



# Panoramic PANACHE

Suzy Engle's Grand Ridge home has room, with a view

By Beth Anne Piehl • Photography by G. Randall Goss

Suzy Engle was just a youngster when she first set foot on the ridge atop her parents' 45-acre parcel east of Petoskey, climbing the rugged land with her dad to the highest spot where it opened into a sweeping, panoramic view of Little Traverse Bay.

Though her dad, George Payne, was born and raised in Petoskey, Engle grew up downstate. She looked forward to their frequent trips to Petoskey in the winters and summers and longed to live up North.

"I used to ask my dad all the time if we could move up here," said Engle, "and he'd say, 'Some day.'"

Her "some day" came, and her picturesque property and home in Grand Ridge, off Country Club Road, sit at the peak of the rolling terrain that has been in her family since 1882.

On a foyer wall, she's framed the original deed when the land was turned over from local Native Americans to her grandfather, a piece of history and artwork combined.

Engle's father and mother, Marye Kaye, have passed away and didn't get a chance to see how their daughter is

continuing the legacy, how she took a favored family spot and blended a stunning home into the surrounding nature in effortless fashion.

"My main goal," Engle said, "was to create an environment that felt natural."

**For many years,** Engle has kept a picture of a little patch of bright blue Little Traverse Bay in her wallet. When she moved to Northern Michigan from Washington, D.C., upon her home's completion in June 2007, she secured that view and set out with a new vision for the entire 45 acres.

Named Grand Ridge, Engle partnered with area builder Phil Duran to develop

the large tract of family land into a subdivision with 20 lots amid plentiful forestland and 9.5 acres of natural trails winding through the landscape.

Hers is an extraordinary home in an extraordinary setting, near to town and yet still a sanctuary, frequented by wildlife like turkeys and deer. Even passing hawks on this day are impressive at eye-level, given the height of the property above the lake.

"I did not want to compromise the beauty of this property," Engle reiterated. "This property is so naturally beautiful. It's like being on top of the world."

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## HARVEST GOLD

**Homeowner:** Suzy Engle

**Location:** Grand Ridge, off Country Club Road, Petoskey

**Cornucopia of space:** 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, three finished levels, 5,500 square feet approximately, 2.29-acre lot

**Builder:** Phil Duran Building and Development, also Engle's partner in developing Grand Ridge

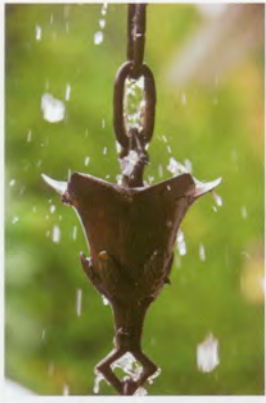
**Architect:** Fred Ball, Harbor Springs

**Interior design and décor:** Monarch and Davenport Gallery, downtown Petoskey

**Landscaping:** Susan Letts Landscape Design, Harbor Springs

*Pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks and fall harvest items  
courtesy of Bill's Farm Market, Petoskey*





Rain chains replace gutters on the home's exterior.



The design team, (from left) landscaper Susan Letts, homeowner Suzy Engle, interior decorator and floral designer William Santos of Monarch in Petoskey.



**The inside of the home** complements the outside, by taking into consideration the flow of the land and the natural colors that are the backdrop behind dozens of windows and doors. Wide-width boards of knotty alder wood grace the floors, and 8-foot-tall clear alder doors create dramatic lift in the open and airy home. The kitchen was designed with a generous, bi-level black walnut island in the center, and a quaint sunroom offers a serene space for sipping coffee and taking in the views.

Using color swatches from Restoration Hardware, Engle has created custom rooms with coordinating bedding, furniture, towels and wall color. The master suite is a palette of pale, soft blue, cream and tan, and the guest rooms are subtle shades of green and creamy neutral. One guest rooms even has a charming, small balcony with a simple round table and chairs, tucked into the trees and providing another peek at the Bay.

“That’s part of thinking of your guests,” said William Santos, co-owner of Monarch, downtown Petoskey, a commercial florist and interior designer and friend of Engle’s. “It’s good to give your guests that personal space.”

**It’s not hard for Suzy Engle** to make friends, with an ambitious attitude and easy laugh. For the photo shoot of her home, she was the consummate hostess, ensuring everything was well-planned and creatively cohesive room to room.

It’s her personal style to create a warm and inviting home, whether for a magazine staff or a dinner party of close friends. Duran, her partner in working the land into comfortable home layouts, also noted Engle’s pervasive enthusiasm.

“She came to me and asked me to do something unconventional,” Duran said. “That’s what has made this project neat for me — it involves her family going back over 100 years. She has a really deep attachment to this property. It’s more than just your conventional building project.” HL



Interior and exterior design and autumn home decor pieces, William Santos and Brian Babbitt, Monarch Garden and Floral Design, Petoskey

*See landscape design ideas, next page.*

## AUTUMN LANDSCAPING IDEAS



Engle home

Achieving the right mix of seasonal outdoor décor takes an artist's eye for detail and a professional's knowledge of the appropriate natural items.

**Susan Letts, of Susan Letts Landscaping in Harbor Springs, provided several ideas for sprucing up the yard amidst the changing fall and early winter landscape in Northern Michigan:**



**The best trees for fall foliage are:** Maples, birch, beech, oak, aspen and Kousa dogwood. Maples vary in color from bright red

to orange and birch turn bright yellow. The beech holds its leaves until spring and in very late winter when there is a lot of snow on the ground the papery thin leaves look like a layer of 'Café au Lait' throughout the woods. Oaks turn bronzy red to brown and hold their leaves into late winter as well. Aspen turn bright yellow and the Kousa dogwood turns a bronzy purple.

**Shrubs** provide food and shelter for wildlife. I like the native viburnums, because they are a hardy shrub whose berries are a delicacy for birds. Most

viburnums turn bright red, some have red berries and some are a blueish purple. There are more than 250 different viburnums, but the most popular for Northern Michigan are: Mapleleaf, Cranberrybush, Blackhaw, Arrowwood, and Nannyberry. In a small setting choose the compact varieties. Native red chokeberry and witch hazel are also good native shrubs in the landscape.



**Oakleaf hydrangeas** are fabulous this time of year when their flower heads turn a dark dusty rose color. Endless Summer hydrangea

turn from a pink or blue to mauve. Both of these plants have a long bloomtime and look good until quite late in the season. Itea and fothergilla are also outstanding shrubs for fall color.



**One of my favorite shrubs is sumac.** This time of year the leaves turn every color from lime green to flame orange-red. The habit of sumac reminds me of dancers with long feathers on their arms and pursed fingertips with red mittens. Lovely! The plant's fruit also feeds the birds in winter. Plant smooth sumac

in a hot dry sunny spot and try the ornamental 'Tiger Eye' sumac for a yellow-purple effect. (Poison sumac grows only in wetlands and will not invade uplands.)

I do not recommend the popular burning bush because it has become one of the plants on the USDA's long list of highly invasive plants and can out-compete native plants that wildlife depend on.



The **perennial layer list** can be quite daunting but a few good ones for Northern Michigan are: New England asters, they come in many colors from white to pink to blue, salvias, marigolds, sedums, chrysanthemums — Ryan's Pink is a perennial mum that is 3 feet tall with a loose habit, pink color and looks natural. There is Russian sage, a number of goldenrods, the perennial sunflower, 'Lemon Queen,' helenium, lead plant, anise hyssop, Turtlehead and Toadlilies for deep shade.

**Fall blooming bulbs** like colchicum and crocuses brighten up the garden with cheerful colors ranging from bright yellow to bright pink and lavender. They are a nice contrast to the muted fall colors.

**Grasses are a major player in a fall garden.** There are many native grasses that look wonderful in a mixed border and a number of exotics that will grow in Northern Michigan without being invasive. Massing grasses and perennials is very effective at eye-catching. They last long into late winter to make interesting textures on the landscape.

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