



Mesabi Red boulders in the front and side of the 8,000 square-foot home create natural-looking retaining walls. Trees incorporated into the landscape include River Birch, Colorado Spruce and Balsam Fir.



The family's zest for entertaining – think 32 nieces and nephews – was a big factor in the outdoor design. "We're very social people and like to have barbecues and gatherings with our family and friends," Chad says, noting safety was also a consideration in positioning the pool close to the home. He adds that an automatic pool cover and monitors inside the home also ensure safety. "We love the water and swimming. It was our dream to have a pool," Megan adds. The family

**Above Top:** This pool-side seating area is one of six gathering spots throughout the backyard.  
**Above Bottom:** Assorted accent pillows highlight the decorative Mediterranean-inspired pool tile. Textured concrete trim surrounds the pool.

# Outdoor Haven

A family of four fulfills a wish for a pool and more on a large river lot.

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**A** luxury home on four acres in a river setting with spacious patios and a pool is truly a haven. That's what Chad and Megan Jurgens of Big Lake created with the help of Southview Design, a landscape design-build firm, and their builder. The Jurgenses enjoyed working with landscape designer Tim Johnson and the crew at Southview so much at their former home that they didn't think twice about calling the firm to design their new landscape.

"Southview did a fantastic job on our prior home and, in planning our new home, worked closely with our builder, Gene Bauer Construction, to get the job done to perfection," Chad says. The result is a natural yet elegant outdoor landscape that brought the Jurgenses' yen for time with their two young children and love of swimming front and center. A trio of connected decks – designating dining, grilling, and hot tub zones – look out over the 18-by-40-foot showcase pool.



**Above Top:**

The customized grill by Fireside Hearth and Home features twin mini fridges, tile top and stucco finish.

**Above Bottom:**

The hot tub, partially sunken, is located on its own deck off the master bedroom for easy access.

grills out for lunch or dinner nearly every day. The same year-round use goes for the hot tub on the master-suite deck. Megan loves the pretty landscape, particularly in warm months. “I seriously feel like we live in a park when everything is in bloom.”

Blooms are found in the many landscape beds throughout the lot, which borders the Mississippi River in the rear of the property. Key design elements by Southview also included custom cedar decking, extensive use of pavers

for the patio, driveway, and front walk, stone retaining walls, and the use of the same stone (Red Mesabi boulder) in two monuments straddling the entryway to the home’s long, curved driveway. Megan adds the couple wanted to bring an ocean theme to the backyard. They hand-selected their seating, pillows and umbrellas to punctuate that motif, right down to the decorative pool tile, hot tub, and pool cover, all in blue tones.

Tim Johnson of Southview Design says the

use of earth tones in the pavers and grill material complement the earth tones on the home. “We also used plant materials that give year-round seasonal interest such as native grasses in fall or Taunton yews in winter. All planting beds incorporate a drip irrigation system to allow for watering during the hot times of the season, which also helps when you have a larger lot.”

Chad praises Southview for integrating the landscape with the home design, and again, the firm’s relationship with the builder.

“The synergies of the two companies were phenomenal. It was important for us that the landscaping, the rocks used in the landscaping, and the pool really complement the home,” he says. “It became this showpiece that Megan and I are very proud of.”

*Marcia Jedd is a Twin Cities-based freelance writer.*

**Above:** A curved paver patio — at 2,520-square feet — completely surrounds the pool and most of the back of the home. A black aluminum fence rings the landscaped beds and pool, adding a touch of elegance.



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