

# MEET YOU AT THE LAKE

A COZY, SHINGLED GUESTHOUSE  
RIGHT AT THE WATER'S EDGE  
MAKES A NEW HAMPSHIRE ESCAPE  
EVEN MORE WELCOMING TO  
VISITING FAMILY.

BY MARNI ELYSE KATZ  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY NANCY BELLUSCIO

The guest-house extends to the water's edge. Stone paths lead up to the adjacent main house and down to the lake.





The folding door leading to the mahogany porch is painted Benjamin Moore's Evergreen.

OF THE 50 HOUSES that dot the perimeter of the lake in a southern New Hampshire mill town, 15 belong to members of a single extended family. Architect John Battle, principal of Concord, Massachusetts-based Battle Associates, designed three of the sturdy and unassuming but thoughtfully crafted structures.

The first, built in 2002, was a vacation home for a local man who had moved with his family to a suburb of Boston and wanted his sons to enjoy summertime experiences like his own when he was a boy. The family later bought lakefront lots on either side of the home, with a late-1800s camp-like cottage on each.

Though those cottages were too dilapidated to save, Battle was able to honor their essence and preserve their rustic feel in the guesthouse and one-room "boathouse" the family decided to build in their place. The clients' primary concern, Battle says, was maintaining an intimate scale. "Although new constructions, they are intended to capture the spirit of the old lakefront properties," he says. They are viewed primarily from the water, and each presents a handsome, understated lakefront facade.

The cedar-shingled guesthouse is where the owners' now grown sons stay when they visit with friends. It sits on essentially the same footprint as

the cottage it replaced, save for a porch that projected over the lake. Instead, Battle took the home just up to the water's edge.

The materials of the main house dictated the look of the guesthouse. But rather than employing wood finishes throughout, Battle chose white painted bead board for the walls to create a lighter, brighter interior. The kitchen cabinetry, made by a local carpenter from heart pine, blends with the maple floors and exposed-beam fir ceilings. The sage trim is Benjamin Moore's Georgian Green, echoing the durable granite countertops.

The guesthouse is modest in size at 1,174 square feet including the screened porch, which has multi-



panel glass doors that fold away in good weather to expand the living space. "It's where everyone spends summer evenings after watching the sun go down," Battle says. A fun hobbit-esque hideaway under the stairs, reached through a curved door, awaits future grandchildren.

Upstairs are two bedrooms with cathedral ceilings, one facing the lake and the other the woods. Battle's plans initially called for three bedrooms, but his clients preferred two. "The wife is a stickler for scale," he says. "She likes everything we present but says, 'Make it smaller.'"

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## Gather Round

On an adjacent lot just north of the main house, Battle designed a one-room building that the family calls the "boathouse." It serves as a lakefront gathering place for members of the extended family who live in town. The airy interior (below) of the boathouse is lined with simple pine siding that echoes the pine floor. The fireplace is made from local fieldstone.



Architect John Battle chose a natural wood finish for the windows (top) and painted the wide trim Benjamin Moore's Georgian Green. In this lakeside bedroom (above) and throughout the guesthouse, the homeowners opted for simple New England-style furnishings.