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Milwaukee's Lifestyle Magazine

## Match Making

FIND THE HOME STYLE THAT FITS YOUR PERSONALITY

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Everyone has a favorite style of design. But what makes up a particular style? What gets your attention? Some people gravitate toward certain aspects of a design. Others may prefer something else. Even knowing what you don't like can help you decide what your style is.

When working with clients to identify their design styles, Jessica Forston, store manager of McNabb and Risley in Thiensville, likes to get inside a customer's home. "Everyone is different. I like to mesh with my clients and help them prioritize their lifestyles. I want to know how their homes are used, how each room is used. Colors in their homes are clues, too. So much of your home is your personality. Once you have that information you can help guide them to figuring out what their style of design is."

Scott Jackson, project manager with Bruce Jackson Architects, works with clients out of his Third Ward office. "Good architecture can come in any style," he observes. "We like to look at what's appropriate for the area where a house will be built. How a home will fit onto the site, its solar orientation, views, even how close the neighbors are located."

One of the firm's recent projects is what Jackson calls a "contemporary farm house." It's a take on a traditional four-square farm house but it is built with a modern palette of materials like concrete floors, a metal roof and an open floor plan. This is an example of transitional design, taking your favorite elements of traditional and contemporary designs and mixing them together for a home that's uniquely your own.

In case you might not know the name of a design, or even why you like it, here are some guidelines of seven common Milwaukee-area styles to help you figure it all out.



### Tudor

**Exterior Styling:** Two-story; stucco or brick with wood timbers; steeply pitched roof; dormer and bay windows; chimneys; tall, leaded glass windows; arched entryway.

**On the Inside:** Hardwood floors; oak or dark wood paneling; plastered ceilings; beams; dark, masculine colors; arched doorways.

**For You?** Tudor living has a formal, masculine quality. It might also be for you if you like a lot of architectural detailing.



This 1932 English Tudor is defined by its cement tile roof, copper gutters, Lannonstone exterior, corbelled stone eaves, decorative brick gables and leaded glass windows. The style is carried to the interior, where the original, imported ceramic tile mosaic floor with decorative tile accents, hand-palmed plaster walls with ornamental plaster moldings, and arched doorways with eight panel recessed oak doors have stood the test of time. The exposed staircase with flared base and ornamental iron-and-bronze railing is attributed to master metal worker Cyril Colnik, who created decorative wrought iron work for dozens of homes in the Milwaukee area.

The library is framed by dramatic room timber with quarter sawn pegged and butterflied oak plank floor and a cathedral ceiling with hand-hewn oak beams and trusses. A concealed wet bar, behind swinging bookcases, is easy to access. The beaded oak wainscoting and large leaded glass windows showcase the cast lead bas relief sculpture. The homeowner discovered the 1930s leather couch on a trip to the East Coast. A Tiffany chandelier adds an elegant touch to the space.



## Contemporary

**Characterized By:** Design that blurs the line between interior and exterior elements.

**Exterior Hallmarks:** Uncluttered facade; lots of glass windows or walls; skylights, glass doors; one or two stories.

**Interior Looks:** Open floor plan; clean lines, little trim or ornamentation; metal, glass and stone materials; neutral tones and quiet colors; windows are often left bare or have simple window treatments, such as blinds or plain drapes.

**This is Your Style If:** You like bright, open, airy spaces and minimal furnishings.

“Lots of light makes me happy. There is light in places you wouldn’t expect,” says the homeowner. Maximizing natural light inside the house, as well as taking advantage of lake views in as many rooms as possible and using natural materials, were three of the most important considerations she and her husband requested in the design of their lakeside residence. An open floor plan and glass stairwell with a wall of south facing windows stretching from the lower level to the second floor help to keep the entire house bright and cheerful. Wood beams are exposed and the fireplace is made from local limestone, integrating the interior of the home with its exterior. A neutral color palette enhances the lush surroundings. “I wanted it to be like a canvas where all the colors coordinate but let everything else around do the talking.”

## Bungalow

**Characterized By:** One to one-and-a-half story, finely crafted design with limited square-footage.

**Exterior Features:** Gabled roof with protruding rafters; shingle, brick or stone exterior; deep front porch, beveled glass windows and stained glass decoration.

**On the Inside:** Custom built-ins common; plaster walls, wainscoting, exposed beams; porcelain bathrooms; Arts and Crafts style furnishings; William Morris-inspired wallpaper and fabric

**Style Match:** Bungalow living is for those who relish craftsmanship, nature and a simple style of living. Bungalows are typically small and have a neighborly feel.

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## Ranch

**Characterized By:** One-story, horizontal orientation and big picture windows popular in homes built in the 1950s.

**Exterior Hallmarks:** Asymmetrical; attached garage; hipped roof with wide eaves; little ornamentation.

**Inside Features:** Typically two rooms deep and four rooms wide; U- or L-shaped open floor plan; adjacent living and dining areas; living spaces grouped in one area and bedrooms in another area.

**Style Match:** Ranches could be for you if you need a single-story living space. Baby boomers, very young families and people with disabilities might benefit from this type of home.

## Victorian

**Characterized By:** Two or three stories, very formal and detailed ornamentation.

**Exterior Features:** Steep pitched roof; asymmetrical; porches are common; elaborate, gingerbread trim; some are painted with cheerful colors.

**What's Inside:** Lots of mill work; tin ceilings; elaborate sconces and light fixtures; heavy window treatments made from fabrics like velvet, Damask and wool; parquet floors with Oriental carpets.

**Style Match:** Victorian homes have a grand feel. They are for those who like a more prescribed style of living. Formality and lots of furnishings and accessories are important.