



LAKESIDE RETREAT

Designed to be a cottage for today, retirement home for tomorrow.

BY BETTE BOERSMA
PHOTOS BY M-BUCK STUDIO

Glenn Van Otteren grew up vacationing in Northport, sometimes renting from a neighbor who owned a cabin and the vacant lot next door. When the vacant lot went on the market in 2000, Glenn couldn't pass up the chance to buy it. In fact, Glenn and Kate's third date was a trip north to look over the property and sign papers.

One year later Glenn and Kate were married. Their plans to build on the lot were put on hold while they started a family, but thanks to Peter Baldwin and Tom Sinke of AMDG Architects Inc, their cottage plans were drawn, revised and solidified. After interviewing four potential building companies early in 2008, the VanOtterens selected Scott Christopher Homes.

"In order to keep a rustic cottage feel, we chose timber frame construction. The center portion of the house features a great-room with exposed beams, two-plus stories high," says Van Otteren. "Since we also wanted high energy efficiency, we modified the plan to include insulated panels in the roof for a great R-value."

When you enter the house from the driveway side, you have a two-story view of the water through multiple windows. The stone fireplace with its stone chimney in the family room rises almost to the peak. The effect is just what the Van Otterens wanted.

"The home is our cottage, but we expect to retire there. We've added aging in place features for ourselves, and to accommodate aging parents, grandparents and friends with special needs. We wanted to make the lower level barrier free. No step sliders, a wheelchair accessible ramp to the front deck, and a main floor master/guest suite with a barrier-free shower are part of the plan."

The VanOtterens plan to entertain friends and extended family in large numbers. The kitchen and dining room, as well as the bonus

sleeping loft, are designed specifically with that in mind. To help the home live easily, Streamline Systems installed a custom designed, integrated system that incorporates audio and visual, lighting, and temperature controls—all of which can be remotely accessed via computer if necessary.

On the lower floor, west of the family room, is the kitchen and dining room. The dining table seats 10, and is open to the family room. Plentiful windows offer light and a beautiful view. The large prep island in the adjoining kitchen faces the dining room and the lake, so the cooks are never isolated from guests or family.

"We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Francesca Owings, our interior designer," says Kate. "We told her we wanted the look to be clean and colorful with the colors of the outdoors, like natural sand with blues and greens. She brought in these soothing colors, but added a punch of color with red, which I love. The large kitchen island is red, and so is the wet bar cabinetry and trim over the wine refrigerator.

Francesca also designed all of the built-ins, selected fixtures, and did the light layout. "I couldn't have done it without her," says Kate.

A split stairway leads to a second-floor loft and a bridge overlooks the family room and offers an elevated water view. To the west, it leads to the second-floor master suite with its own view of the lake from a private covered deck. To the east, it leads to a bonus bedroom with dormer windows looking out over the water.

Behind it is a full bath to serve both that bedroom and the bonus bunk room. The hallway leading to the bunk room over the garage has built-in shelves, closet storage, cubbies and a day bed that serves as a kids' media alcove. The bunk room has three dormers, and is outfitted to sleep lots of happy guests with a queen bed, a set of twin beds, and a twin over full bunk bed. □