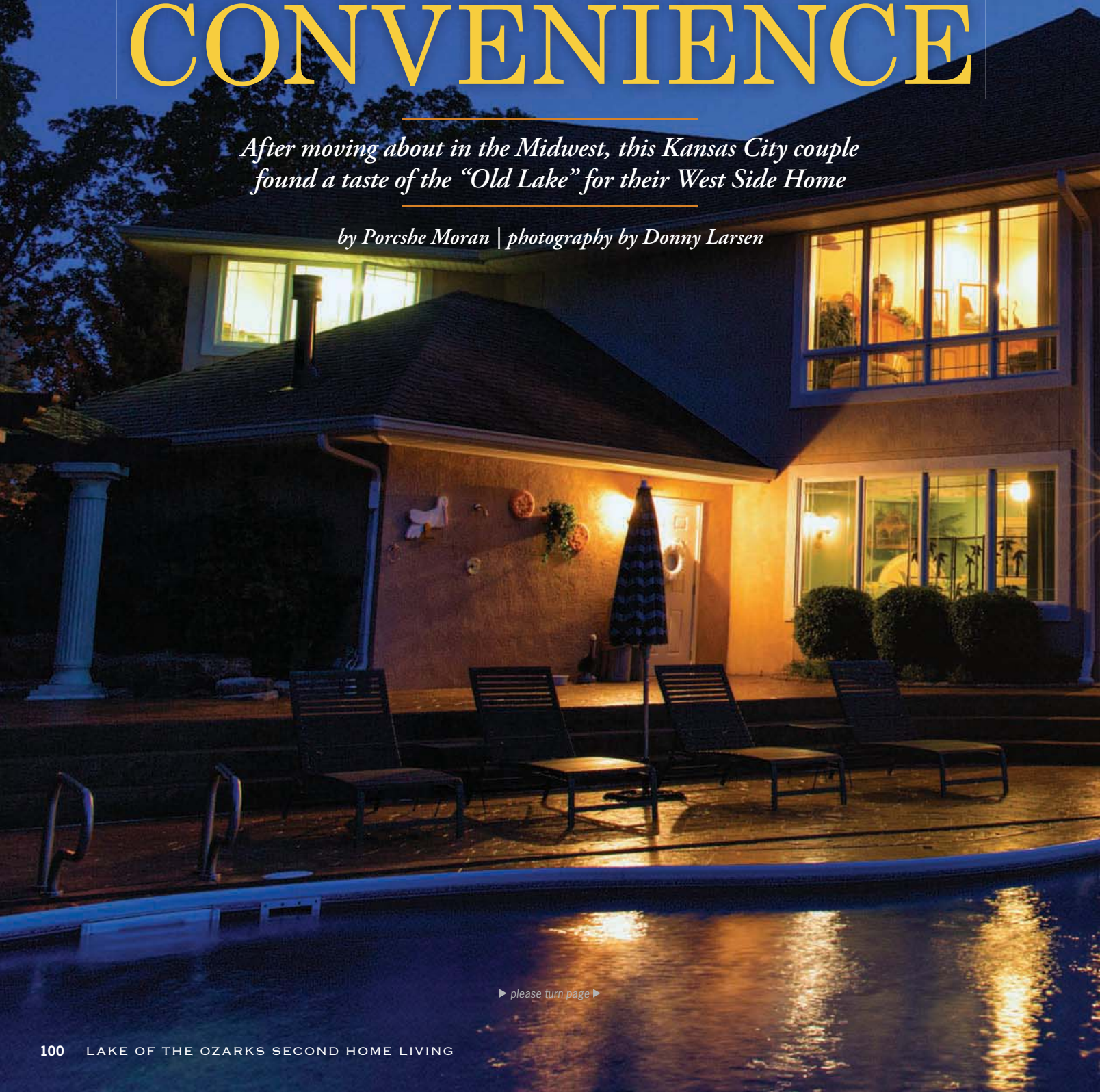




# SERENITY & CONVENIENCE

*After moving about in the Midwest, this Kansas City couple found a taste of the “Old Lake” for their West Side Home*

*by Porsche Moran | photography by Donny Larsen*



► please turn page ►













**K**ansas City natives Cleava and Craig Offutt have lived in many places over the years, including St. Louis, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Nevertheless, as the couple racked up zip codes all over the Midwest their thoughts were never far from the Lake of the Ozarks. After decades of vacationing at the Lake, the Offutts became full-time residents in 2000. A two-year search yielded the couple

two-and-a-half lots at the 41-mile marker. For Cleava and Craig, the property's 310-feet of lake frontage and peaceful west side location made it the ideal spot to build their house.

"It is quiet all the time, even on summer weekends and holidays," says Craig. "This is what the Lake was like 25 years ago. You just can't get this anymore."

The Offutts were anxious for construction to be completed ► turn page ►

THE OFFUTTS' REQUIREMENTS FOR THEIR 7,000 SQUARE-FOOT LAKE HOME INCLUDED A LAKE VIEW FOR EVERY BEDROOM, AND MAXIMUM CONVENIENCE. IDEAL FOR ENTERTAINING GUESTS, THE HOME IS A HIT WITH THEIR GRANDCHILDREN.





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on their 7,000 square-foot home. They traveled to the Lake nearly every weekend to watch the progress. "We would camp out in our cruiser on the dock and watch our house being built," says Cleava. The Offutts had a couple of requirements for their new home. One request was that every bedroom in the house has a view of the lake and/or the pool. They also wanted the home to be as convenient as possible. To this

end, they installed a central vacuum system, and high efficiency propane hot water heaters and gas furnaces. An air compressor and a power washer are plumbed to the garage and pool house. The home's security system, temperature and lights can be controlled remotely. The entire house is outfitted with surround sound and high-definition satellite. Another bonus is the storage space in the attic and on the main and lower levels.





"We wanted the house to be easy to live in, and we tried to think of everything," says Cleava. "The house was designed so that there is no wasted space. We use every square inch of this house."

The home's layout allows for main level living. The couple doesn't have to worry about climbing stairs to get to their master bedroom suite which includes a lounge area, see-through gas fireplace and exercise room. The master bathroom is a lesson in luxury with a deep, jetted tub, a walk-in glass block shower, and heated floors and towel racks. The suite's generous windows offer a view of the lake and bring in plenty of sunlight. ▶ turn page ▶



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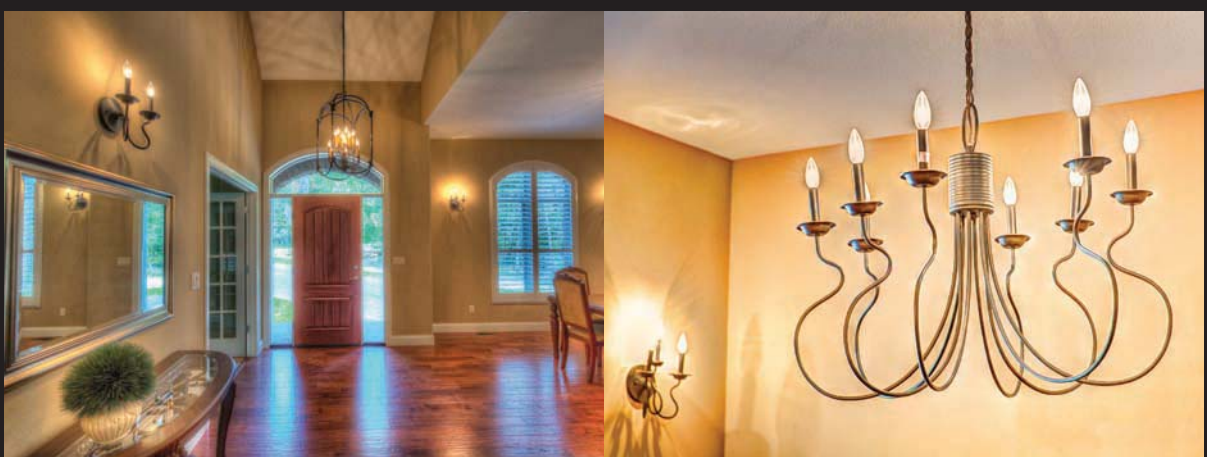


"Our grandkids love the big tub," says Cleava. "Once they got in it the first time, we couldn't get them out!"

The main level has an open floor plan and features rough-cut slate tile flooring and stone columns. A gas fireplace with a floor-to-ceiling stone mantle,

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an oak panel accent wall and vaulted ceilings serve as transitional elements and room dividers. There is also an office, half-bathroom, a spacious laundry room and a three-car garage that doubles as Craig's workshop. Cleava says her favorite space is the kitchen which flows into the dining area and living room. It has new, stainless steel appliances and wood cabinetry. The center island's countertop is lower than the kitchen's other surfaces to accommodate baking and buffet-style food service.

► please turn page ►



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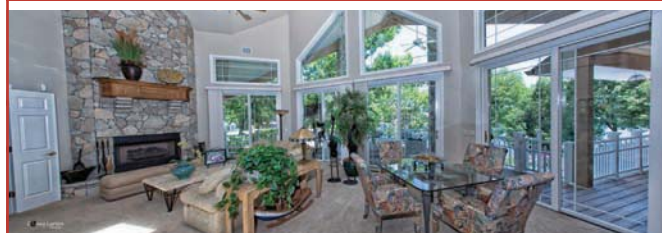
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"This kitchen was made for me," says Cleava. "I have more than 100 cookbooks. Luckily, my husband is willing to try anything that I make."

The Offutts like to entertain, and the lower level of their home is designed with family and friends in mind. There are three guest bedrooms and full bathrooms, a family room, wet bar, pool table and sauna. The lower level also houses the utility room and an additional workshop. Their daughter, son-in-law, and their three grandsons ages 6, 3 and 18-months are frequent visitors.

"We love to share our home," says Cleava. "We've had as many as 20

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overnight guests at a time. This is a casual home where people can relax and enjoy themselves.”

Outside, the Offutts are set up to indulge in the perks of lakefront life. They have a heated, in-ground pool that is four-feet deep from end to end and surrounded by stamped concrete. The outdoor living space also includes two kitchens, a hot tub, a pool house with outdoor showers, a three-slip dock and a playground. Cleava did all of the landscaping around the front entrance circle driveway and in the backyard. The all-season ornamental plants, shrubs and trees, and lighted flagstone walkways create a tranquil environment. ▶ please turn page ▶



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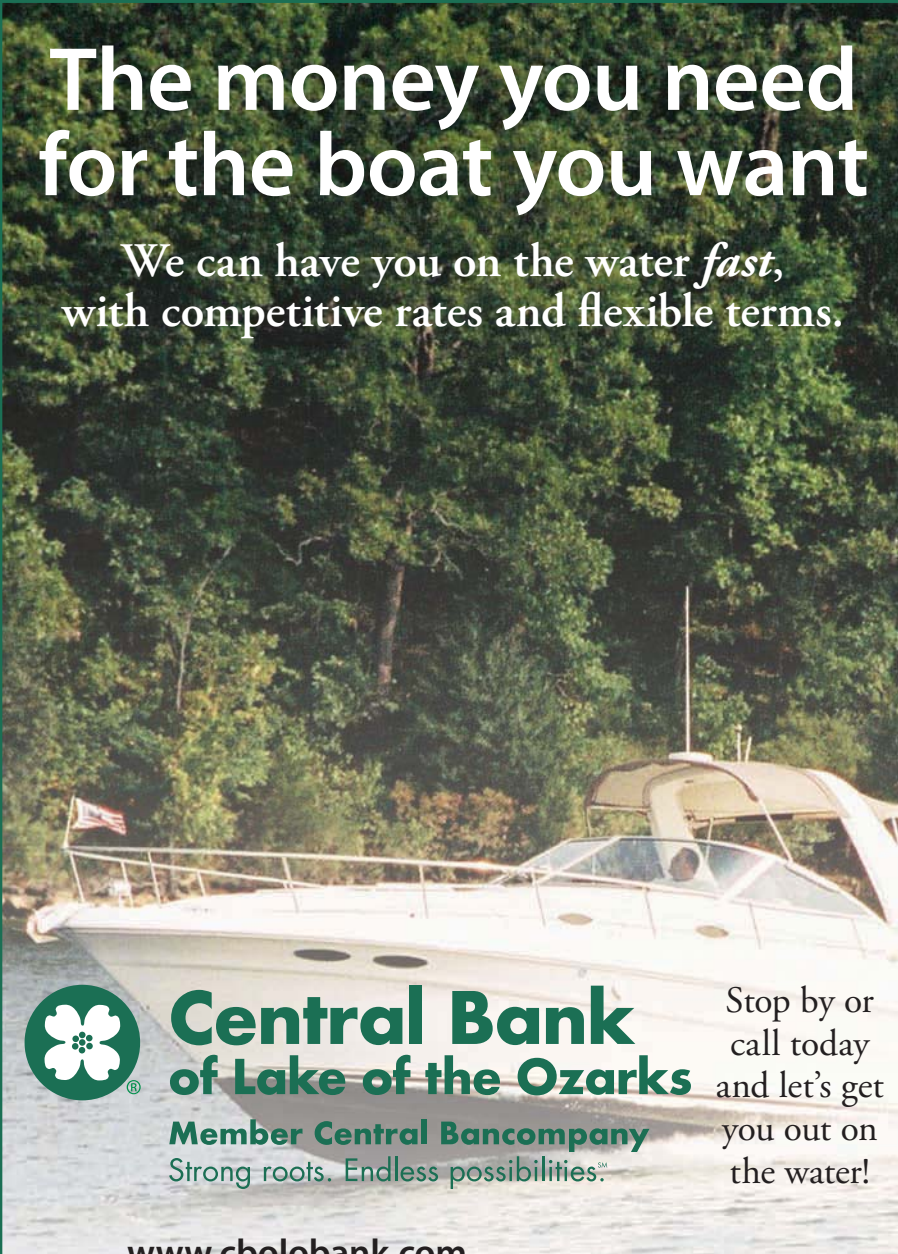



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Craig was injured in a car accident in 2011, and the couple has since decided to downsize from their sprawling dwelling. They hope that the attention to detail that they've put into their home of 13-years will be attractive to buyers.

"We love being on the water," says Craig. "The Lake is a comfortable place to live, and the people are friendly. When our kids were little, they wanted a house at the Lake more than they wanted to go to Disney World. We are happy that we've been able to give our grandchildren the same experience." ▣



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