MEADOW LANE RETREAT

Meadow Lane Retreat

Location: Lakeside, MI Completed: August 2022

Meadow Lane is a weekend retreat set in an idyllic landscape along the shores of Lake Michigan that harmoniously integrates limestone as an inherent and integral part of the natural landscape.

The design and orientation of the home optimize the site's unique attributes on a two-acre wooded bluff overlooking the lake. Three separate structures—the main house, an entertainment/guest wing, and a detached garage—are thoughtfully arranged to optimize natural light, capture views, and create outdoor spaces.

Natural, native materials define the architectural palette and are used to create a timeless and enduring connection with nature. A limestone wall wraps the exterior at the main house's ground level. It extends seamlessly through the home, beneath the feet, and out to a pool terrace, establishing a visual and tactile connection to the surrounding landscape. The ground level of the entertainment wing and garage is clad in dark slatted wood siding that mimics the vertical elements of the woodland and complements the limestone.

The selected sand-colored limestone evokes a sense of belonging within the native dune landscape along the lake. Coming from the Kanafar quarry: Giallo D'Istria Beige is known for its durability, character, and versatility and allowed for various thicknesses and sizes, with flamed edge treatments applied where requested. The honed variety with a 60 grit—was employed for all the vertical walls and surfaces. The brushed finish was chosen for interior flooring, and a thermal finish for exterior dimensional paving, bench, loose steppers, pool wall, and copings. The stone's resistance to salts and long history of use throughout Venice assured that its application around a pool would be successful.

The limestone was meticulously detailed in thin, long courses, resulting in a sedimentary stacking pattern that creates a horizontal reading, intentionally contrasting the vertical wood siding inspired by the trunks of the woodland trees. The prescribed coursing necessitated the development of a highly precise story pole that ensured the heights of each limestone course ran continuously throughout the entire home, seamlessly extending to the landscape patios and retaining walls. The alignment of each layer of limestone was essential to achieve a cohesive integration, matching window sills, window heads, light fixtures, speakers, the pool patio, and the various retaining walls surrounding it.

For the empty nester clients, who desired "an escape from the city for their family to gather. A place for sunlight. A place to breathe," – this is their place to be restored. They arrive and exhale. With limestone seamlessly blending the retreat into its surroundings, it serves as a timeless and pre-existing form, enhancing the harmony of this rejuvenating sanctuary.













































