynamic has shifted over the decades, so has the home. When she remarried five years ago, her family grew from three to seven, and it became obvious that a major expansion was necessary.

Paschke worked side by side with architect Austin DePonte of Northbrook, a Chicago-based firm, regarded for its hands-on commercial interiors (Times West, Winsor Square) and its residential projects spread throughout the world. The original Chippendale pool house was torn down and replaced with a new structure, designed to be in keeping with the existing home. It features a large sunroom and a large deck with a spa and a pool. The new home is a perfect blend of old and new, with modern amenities and a classic design.