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BOSTON DESIGN GUIDE

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ANNIVERSARY EDITION

FINE HOME RESOURCES

# RIPPLE EFFECT

An escape at the lake  
continues a family tradition.



Architect: Battle Associates Architects  
Builder: Wood & Clay, Inc.  
Interior Design: Mollie Johnson Interiors  
Windows and Doors: Millwork Masters  
Flooring: Ponders Hollow  
Appliances: Baron's Major Brands Appliance  
Kitchen and Bath Fixtures: Splash

Photography: Greg Premru  
Text: Sandy Giardi

WALK INTO ANY GENERAL STORE OR KITSCHY GIFT SHOP IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S Lakes Region and you'll see vintage, hand painted signs announcing: "Life is Better at the Lake." After spending time amid the pine-laden hills and silvery waters of Lake Winnepesaukee—a heaven-sent terrain of misty blues and moss greens where vacationers flock to swim, boat, hike or simply get off the grid for awhile—you're bound to agree.



The Great Room is on axis with the dining area and kitchen, utilizing columns over walls to differentiate the spaces; RIGHT: Situated lakeside, the porch was crafted as an ideal spot for afternoon naps and hanging out. It mingles different wood species—cedar, fir and even twig—for a playful effect.

A new homeowner, who spent many lazy summer days at his parents' lake home as a child, is a believer. While his career carried this young man and his family west, come July he feels the pull of the East Coast and an instinct to gather lakeside with friends and family. This inclination, along with happy memories, compelled him to build a restful retreat and roots of his own.

He reassembled the team that built his father's lake house—Battle Associates Architects, Wood & Clay and Mollie Johnson Interiors—along with Millwork Masters and Ponders Hollow, to craft a getaway on a private slip of land with two-mile views of the glacier-carved lake. Owner/Principal John Battle told his new client from the start that he wouldn't design him a home just like Dad's. (The premier architect makes a point of "not doing anything twice.") No matter, mimicry was never the goal; the only vestiges would be the spirit of the home and the client's fondness for it.

Mission accomplished, confirms Kevin Beland, owner and president of Wood & Clay, a family-run general contracting firm

known for its unique, high-end custom homes on Winnepesaukee and Squam Lake. The retreat has a relaxed feel and features varied "wood tones, nice, clean simple lines and a lot of glass, drinking in the beautiful views."

The organic construct is one with its environment and comprised of cedar and skirl siding, Douglas fir and a deeper-than-forest green painted trim that's both standard yet special in this locale. Peter Brnger, general manager of Millwork Masters, the company that supplied the Marvin Windows and Doors, and the interior and exterior door systems, hails how Battle Associates Architects works the design into the landscape. Battle is a master, says Brnger; this home "looks like it grew right out of the earth."

It was determined early that the public spaces would have the best views of the lake's sun-dappled waters and that the screened-in porch—where most days begin and end—would be positioned "right on the sweet spot of the property," says Battle. The homeowners knew that the porch, with its rustic outdoor stone



*This lakeside retreat*  
was made for special occasions and reuniting.

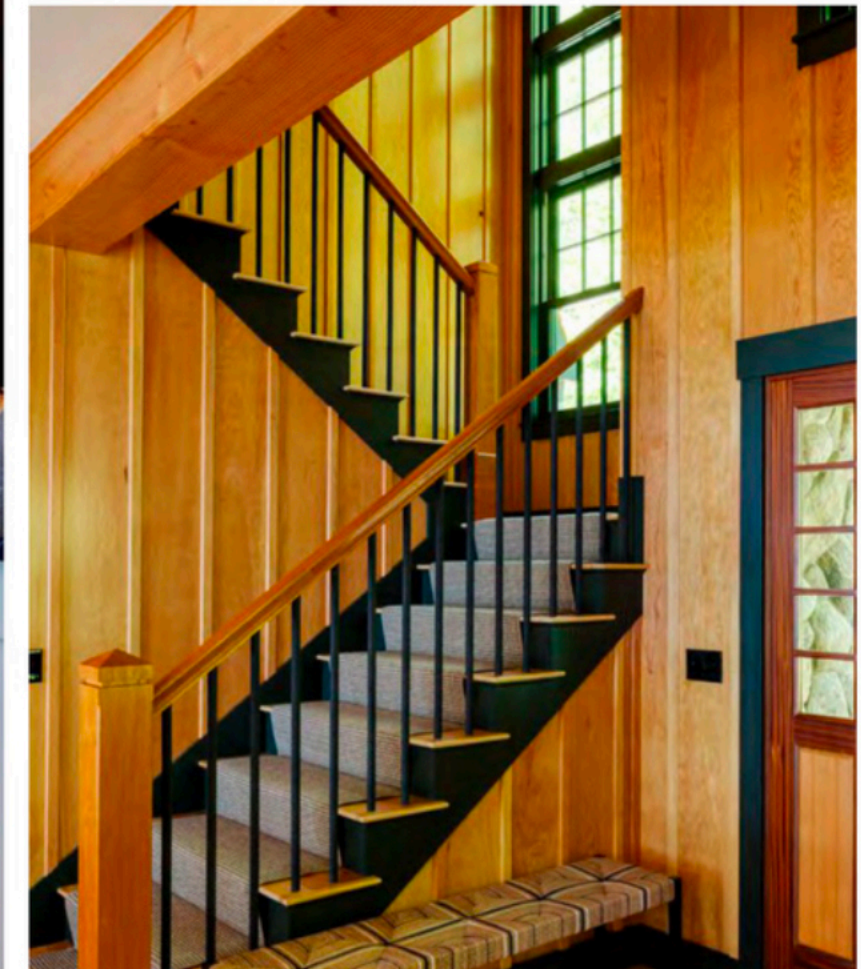


fireplace, “would be one of the most important gathering spots,” explains Battle. It’s the hinge that drives the home’s layout, and is, essentially, a second living room outdoors.

The great room—a high-volume space that’s open to the dining and kitchen areas—also takes a lead role. It’s Beland’s favorite room in the house; he applauds the use of stone in that space, the curved truss built on-site by Wood & Clay and the glorious feature window. Straddled by a rustic dinner table that accommodates a crowd when extended on one end and the porch on the other, it creates a beautiful space to congregate and enjoy.

For the interior design, earth tones were selected for a natural look, as “the home was sited so beautifully on the water,” reveals Johnson. The limpid blue-greens of the lake and sand tones are reflected inside, coloring welcoming “mix-and-match” furniture. Johnson “worked from the ground up” to achieve the overall eclectic vision, finding fabulously unique, casual rugs to protect Ponders Hollow’s wide-plank sugar maple hardwood floors throughout the home. “This is their getaway house. They didn’t want it formal, but they wanted it to be nicely done,” says Johnson.

“Wood & Clay is not shy about experimenting with a lot of woods and getting a unique look,” says Ray Boelig, Director of Sales at Ponders Hollow. “They think outside the playbook.” This philosophy is shared by the entire team, all of whom enjoyed working on a property that’s styled so differently from a primary residence. After all, says Beland, “You’re on the lake. It should feel like a vacation.”



The kitchen uses integrated cabinetry on its premium appliances from Baron’s Major Brands, as well as fine-finished fixtures from Kohler’s Artifact series from Splash. Johnson had the lights above the island crafted from birch bark. ABOVE: The stairs are board and batten fir, custom made on-site.