

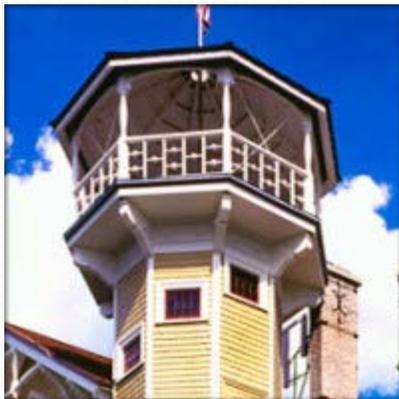
# MONOCHROME EFFECT

DELVING INTO THE SHADES OF GRAY

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## Lake Geneva – Wisconsin Resort Community Dazzles by Design



By Mark Bradley

As we boarded the luxurious 1898 yacht “Polaris” to begin our short passage to historic Black Point mansion in Lake Geneva, the dazzling colors of autumn encircled us and added to the grandeur that defines this all-season relaxation, romance and recreation destination.

The diversity of fall color is no accident, as the trees surrounding the town of Lake Geneva were strategically placed by city planner Frederick Law Olmstead to “dazzle by design” each fall, adding to the elegant lifestyle enjoyed by its early residents.

Lake Geneva has often been called the “Newport of the West,” referring to the Rhode Island city that was a summer escape of New York’s wealthy during the Gilded Age of the 1890’s. Much like Newport, Lake Geneva became a

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summer escape for many wealthy Chicagoans, particularly after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 devastated their city.



Black Point at Night

### Black Point Estate

was the summer home of Chicago brewer Conrad Seipp, a German immigrant, who amassed a fortune with his brewery before it closed during Prohibition. His descendants

donated the home to the people of Wisconsin, opening it to the public for tours during the spring, summer and fall months.

All along the lakefront you'll find similar homes of some of Chicago's most iconic families (Wrigley, Swift, Sturges, etc). The Geneva Lake Shore Path loop encircles the seven and a half mile long, two mile wide lake, allowing visitors to set foot on some of the most expensive lakefront property in the country.

During my late September visit I stayed in the [Harbor Shores](#) on Lake Geneva Hotel, a modern five story structure located "in the heart of it all." I enjoyed a lakefront view with a balcony and comfortable accommodations. The staff made my stay particularly special, living up to their Lake Geneva Hospitality Award for extraordinary customer service. The building itself was within easy walking distance of downtown restaurants, shopping and the Riviera dock, making it a convenient and affordable alternative to some of the larger resorts in the area.

Once settled into the hotel, I began my Lake Geneva experience at the Baker House, an elegant 1885 mansion converted into an intimate, upscale boutique hotel complete with a personal butler. I toasted good fortune with a circle of guests as we stood in the front yard at sunset wearing turn of the twentieth century hats, while the staff dressed in gowns and suits of the era.



The Baker House

Among the many local eateries I visited throughout the trip,



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[rob@monochromeeffect.com](mailto:rob@monochromeeffect.com)

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