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STUDIO GRAPHICS PHOTOGRAPHY

How Personal Attention Yields Professional Results

Three years. Three years is how long it took these Hemlock, Michigan, homeowners to find and refine the plans for their new home. It can be assumed, then, no effort was spared in the search for a builder for their dream home. In spending countless hours researching, collecting information and looking for the best builder who would meet their needs, one name kept resurfacing: Steve Zietz.

After researching Zietz Builders of Saginaw and speaking to past clients, David and Esther contacted Zietz. With multiple plans in hand, the three worked together through many consultations, creating a relationship where their dreams would become reality.

“You just click with some people,” says Esther with her full laugh. “We really hit it off from the beginning.”

When asked about the process of building relationships, Zietz says he takes extra time to truly listen to the customer. Gathering information and helping to illustrate what the homeowners want before the process begins is imperative, because he always wants his customers to feel absolutely confident they are on the same team and that their needs and vision will always be met.

Zietz prides himself on personalized attention and professional results. “A lot of builders are focused on high production and are just trying to get the next contract signed,” says Zietz. “That’s not me. When I commit to a homeowner I am theirs from beginning to end. I’m on-site for every aspect of the project,

from the ground up. I treat each customer's home during the building process as if I were building it for my own family."

"He definitely listens to what you like and want to achieve," says Esther of Zietz.

When the crowds streamed through for the 2014 Parade of Homes, people were impressed with the unique features and design details right down to the bold paint colors used throughout the home, which exemplify the homeowner's creativity. This beautiful home actually features 19 different wall colors. "Esther did a wonderful job with interior decorating and tying each room's colors to flow from one room to another," says Zietz.

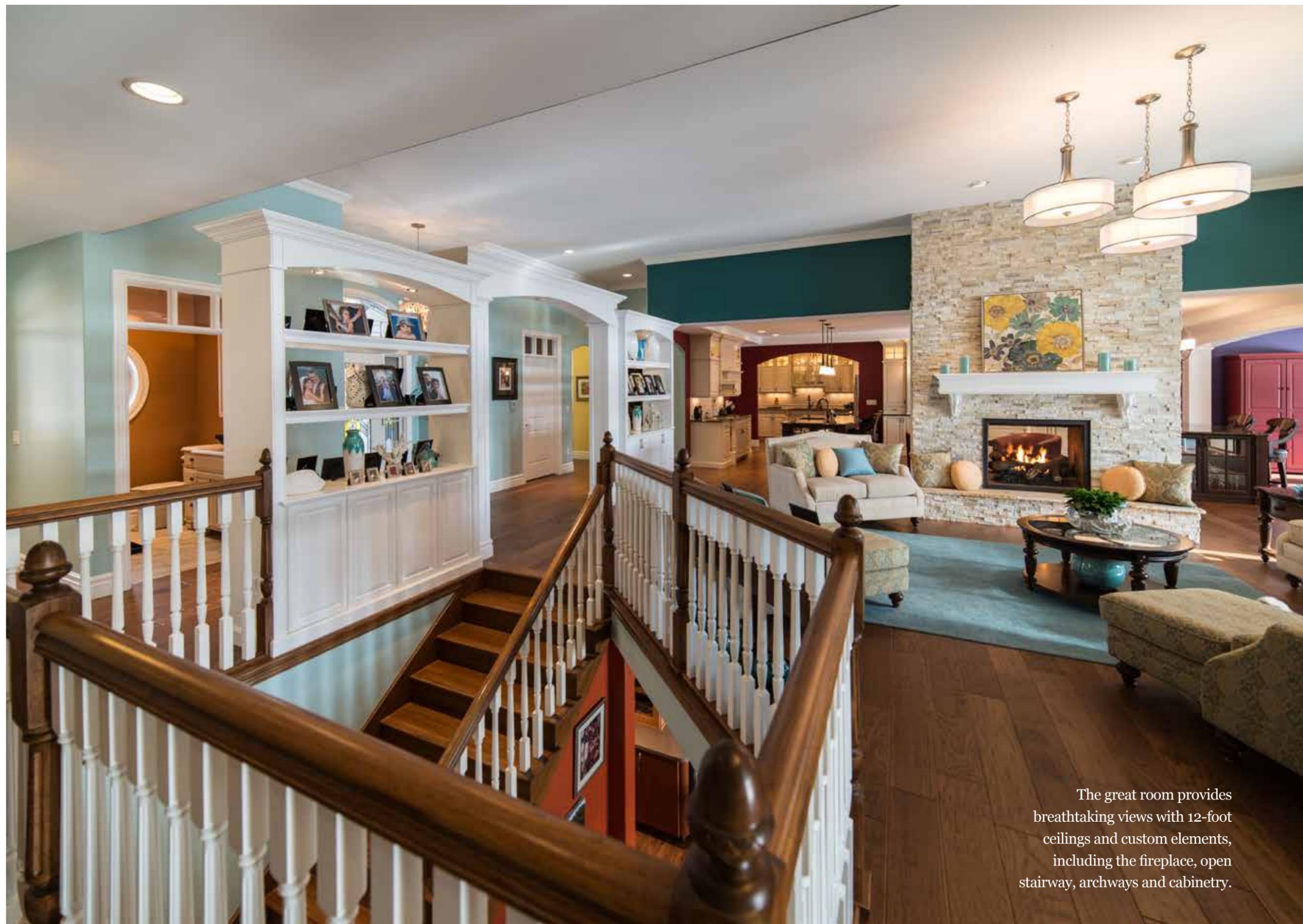
"Making sure the customer can visualize the finished product is something I firmly believe in," says Zietz. "Giving our homeowner visual aids, such as templates of where lighting is placed, how archways may appear, how a transom can literally open a closed space or where the fireplace may be built can give them a sense of what they envision as a reality."

"He even cut out paper in the size and shapes of chairs and tables, so we could envision where and how every piece of furniture would fit in the great room," says Esther.

One look at the great room explains the need for preliminary visualization. The attention to detail and design is staggering, featuring an arched entryway flanked by custom cabinetry, 12-foot ceilings and large French doors leading to a screened-in outdoor porch which overlooks the home's wooded private view of the pond.

Extra care was taken by Zietz in helping his customers visualize the layout and many details of the home's features. He could sense his homeowners' struggle with the design of the fireplace; it was a big decision and one of the main focal points of the home. Questions surfaced. Should there be a raised hearth or no hearth? What material should they use? Where exactly should it be built? Sparing no details, Zietz created a true replica of what the fireplace would look like and surrounded it with mock furniture layouts to help facilitate their decision. In doing so, David and Esther could actually see themselves enjoying their nightly wine, unwinding in front of this home's showpiece. They were sold. Stone-by-stone, the heart of the home was built by Zietz himself.

"When I walked in and saw the fireplace Steve built for us, I was so happy I cried," says Esther.



The great room provides breathtaking views with 12-foot ceilings and custom elements, including the fireplace, open stairway, archways and cabinetry.

This working kitchen is a gourmet chef's dream. Extra work and prep space provided room for a double oven and warming drawer surrounded by custom maple cabinetry.



OPPOSITE & ABOVE: Elegance blends with ease of use in this working kitchen. Lighting accentuates quartz countertops, while also highlighting the interior custom maple cabinetry.

The reaction was in part due to a fulfilled longing to create a home that caters in every way to the comfort and entertainment of a large family and a large circle of friends. The fireplace, with two hearths and a hint of sparkle in the natural stone, is the perfect winter haven for David and Esther's seven children and 17 grandchildren. With a focus on family atmosphere, the rooms are defined, yet so openly connected as to make transition from room to room seamless. Standing in the entryway of the great room, one can spin a complete circle and see a full view of the kitchen, butler's pantry, dining room, powder room, master bedroom, screened-in porch, sunroom and the open stairway leading to the walkout lower level.

The open stairway was the idea of Zietz, and was built to open up the space between the upper and lower levels of this home, while creating a view. The custom railing encircling a loft-style overlook of the stairs produces the impression of minimal separation between the upper and lower levels.

After all, how else would one effectively communicate with 17 grandchildren gallivanting around the recreation area of the lower level? This fully functional floor is ideal for sleepovers, as it boasts an additional kitchen with a custom floor-to-ceiling island, two full bathrooms, laundry room, storage room, playroom and a dorm room filled with bunk beds. The additional benefits of this walk-out lower level are endless, including a library, office, den, wine cellar and David's own man cave, complete with a 20-foot workbench for the avid fly-tying fisherman.

The success of the man cave is more than one man's understanding of a fellow man's struggle for personal and dedicated space. It is yet another illustration of how Zietz comprehends and implements the ideas and wants of his clients.

"Steve was very thoughtful, methodical and detailed," says David. "He had a lot of input, and it worked out well."

"Often it is a home's little details that convey the warmth and character of its homeowners. All of the architectural details and personal touches come together to make this Hemlock home a masterpiece," says Zietz.

Not only is the 8,000-square-foot home a masterpiece in design and detail, but it's also an environmental all-star. Every home Zietz builds is tested and rated for energy efficiency. It's the structural components, geo-thermal heating and cooling system and superior insulation package, that makes this home a 5+ on the Energy Star rating scale, and it outperforms the average standard home this size by 60 percent.

Zietz enjoys the challenge of achieving energy efficiency without sacrificing style, and compares building homes to creating pieces of art. "I take a lot of pride in what I do," he says. "Your home and dreams are like my canvas. I sign my name to it." □

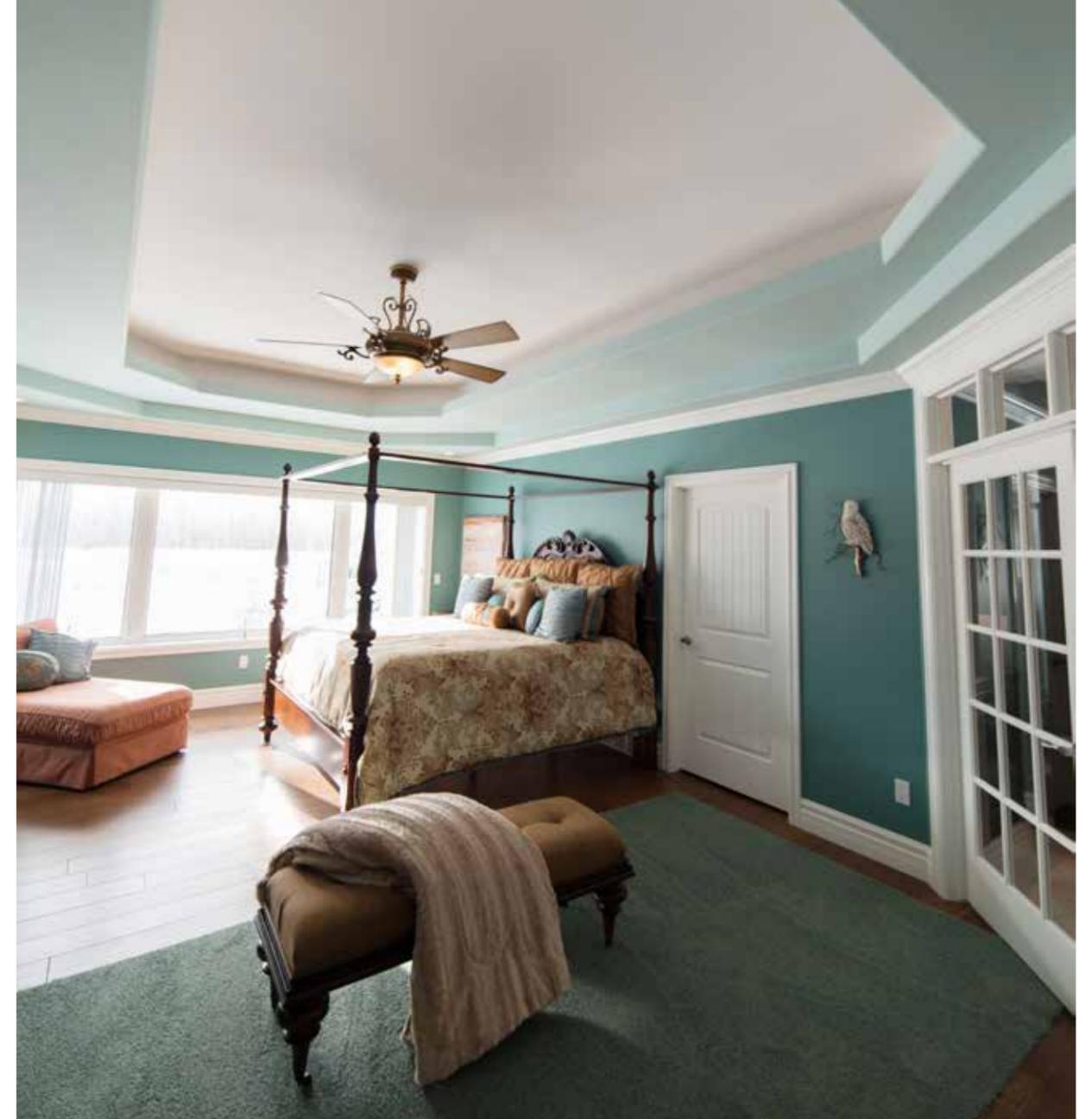


OPPOSITE & ABOVE: One-of-a-kind gourmet kitchen, complete with stockpot filling station, custom-built buffet, 8-foot twin islands complete with seating, and a hearth area for evenings in front of the four-sided Alabaster fireplace. BELOW: Sunroom showcases one of 19 different vibrant colors used in the home, reflecting the personal style of the homeowners.





ABOVE LEFT: Butler pantry facilitates the formal dining room in style with custom cherry cabinetry, quartz countertop and crackle glass tile backsplash. ABOVE RIGHT: Powder room showcases oval artglass window and amber vessel sink. BELOW: Custom hickory stairway affords open view of upper and lower levels.



ABOVE: Master suite complete with trayed ceiling, accent lighting and 12-foot-wide window for plentiful lighting and a breathtaking view. BELOW LEFT: Whirlpool tub encased with a custom cherry canopy and glass-enclosed steam shower denote a truly unique master bath. BELOW RIGHT: Separate His and Her vanities flank the double-door access to the master suite.





ABOVE: Handcrafted archways, custom maple and cherry cabinetry and an open concept all create a welcoming and unique experience for guests. MIDDLE: Breathtaking views from the heart of the home welcome guests. BELOW: Lower level recreation area includes the open hickory stairway and a second full kitchen making family gatherings and entertaining a breeze.

Zietz Builders, LLC

PRINCIPAL OWNER: Steve Zietz

YEARS IN BUSINESS: 15 years as the owner of Zietz Builders and 38 years in the building industry.

ESTABLISHED IN: 1999

EDUCATION: After earning my education within the field of building trades, I am a 3rd generation builder having 38 years of experience with a tool belt on and a hammer in my hand.

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

Personal Attention - Professional Results! We believe beauty starts from the ground up! With a Zietz-built home, it's not just what you see on the outside (although we believe every Zietz-built home is beautiful), it's what you don't see that makes your home special. We are proud to say each home we build bears the mark of quality!

HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, FAMILY, ETC.

I have been married for 32 years and have two children, a son and a daughter, and a new grandson. I love doing what I call making memories with my family and friends - the more the better. In my life, anything goes; camping, boating, and snowmobiling - on a trip or just hanging out. I also love to go elk hunting with the family I have in Wyoming. I have 46 years in scouting. I am part of three generations of Eagle Scouts (my dad, myself and my son); I'm very proud of this and, with my new grandson, am looking forward to making it four generations!

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

We believe what sets Zietz Builders apart from many others is our investment and commitment to quality that only having a hands-on approach to each and every job can bring. With a Zietz-built home, you will have the assurance that each and every detail of your investment is being treated with the utmost importance and expertise because we listen to our customers, paying attention to their every want and need. Building isn't just about what you see - it's about what you don't see as well (the foundation, waterproofing, framing and insulation, for starters). It's not just the pretty exterior and amazing home design that makes a great home for your family... it's every single detail that counts! Every Zietz-built home bears the mark of quality inside and out. You will find Zietz Builders a refreshing change from the rest.

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LEFT: THE GEMMA COLLECTION BY FREDRICK RAMOND, HINKLEY'S LUXURY LINE

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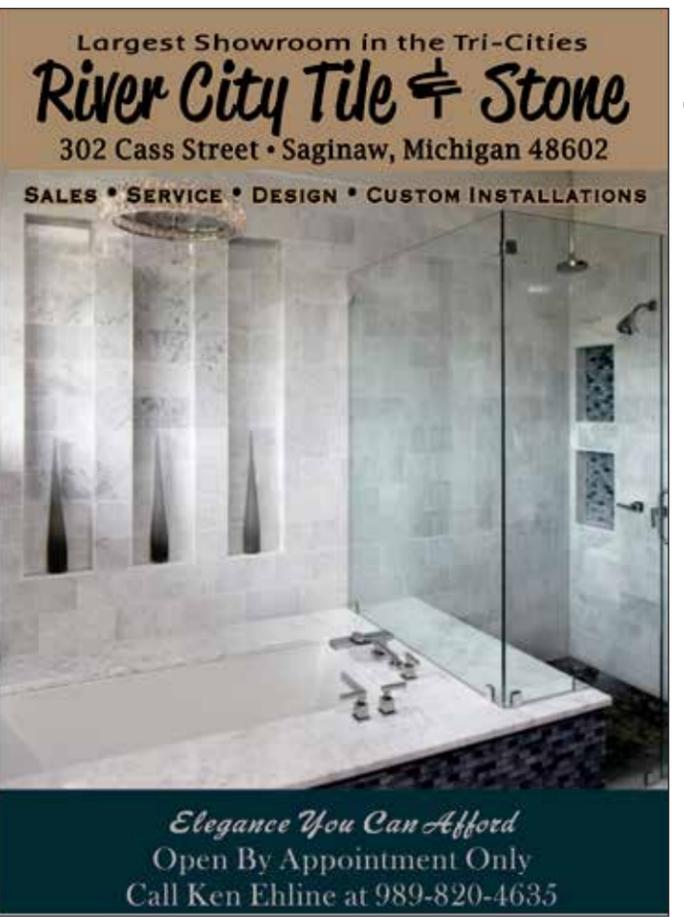
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