

The Forever Home

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

| By Lauren Viera |
| Photography by James Yokum and Tony Soluri |

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 ShellKare Designs apparel, whose decades of outfitting interiors in the Chicagoland area just barely outnumber the years she's resided at her Lake Forest home. Built in the 1950s, the original house on tiny, private Ridge Lane was modest in size, but sat on a generous acre of land—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 drastically clear that a major expansion was necessary.

Paschke worked side by side with architect Austin DePree of Northworks, a Chicago-based firm regarded for both its handsome commercial interiors (Tortoise Club, Ada Street) and its residential projects spread



An elegant pool house addition with a black trellis backdrop allows for breezes during warm summer months, and is equipped with a bath and changing room.