

HUIZING HOMES

Custom Industrial Fusion

WRITER | RACHEL WHITE PHOTOS | W. PATRICK CHAMBERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Builder Bill Huizing of Huizing Homes is no stranger to making beautiful things. He had earned his degree in graphic design, but he knew he didn't want to sit behind a desk. Because he loved the job he had during college with a builder, he decided to start his own building company. "I think my background is helpful because it gives me the ability to look at a picture and easily visualize it in three dimensions," Huizing says. This 3,777 square foot house is definitely multidimensional.

When homeowners Chris and Leslie Muller were thinking about their dream house in East Grand Rapids, their visions were, well, different. Chris wanted something more modern; Leslie's style is more traditional. They both wanted an open floor plan and plenty of space to entertain. The Mullers interviewed a lot of builders and got referrals from friends to find a good fit. When they spoke with Huizing, he worked with them to make sure the house reflected both of their wants and needs. They hired architect Brian Barkwell of Via Design to lend his expertise. The result? A match made in heaven. A warm industrial mixture that is rich, gorgeous, and anything but cookie cutter.

The home's exterior is a combination of brick and lap siding, with a metal roof. "Bill was excellent at executing the design," Muller says. A wide porch and glass door greet you as you enter. The windows are framed in black, punctuating the modern feel. It's sleek without being cold, a combination that's not easy to pull off.

REGIONAL FEATURE | Huizing Homes





REGIONAL FEATURE | Huizing Homes



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As you go through the house, it appears like the art of mixing styles came easily to the Mullers. They love to cook, so a fabulous kitchen was important. Their kitchen is a perfect blend of form and function. They kept it clean with white cupboards from Germany and Caesarstone quartz countertops on their expansive island. Using neutral colors throughout keeps the design cohesive. A royal blue range from BlueStar was added for an unexpected splash of color. The kitchen is connected to the dining room and great room, so everyone can mix and mingle during parties. Another cool feature: a large serving window with panels that open completely to their outdoor space, making entertaining al fresco effortless as well.

The property is definitely a place where you'd want to spend some time outside. The Mullers chose it carefully. Near the gaslight district, the property's one and a half acres are located on the grounds of the historic Brookby Estate, so they wanted to keep the wooded lot intact as much as possible. Beautiful water views of Fisk Lake and birch trees greet you from the large patio. The couple made sure the home had plenty of windows to enjoy the vistas and to provide lots of natural light indoors as well.



Lighting in the house is playful and unique, giving the house a vibe that is casual and inviting.



The great room is the family's favorite space, where they gather to watch movies, play games, and just hang out. The room features exposed steel beams and columns, giving the space that industrial chic even as the fireplace keeps it warm and inviting. The floors are white oak with a European matte finish throughout, giving the home a light and airy feel. Lighting in the house is playful and unique, giving the house a vibe that is casual and inviting.

More industrial touches? In the breezeway, the Mullers chose a finished concrete for the floor inspired by a downtown coffee shop. The concrete was ground down exposing the aggregate, then polished. Chris found some glass sliding doors reclaimed from an office building, and used them as the entrance to his home office.

Heading up the stairs, you see the steel picked up again in the custom-made handrail, and Huizing's favorite feature. There are four bedrooms and five baths. The master bedroom is the homeowners' haven, a place to recharge, and includes a private patio with a fireplace. In the ensuite bathroom, Huizing built a custom floating vanity out of bamboo, then added a concrete vanity top. The walk-in shower and heated tile floors add to the "cool spa" feel.

"Taking something from paper to fruition is always fun," says Huizing. This home shows what can happen when the creativity of the builder and the effortless style of the homeowners combine to let design shine through. Bill Huizing prides himself on watching the budget and doing whatever he can to save money for his clients while never sacrificing quality. The best part? Only the homeowners know, because, with the custom touches and high-end finishes, the finished product is a luxurious sanctuary any homeowner would love. □





Huizing Homes

Bill Huizing of Huizing Homes attended Calvin College and graduated with a degree in graphic design. While in school, he worked part-time and summers for a builder framing homes. It was at this time that he recognized his desire to build homes and his disinterest in sitting behind a desk.

Upon completion of college, he began his own framing business and found the combination of the outdoors and working with his hands to create structures very fulfilling. In 1998, Huizing partnered with a family member to build their first spec home. This brought building homes to a new level for him. The idea of building a home from a drawing and taking it through completion was remarkable.

The transition from framing to new home construction occurred in 2002, with help from his wife, Julie. Between 2002 and 2007, they averaged one to two new homes each year. When the market fell in 2008, remodels and additions were added to the company portfolio.

Since that time, they have experienced a steady flow of new home construction, renovations, and additions. Huizing's wife Julie is an integral part of the team and assists in working with clients to realize their vision.

Huizing is proud of the fact that 95% of all new business comes via referral from past clients, as he believes this speaks volumes about the quality of their work and the strength of their client relationships. They have no interest in becoming a large home builder, so they limit the number of projects they take each year, allowing them to focus all of their attention on the clients and their home building needs.

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Fox Brothers Company has positioned themselves with four Michigan locations servicing the greater markets of Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Detroit. We have designed our four 2,400 sq. ft. showrooms as a selling aide to our contractor customer base, we are heavily committed to having a large inventory "on-hand," and we offer free delivery on the products that we sell.

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