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Feature Home (ON THE COVER)

16

For years, the Edwards had attended Parade of Homes tours, taking mental notes of what they liked and didn't like. They heard good things about Modderman Builders. In their meeting with Todd Modderman, the couple shared their dreams for their forever home.



Stamped Concrete



Grilled Peaches and Burrata Two Ways



The Grass is Greener



Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo



Plumbing - Freeing the Flow

PUBLISHER

O'Keefe Publishing, Inc.

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PRODUCTION

O'Keefe Publishing, Inc.

PRINTING & MAILING

by **JB PRINTING CO.***

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* JB Printing is an O'Keefe Publishing company,
and is the first printing company to be designated as
a Clean Corporate Citizen by the Michigan DEQ

Welcome Home Magazine© is published quarterly

Welcome Home Magazine

3111 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49048

Phone 269-547-0333 / 269-349-9601

okeefepublishing@sbcglobal.net

www.welcomehomekzoo.com

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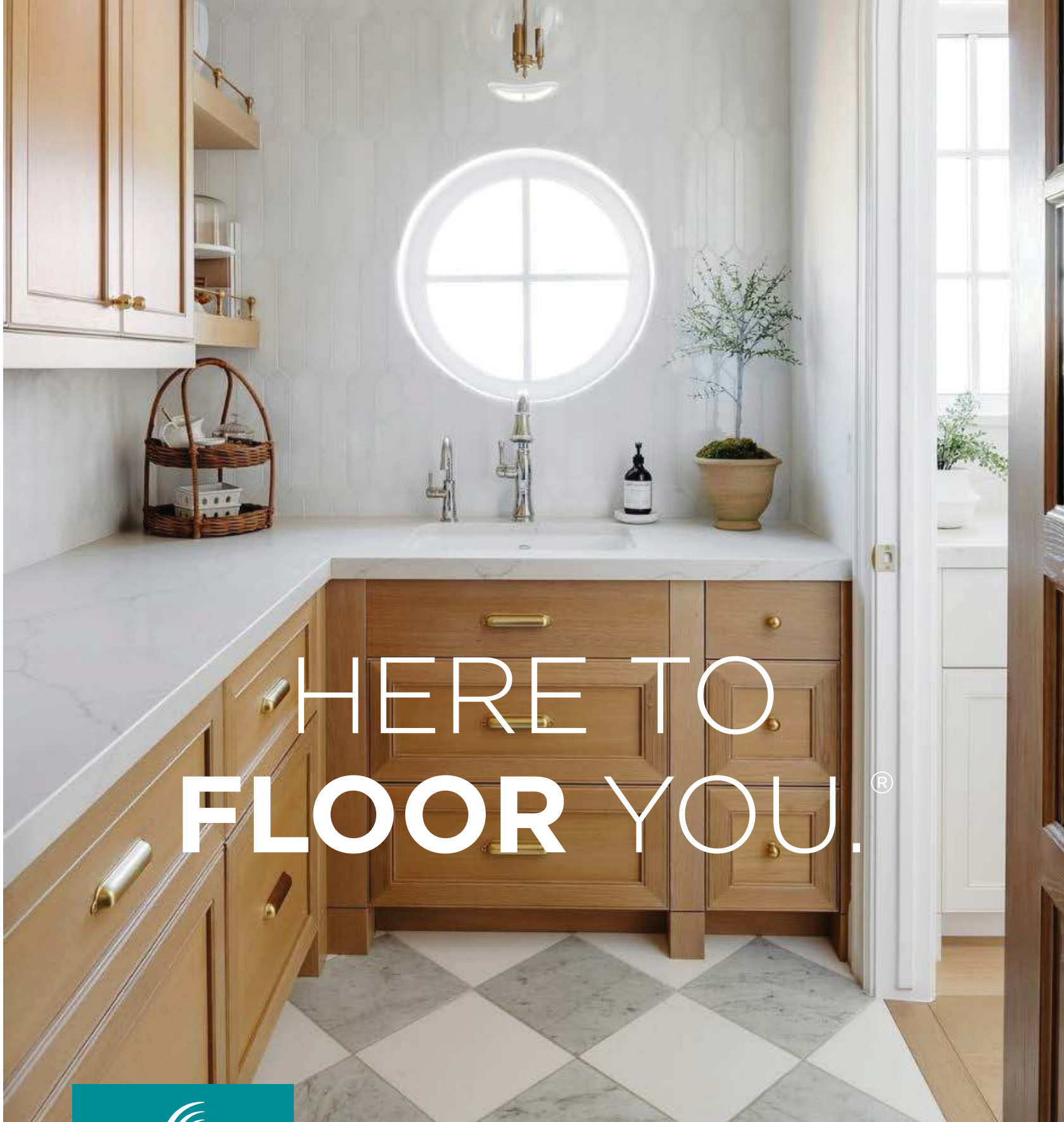
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Grilled Peaches and Burrata Two Ways

Photography and recipe by Linda Hoard

A Sweet & Savory Taste of Summer

There's something magical about grilled peaches—the heat softens them, caramelizes the sugars, and brings out a sweet, summery flavor. Juicy peaches shine in two easy ways: simply topped with creamy burrata and balsamic glaze, or as shown here, dressed up with cherry tomatoes, herbs, and a bright lemon vinaigrette. Both versions feel a little fancy, but are quick to make and perfect for a sunny lunch or backyard get-together. This is definitely my new favorite summer recipe!

Ingredients:

For the Peaches:

6 peaches (cut into wedges, pits removed)

½ tsp olive oil (for brushing)

A pinch of salt & pepper

For the Dressing (Herbed Lemon Vinaigrette):

½ cup olive oil

3 Tbsp red wine vinegar

1 tablespoon honey

Zest and juice from 1 lemon (about ½ cup juice)

2 Tbsp fresh basil, chopped

1 Tbsp fresh dill, chopped

½/ tsp fresh oregano, chopped

4 garlic cloves, minced

For the Salad:

1 large ball of burrata cheese

½ cup chopped pistachios (or walnuts or almonds)

1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved

4 cups of mixed salad greens

2 Tbsp balsamic glaze

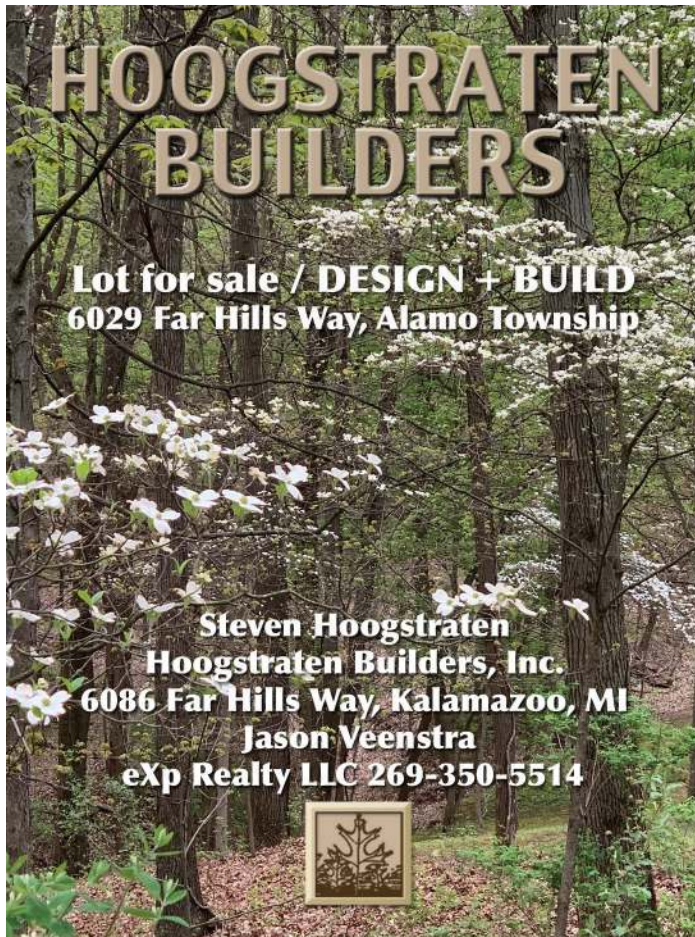
Grill the Peaches: Cut the peaches in half and remove the pit. Then slice each half into 3 wedges, giving you 6 wedges per peach. Brush the cut sides with olive oil and sprinkle with a little salt and pepper. Heat your grill to medium. Once it's hot, place the peaches face down on the grill. Let them cook for 2-3 minutes without moving them. Flip and cook the other side. Take them off and let them cool. Drizzle a little honey on top if you'd like.

Make the Dressing: Chop the basil, dill, and oregano and mince the garlic. In a small bowl, whisk together all the dressing ingredients. Set aside.

Build the Salad: In a big salad bowl or on a large plate, add your salad greens and tomatoes. Add the peach slices. Tear the burrata into pieces and place them around the salad. Sprinkle chopped nuts over.

Finish It Off: Toss the salad gently with the dressing until everything is coated. Then drizzle with balsamic glaze and top with extra herbs or a little honey if you like.

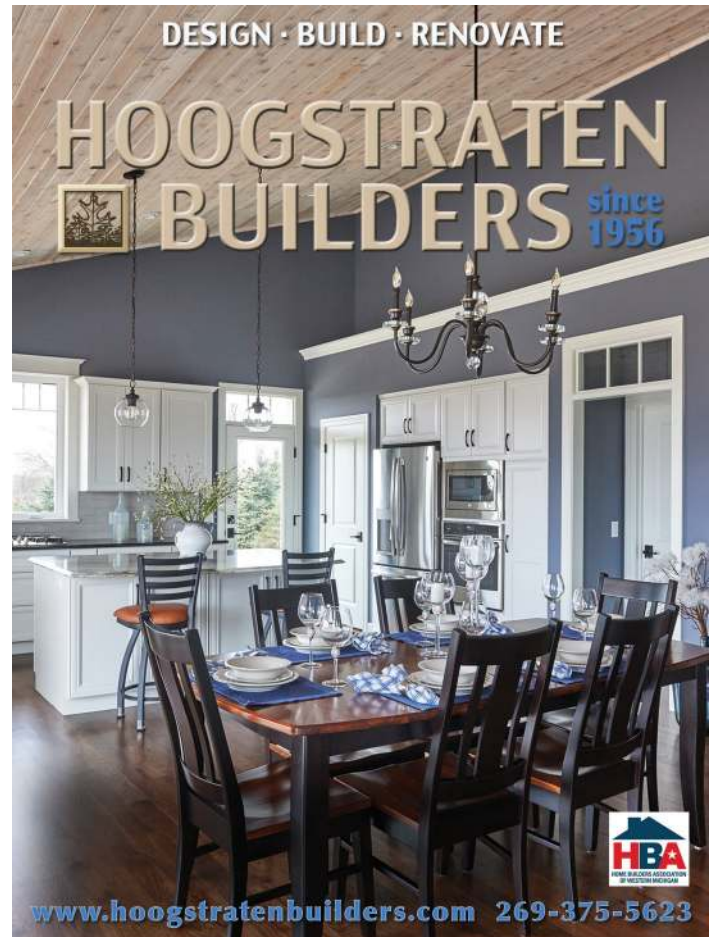
Serve and enjoy this sweet, creamy, and fresh summer salad!



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By Barbara Fisher
 Photos Courtesy of
 The Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS of Greater Kalamazoo

For parents with school-aged children, education is an important consideration. “Choosing the right school for your child is a pivotal decision,” offers Michele Buchmann, Admission & Enrollment Coordinator with the Central Office at Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo (CSGK). CSGK is one of the school systems in the Greater Kalamazoo area from which to choose.

The Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo was formed in 2004 to provide support, guidance, and assistance to three schools: St. Monica Catholic School (530 West Kilgore, Kalamazoo), St. Augustine Cathedral School (600 West Michigan, Kalamazoo), and Hackett Catholic Prep High School (1000 East Kilgore, Kalamazoo). Each school within the CSGK has its own mission statement and its own Local Council Advisory Board (LAC) to advise the principal on matters such as programming, policies, finance, facilities, development, alumni relations, and community relations. The LAC is also responsible for the annual evaluation of the principal.

St. Augustine Cathedral School has educated youth for over 100 years. Providing preschool (3 years) through eighth grade education, St. Augustine Cathedral School provides an environment where youth can grow in faith, knowledge and stewardship. Both athletic and academic opportunities are offered for students to pursue outside of the classroom.

The mission of St. Monica Catholic School is to partner with families to offer a Christ-centered education where

students are nurtured to develop the whole person through service, a vigorous academic program, and opportunities for dynamic extra-curricular activities. St. Monica Catholic School also offers preschool (3 years) through eighth grade education.

At the heart of Hackett Catholic Prep High School is preparing students for lifelong success by promoting and developing faith, character, and academic achievement in a supportive and challenging Catholic, faith-based environment. Hackett Catholic Prep posts a stellar graduation rate (100%) and test scores (above the national averages) in a small, tight-knit environment. In 1963, Hackett’s predecessor (St. Augustine High School) had to turn away 200 students due to lack of space. A capital campaign was launched and the new high school was dedicated in October 1963. Hackett was originally an all-boys school, becoming co-educational in 1972.

Scholarships and grants are available to ensure affordability for anyone who wants a Catholic education.

Ms. Buchmann explained core principles that govern the school system.

Faith. The Catholic faith is the cornerstone for the CSGK educational programs. Each day begins and ends with prayer and students regularly participate in weekly Masses. Students experience aspects of a religious life with the presence of parish priests, chaplains, and visits from the Bishop. Teachers are grounded in solid faith formation, serve as role models, and reinforce values taught at home,



while caring for students' spiritual and educational well-being.

Academic Excellence. Not only is success in the moment promoted, but the school system strives to set its students up for future success. Through diversified teaching styles and learning environments, each student's unique needs can be addressed.

Service-Oriented Education. With various service projects and leadership opportunities, faith and knowledge are used to personify the principle of serving others before oneself, a basic tenant of the Catholic faith.

A Community of Belonging. Each school works to make each student feel a part of a welcoming and inclusive community that feels like family. Diversity is celebrated and each student receives support and encouragement to discover their own unique gifts.

A Pathway to Lifelong Success. Graduates leave Hackett College Prep not only prepared for college and careers, but also for lives of purpose and impact: integrity, discipline, and compassion.

Numerous extracurricular opportunities are available to students and support the overall missions of the school system.

Athletics. Hackett is a member of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SAC), and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Currently offering 26 athletic team sports, students have earned multiple honors at State, Regional, and District Championships. Each year individuals and teams are recognized as Academic All State, Regional, and District honorees.

Clubs. Clubs include the National Honor Society and Student Leadership/Ambassador programs. Competitive clubs such as Quiz Bowl, Robotics and DECA are available.

Through competitive events and leadership training, Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) are educational programs that prepare students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

Theatre. A play in the fall and a musical in the spring provide students with performing arts opportunities.

Band. There is a marching, concert and jazz band.

Summarizes Ms. Buchmann, "CSGK is committed to nurturing the whole child—mind, body, and soul—to prepare them for a lifetime of success, faith, and service". For further information, please visit csgk.org or call 269.381.2646. For more information on athletic opportunities, visit irishathletics.org.





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The Stamp of Approval

By Zinta Alstars

Photos Courtesy of Nieboer Concrete Design

The ancient Romans did it first. Stamped concrete dates back to the 8th century B.C., but more recently—in the 19th and 20th centuries—contractors began the tradition of stamping their names and dates of the project in the concrete. Today, stamped concrete has evolved to become a decorative approach for creating a concrete surface imprinted with an unlimited range of designs and colors.

Rather than a more time-consuming process of laying bricks, cobblestones, pavers, tile, or wood as flooring, stamped concrete can be imprinted with patterns mimicking most any kind of surface. Stamping with a powdered release with paints, dyes, or colored sealants can add any color desired. Acid or acrylic staining are other color options.

“Creating a stamped concrete surface will cost you about twice as much as pouring a flat concrete surface, but the result is far more attractive,” says Daren, representative

for Kalamazoo Stamped Concrete in Kalamazoo. “The patterns are done by pressing patterned rubber pads into the cement and pounding it in. The average driveway can be done in about three days. It’s a process of prep, pour, stamp, seal, and doing a final clean-up.”

“As for the color, we can put that in the mix or broadcast color over the surface,” says Steve Nieboer, owner of Nieboer Concrete Design in Kalamazoo. “Pricing for stamped concrete is double that of a flat surface, but doing steps or any kind of vertical faces can increase the cost.”

Although a stamped concrete floor can be done in both exterior and interior spaces, Nieboer recommends not using this approach for flooring inside a home or business.

“Just because keeping it clean can be so difficult inside,” he says. “Think about all those tiny crevices and grooves that can collect dirt.”

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Outside, however, such a surface can easily be kept clean by hosing it down or sweeping.

"If the surface was sealed well, you can power wash it once a year, depending on how much sun that area gets," Nieboer adds. "More sun and the sealer can wear off quicker. But you want to be sure to use the same sealer each time it is reapplied, or you can end up with a milky finish. We apply it with a roller to avoid pooling. Every couple of years to reseal should be enough but avoid the big box store sealer. That just isn't any good. The quality is poor, and it will wear off faster."

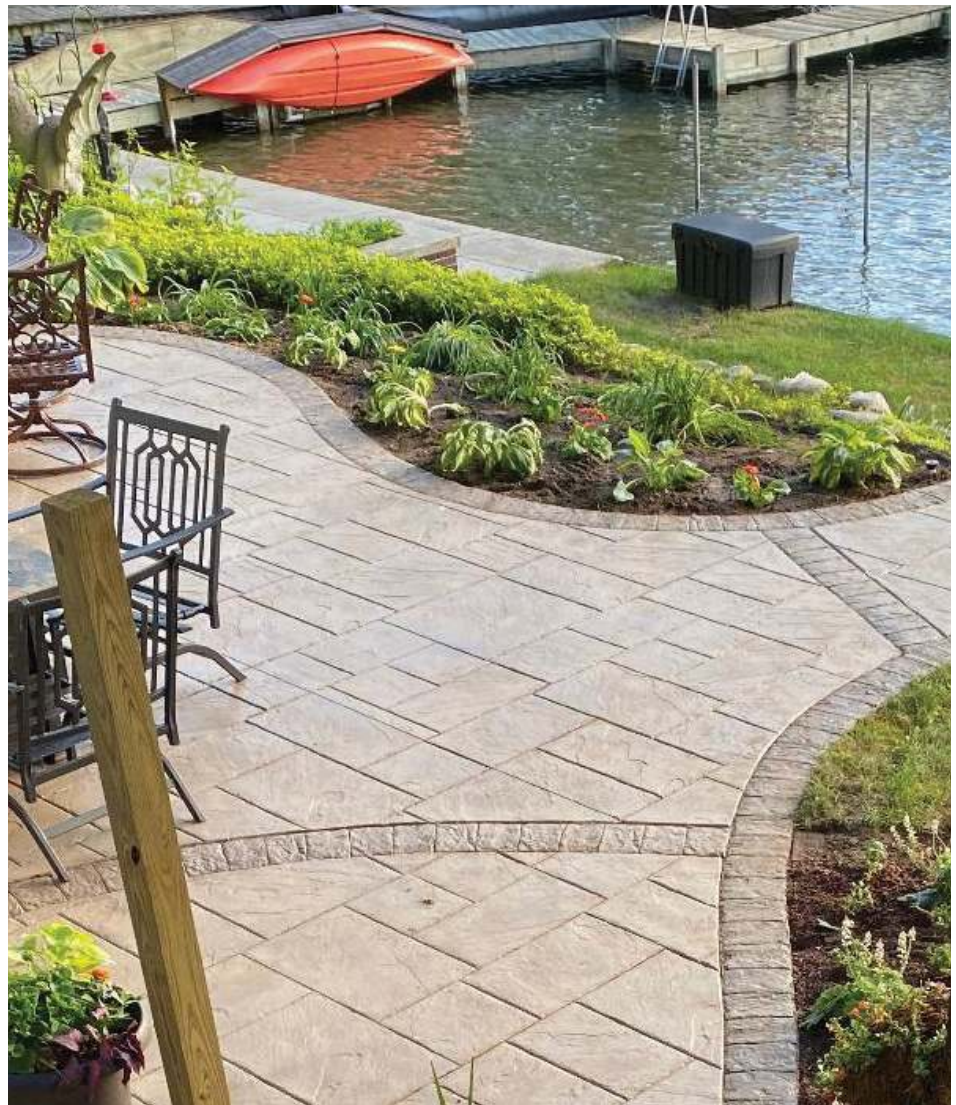
"You always want a professional working with the stamped concrete surface," Daren agrees. "I can say a lot of our business at Kalamazoo Stamped Concrete is fixing the disastrous results others have made. It may seem a simple process, but you really want an expert doing it or you can end up with a mess fast."

"Oh, we get a lot of calls to fix do-it-yourself screw-ups," Nieboer says. "With concrete, you get one chance to get it right. The cheapest approach is not always the best. But if I ever make a mistake, I will fix it."

Adding property value and safety during every season

The possibilities are endless. A stamped concrete surface around a pool not only adds a finished appearance, but it can also add an element of safety as wet feet walk across a textured surface where a flat and wet surface might be slippery.

Stamped concrete flooring surrounding a fire pit also adds value, and seating around the pit can be done in the same pattern for a continuous



surface. Consider also that weeding between tiles or pavers is virtually eliminated.

Weather in Michigan can be a roller-coaster of rising and falling temperatures, but if the project is well done and properly sealed, Nieboer says it shouldn't cause problems. The ideal temperature range for pouring and curing concrete typically falls between 50°F and 85°F. Pouring outside of that temperature range can affect the curing process and affect durability. While the surface is curing, it can be vulnerable to rain and moisture.

"Otherwise, I recommend not using salt on the surface," Nieboer says. "The freeze-thaw created with salt can cause spalling or flaking."

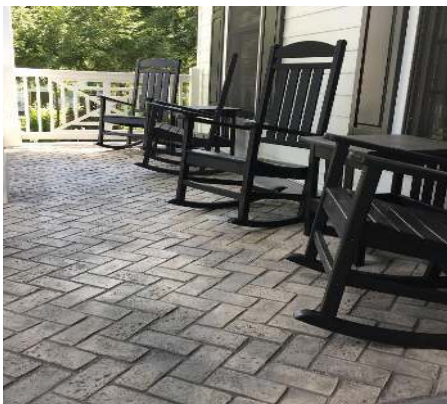
Spalling is the deterioration of the concrete surface causing patches to break away from weather, de-icing salts, or corrosion.

"Concrete is still a mystery," Nieboer says. "I've been in the business 35 years, so I have seen all the possibilities. Even with experience,

it may still crack at times, that's its nature. But if that happens within the first year, I can fix it. To do your project, we start with a free estimate, do a drawing if needed, meet again, then draw out the lines on your grass where the surface will go and verify it is just the way the customer wants it. Typically, we complete a project in two to three days."

Both businesses do residential as well as commercial applications, including driveways, outdoor patios, pool decks, fire pits, sidewalks, basement floors, ramps, retaining walls, barbecue areas, borders, and more.

"We are proud of our many years of experience working with stamped concrete," Daren says. "Being experts in the field matters."





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REFLECTS





Forever Home was Well Worth the Wait

By Zinta Aistars

Feature Photography by Jim Schuon Photography

For most homeowners, the kitchen is the heart of the home. For Jacquelyne Edwards, the heart of her home is the craft room. Her home business is called Jackie's Unique Home & Craft Décor, and when she and husband Scott Edwards watched their builder break ground in November 2022, opening the doors of her craft room and studio was the moment she awaited the most.

"Well, maybe not the most," she smiles. "Our first reason for choosing to build on 28th Street in Vicksburg was to be closer to our two grandchildren. It was our dream to be close to them, and now we are."

For years, the Edwards had attended Parade of Homes tours in both Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, taking mental notes of what they liked and didn't like. They had had homes built for them before, so the idea of building from scratch was not a scary proposition.

"First, pick your location," Scott Edwards advises. They chose a two-and-a-half-acre plot in the country and opened their ears to the recommendations of builders from friends and noted the architect they liked from the Parades.

"We liked the work done by Dan Venema," he says. "He's the president and founder of Design Build Concepts in Byron Center. He was our architect. Then we heard good things about Todd Modderman of Modderman Builders, LLC, and we were set to go."

In their meeting with Todd Modderman, as the Edwards couple expressed their dreams for a forever home, Jacquelyne Edwards described her wish for an expansive craft room and studio, while Scott Edwards talked about a large pole barn where he could keep his two vintage cars.

As owner of R. H. Cross Enterprises, Inc., a medical equipment manufacturer, Scott Edwards says he is a mechanic by trade.

"I like anything with an engine," he laughs. "And I wanted a wood shop in the barn where I can help Jackie with her business—although she works in the wood shop, too."

"We explained to Todd what we wanted, and he could see our vision," Jacquelyne adds.

Modderman went to work. The home would be in the modern farmhouse style, white board and batten siding with black accents of windows with black shutters and trim, metal roof accents and dormers. The main floor took up 3,200 square feet with an additional 2,000-square foot finished basement.

Upon entry, the front foyer opens up into a large great room, the kitchen and dining room to one side and the primary bedroom with sunroom to the other side. The primary bedroom has an en suite with ceramic tile floor,











continued into a standing shower with zero threshold, and a freestanding pedestal bathtub. A television on the wall keeps the Edwards up to date with the morning news as they prepare for the day ahead.

"And, of course, the craft room, 20 feet by 20 feet, is on the main floor, too," Modderman says. "The great room has a box ceiling with wood beams, and there is a box ceiling in the primary bedroom as well. We did a lot of custom trim throughout the home—that's our thing. The kitchen has a vaulted ceiling, 15 feet high, with a custom pantry to one side, all custom shelving, and a very large island in the center with quartz countertops."

The kitchen is themed in black and white with stainless steel appliances, a double oven, and a custom-made hood over the range in painted poplar. Flooring throughout is white oak hardwood, tying all the main floor together, but with a carpet inlay in the center of the great room, surrounded by a wood border.

"There is a room that works as a second craft room off the first one," Modderman says. "Even larger than the first, and it has a vaulted ceiling. There is a covered porch on the side, off the craft room."

It is downstairs where the fun really begins. The finished basement includes a game room with bar and wine fridge, a home theatre room where an elevated platform holds up the projector, two additional bedrooms and full bath, and an exercise room.

Outdoors, a concrete patio leads to a rectangular swimming pool. With a covered area at the side of the barn connecting to the pool area, the pool is a favorite for the Edwards grandchildren.

"There's no fence around it, but we had it made only four feet deep so that the kids can use it, and we can all play volleyball in the pool," Scott Edwards says.

"It's phenomenal," Jacquelyne Edwards says. "We spend all summer out there. There's a waterfall feature around it, too, added by Focus Lawn and Landscape. They did all the landscaping for us."

The barn matches the house in its exterior, measuring 40 feet by 60 feet with a loft area. It sports two cupolas on the roof that match a cupola on the house and lighted windows. The Edwards not only store their vintage cars and other "toys" in the barn, but also do woodworking, laser cutting, flower arranging and other craft work there, sometimes side by side.

Modderman Builders takes a special pride in the details they bring to their every build. It is not about the rush to finish but about taking the time to make a house a home. In business since 1957, the company was founded by Rich and Carol Modderman. Todd Modderman, their son, took over leadership of the company with his wife Deb in 1981.

"I'm very hands-on," he says. "I am pretty much there on all our builds, every day. We do all our own framing and trim. We add those finishing touches, like the flower boxes under their windows. Our subcontractors have been with us thirty, forty years, and that kind of longevity matters."

"The build took longer than we expected," says Scott Edwards. "We have had a house built for us in five months. This house, started in 2022, was finished in 2024. But you know what ..."

"... it was worth the wait," Jacquelyne Edwards finishes for both of them.



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The Grass is Greener on This Side

By Zintya Aistars

A “A healthy lawn starts with consistency and balance. Regular mowing at the right height, proper fertilization, effective weed and pest control, and routine aeration all contribute to strong root systems and vibrant color. Water deeply but infrequently, aiming for about 1 inch of water per week, and avoid mowing when the grass is wet or during extreme heat.”

That is the advice of Antwayn Spencer, customer advocate at Lawn Doctor of Kalamazoo and Portage. Whether a one-time treatment or ongoing lawn care service, Lawn Doctor provides seeding, mowing, fertilizing, pest and weed control, whatever treatment might be needed to maintain a lush green lawn. Locally owned, Lawn Doctor has been in business for more than half a century, clipping and trimming the yards of local homeowners.

One might argue that having a green, carefully manicured lawn is an American obsession. Yet the history of grass lawns dates to a desirable form of landscaping during the 17th and 18th centuries in England and parts of Europe. A closely clipped and green lawn became a status symbol of the elite, often trimmed to accommodate sports such as cricket, soccer, or golf.

One aspect of lawn maintenance that has been changing over recent years is that homeowners are looking for non-toxic solutions for lawn care and weed control. Pets roll in that grass. Dogs munch on it. Children play in it. And our planet has been expressing ever louder protests against the use of pesticides and insecticides.

“For customers seeking organic or low-toxicity options, we offer natural-based fertilizers and organic weed control programs,” Spencer says. “These products rely on ingredients like corn gluten, plant oils, and iron-based formulas that are safer for children, pets, and the environment. While organic solutions may take longer to show results, they can still be highly effective with consistent application and proper lawn maintenance.”

Still other homeowners feel even that is not enough. Some have abandoned grass lawns entirely. They have turned entire yards into vegetable gardens. Front yards show off rows of neat raised beds, all in a row, producing food rather than a lawn.

Ground cover replacing grass is another popular trend. What may once have been considered weeds to pull have now become a desirable carpet of creeping leaves and vines and even blossoms. Many ground covers are considered “invasive,” easily spreading, but that can become a desired effect when replacing grass. Creeping thyme, clover and the shorter microclover, mosses, Corsican mint, Sweet Woodruff, Bugleweed, Vinca Minor, Blue Star Creeper, Dichondra, Creeping Jenny, Japanese Spurge, Creeping Phlox are just some of the low-maintenance, eco-friendly alternatives available. Most never or only rarely need mowing or trimming.

Mosses are best for shady areas such as beneath large trees but can be more laborious to get started than other ground covers. Once moss takes hold, however, it is virtually carefree. Clover, one of the more popular ground covers, can be mixed with grass seed, if desired. A white clover lawn may look sparse if seeded alone, but microclover offers more dense growth, and the plant roots can add nutrients to the soil. Microclover leaves are much smaller than regular clover.

Ground cover can also encourage biodiversity while saving time and resources, mainly gas for most mowers and tractors, for the homeowner. Fuel dollars add up, and the pollution caused by mowers can be substantial. Pollinators will appreciate the more natural version of lawn, especially blossoming types.

If giving up on grass, however, is a turf too far, Spence recommends choosing from three varieties, most suitable to the Southwest Michigan Zone 5 and 6.

“In our region, cool-season grasses thrive best,” he says. “The most recommended varieties include Kentucky Bluegrass, known for its rich color and self-repairing ability. Perennial Ryegrass is a good choice for its fast germination. It is great for high-traffic areas. And Fine Fescue is shade-tolerant and low-maintenance.”

Spencer recommends mowing once per week during peak growing seasons and keeping grass at 3 to 3.5 inches in height.

“Avoid cutting more than one-third of the grass blade at a time,” he says.



Leaving the lawn in the hands of experts is always an option. Whether for one treatment or contracting for an annual lawn care program, Lawn Doctor stands out for their customized service plans, locally-owned expertise, and guaranteed results.

"We don't just treat lawns — we build long-term relationships with our customers and take the time to understand the specific needs of each property," Spencer says. "Our technicians are local, experienced, and genuinely care about making lawns healthier and homes more enjoyable."

"Unlike many companies, we don't offer one-size-fits-all services. We tailor each treatment to your lawn's condition, soil type, and seasonal needs. We also offer free service calls between applications if any concerns arise."

Pricing for lawn services by Lawn Doctor depends on the size of the lawn and the services selected. Lawn fertilization and weed control typically starts around \$44–75 per treatment. Mosquito and tick control can range, depending on the lawn size, \$54–74 per visit as part of their Yard Armour program. Additional services like grub and mole control or core aeration are optional and can be added at any time.

"We're happy to provide a free quote with no obligation,"

Lawn Doctor also offers tree and shrub care services, including application of anti-desiccant material in the fall to help guard against dehydration and maintain healthy moisture levels throughout the long winter season.

Whether a traditional grass lawn or an eco-friendly lawn of ground cover, maintained by a service or by the homeowner him- or herself, the perfect lawn awaits for year-long enjoyment.



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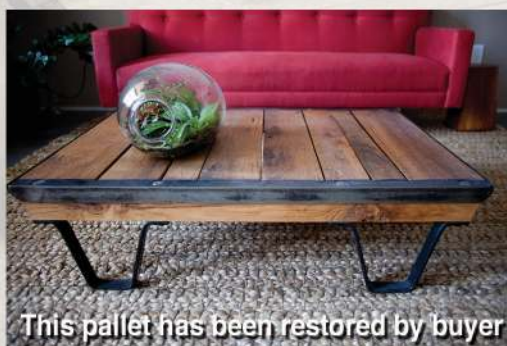
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MILESTONE



Freeing the Flow

By Zinta Alistars

It is easy to ignore what we cannot see—until that gurgle sounds a warning. The kitchen drain is beginning to clog up, and suddenly we remember the plumbing system hidden beneath the walls and floors of our home.

“Gurgling drain lines and toilets and persistent clogs or slow drains are when it is time to call the professional,” says Calvin Johnson, owner of Drainwrx in Kalamazoo.

Drainwrx offers drain and sewer maintenance services, plumbing repair and replacement services, hydro jetting services, and plumbing camera inspection services in Kalamazoo, Plainwell, and South Haven.

“Hydro jetting is a very effective and environmentally friendly way to remove roots and build up from the inside walls of your drain lines,” Johnson explains.

Prevention, however, can keep that clog at bay if not make it completely avoidable.

“Avoid pouring grease, oil, coffee grounds, and food scraps directly down the drain,” Johnson says. “Instead, dispose of these items in the trash or compost. Using drain screens or hair catchers to prevent hair and soap scum from clogging the drains is also a good idea.”

Still, drains may eventually clog, and when that happens, there are measures to avoid. Most professional plumbers will tell the homeowner to leave the chemical drain openers on the store shelf.

“The popular chemical drain cleaners are actually bad for your pipes,” says Chris Rogers, master plumber at Dan Wood Quality Home Services in Portage, Michigan. “The acid can eat away at your pipes. And I have had some people tell me they are trying vinegar and baking soda as a non-toxic alternative, but that’s a bad idea, too. Vinegar is caustic, and that mix can actually cause a small explosion in your pipes. You also don’t want to pour boiling water down your drain, because these days most pipes can be partially plastic, and boiling water can melt that away over

time. If you are draining your spaghetti water, turn on the cold water at the same time.”

Murphy has been working as a plumber for 30 years, and experience, he says, has shown him what does and does not work in keeping pipes clean and free-flowing.

“My recommendation is to use something like Biokleen, an eco-friendly and effective solution that uses real enzymes,” Murphy says. “It’s like probiotics for your drain. Biokleen eats the sludge—though not hair—out of the pipes and helps to keep septic tanks and your drain field flowing.”

Another non-toxic solution Murphy says that can work well to keep pipes clean is a simple solution of a tablespoon of bread yeast, mixed with a cup and a half of warm water until it bubbles, then poured down drains and into toilets once weekly.

“It’s what I do in my own home,” he says. “I dump that solution down each drain at bedtime, initially once a week for the first month, then once a month. Another cause of sludge in pipes are anti-bacterial soaps, because they destroy beneficial bacteria, so I would avoid those.”

Johnson at Drainwrx reminds homeowners to never try flushing anything but toilet paper down toilets. No wipes, tissues, or sanity products, not even when marked as “flushable,” as they do not dissolve well and can cause backups.

“For homes with septic tanks, we recommend pumping the tank every three to five years and rotating the drain field valve, if you have one, annually,” he says. “Don’t wait for a backup to occur that can cause damage to your sewer line before you have it inspected. This is especially important in older homes, but we also do see broken sewer lines in newer homes as well. We recommend a sewer inspection when purchasing a home.”

One of the best ways to avoid blockages or corroded



pipes begins with the water itself. Water softeners may seem like a luxury, but mineral deposits can ruin pipes over time.

"I do tell our customers that soft water is a good idea," Murphy says. "It pays for itself in about 10 years and saves on calls for hard water issues. Mineral buildup can cause a loss of as much as a third in efficiency in just your first six months. A water heater has to work much harder when it starts filling up with those mineral deposits, and that costs you. A water softener can also filter out chlorine in city water. Chlorine can erode and corrode metals, and it's not good for your health, either."

Monitoring what exactly is in our water should be an annual habit. PFAS are widely used chemicals present in countless products and are also known as "forever chemicals" because they can't easily be eliminated but pose serious risks to the environment and human health. PFAS and other toxins have begun to appear in most water sources and should be filtered out.

"You should have your water tested once a year," Murphy says. "It's a free service you can find in any county just by looking up 'water test.'"

From water pitchers that use filters to osmosis systems connected to faucets, keeping our water clean helps our pipes but also our own health. Water tests can tell us how clean—or not clean—our water is.

"Maybe one of the most important things I can tell our customers is to know how to shut off your water when you have a leak," Murphy says. "Make sure you know where the shut-off valve is located. Know how to find the breaker in your electrical panel so that you don't have a flood before the plumber arrives."

Because when all else fails, calling the plumber is the way to flow. Check that the plumber is licensed, insured and bonded. References from trusted sources and neighbors can be helpful.

"At Drainwrx, we pride ourselves in communication and cleanliness," Johnson says. "We take extra care to make sure work areas are cleaner (or as clean) than when we arrived. We keep the customer in the loop through the entire process. This includes showing camera footage and explaining each step of whatever method we are using to resolve the problem."

"Dan Wood Company offers pricing up front," Murphy says. "We educate our customers by explaining all the pros and cons up front to solve their issues. We are not a band-aid company. We look for the root issue and go for a true fix."



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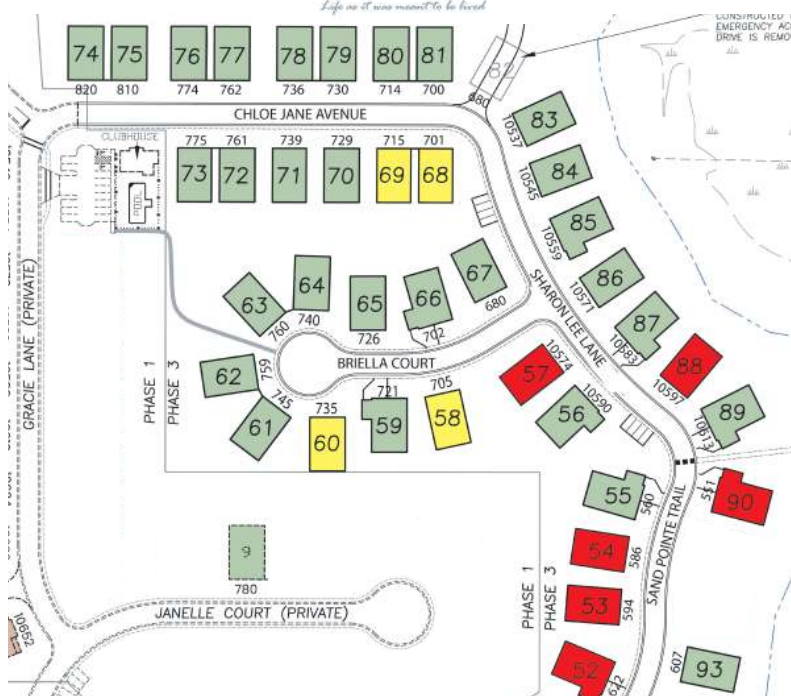
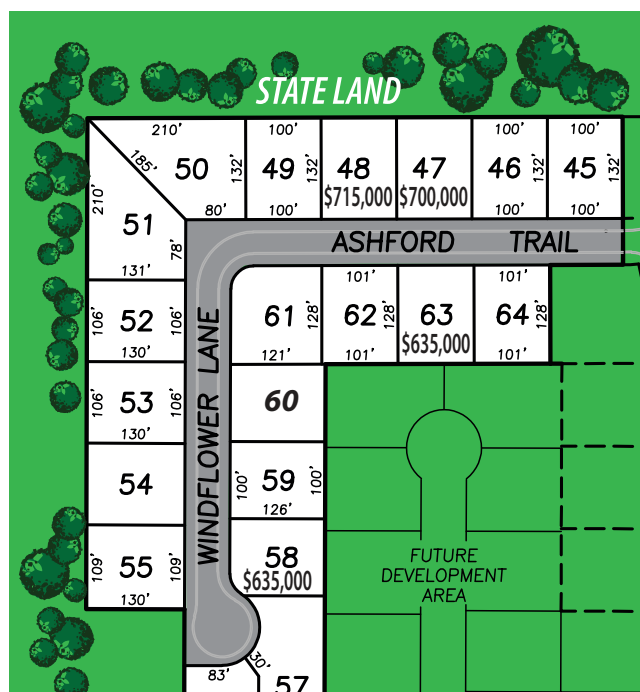


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