

TRADITIONAL HOME

October 2010

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Frank Ponterio

Lake Forest Showcase House Lake Forest, Illinois



Frank Ponterio's singular vision bathed this showhouse conservatory in casual elegance and sophistication, but he was careful not to overshadow other intrinsic features of the room—or the view.

“Not only was the architecture magnificent, but the views were, too,” says Frank. “Dramatic colors to define the space would have competed with the other elements too much.”

Inspired by the spectacular coffered ceiling, where the multi-beamed linear framework begged for an arrangement that adapted to the symmetry, Frank saw the need for flourishes to be tucked between each beam, softening the strict lines of the grid.

His finely edited furniture composition provides appropriate decorative splendor. The sofa, designed by Frank, is more of a double-ended chaise longue, with its center back eliminated so as not to obstruct the glorious view. What the sofa lacks in volume, it makes up for in style, including brass claw feet and nailhead trim on pleated ivory linen. Armchairs in light blue linen offer the slightest bit of color, which seamlessly blends with the plantings and the water outside.

Since this room was not the formal dining area, Frank used small-scale seating around the wood-and-iron farm table. An impressive candlelit iron chandelier with spreading leafy fronds adds to the majesty of the ceiling. Four hanging pendants covered in white muslin provide additional lighting. ➤

Produced by Hilary Rose Photographs by Werner Straube



FRANK PONTERIO masters modern scale. His furniture arrangements take on contemporary qualities with streamlined versions of traditional classics. “Traditional furniture needs that modern comfort that allows you to put your feet up,” he says. (frankponterio.com)

