

A warm, wood-paneled living room with a stone fireplace, bookshelves, and a staircase. The room is filled with natural wood tones and a cozy atmosphere. A large stone fireplace with a fire burning inside is the central focus. To the left, a wooden staircase with a simple railing leads up. The walls are covered in vertical wood paneling, and the ceiling features exposed wooden beams. Bookshelves are built into the walls, filled with books and decorative items. A red armchair and a grey sofa are arranged around a coffee table. A window with a view of trees is visible in the background.

Spirit of the Lake

What's new is
old again in this
New Hampshire
lake house.

by ANNA KASABIAN
photography JOSEPH ST. PIERRE

Exposed beams and heart pine cabinetry create a rustic, camp-like feeling. (bottom) When asked which house features should be mandatory, the family unanimously agreed that a screened porch was essential.



WHEN FALL COMES TO THIS lakeside family getaway in southern New Hampshire, the new color palette of golds and reds flows easily into the rooms, warming the space and creating new, enchanting views. The fireplace is amply stocked now, ready for chilly mornings when hot chocolate begins the day.

Because the owner wishes to remain anonymous, we'll just call him "Steve." Steve's childhood memories of exploring this lake with his family and friends are fond and frequent. So when his sister called to tell him about a cottage on the lake coming up for sale, he was touring it the next day at 7 A.M. and bought it on a handshake within hours.

While the house was a bit rough around the edges, Steve thought he and

his family could postpone rehab work for a few years. However, when his wife first saw the house, Steve recalls with a laugh, "she quietly walked through and said, 'Gentlemen, start your bulldozers.'" The original 1800s cottage had been aesthetically destroyed in a 1950s remodeling.

Architect John Battle of Boston designed the new house with the goal of creating a look similar to the familiar old lake camps that hug the shores here, and he adopted elements from the home where Steve had summured as a child. "I've had wonderful exposure to old New England camps and the full spectrum of styles," John says. "The owner was reassured that I was not set on doing something that was dramatically different than what he wanted.

Most of the camp projects I have done are rustic and humble."

Says Steve, "I told John every house on the lake has a face, and each one develops a particular personality. I wanted our house to have its own spirit and to bow to the lake."

Before any plans were drawn, architect and owner traveled the lake by canoe to see those faces, touring several cottages Steve had long admired. Later, they interviewed Steve's family members about their

"Every house on the lake has a face."

wishes for the house. Everyone agreed a screened porch was mandatory, so the architect created one the length of the living and dining rooms, with a wood-framed accordion wall connecting it to the main living space.



On the lake level, fieldstone arches ease the transition from the land to the boathouse (above) to the water.

Longleaf Lighter Company

Fatwood Firestarter BEST Way to Start ANY Fire

Brewton, AL
MF 8 A.M.-4 P.M.
Central Standard Time



Bulk Box of Kindlin'

13 lb. Box = \$12.00
22 lb. Box = \$17.00
32 lb. Box = \$24.00
45 lb. Box = \$32.50
60 lb. Box = \$42.00



Kindlin' Holder
\$12.00 each



Burlap Bag of Kindlin'
\$8.00 each

- **BUY DIRECT AND SAVE!**
 - **NEW LOWER PRICES**
 - **100% NATURAL • NO PRESERVATIVES**
 - We Direct **SHIP ANYWHERE** in the USA
- All weights are approximate. Prices do not include shipping.

800.239.6938 • www.kindlin.com

The Most Powerful

Cyclone Rake Ever!

NEW
JetPath
VACUUM SYSTEM



The new Cyclone Rake with its revolutionary **JetPath Vacuum System** turns back-breaking Fall clean-up into a ride in the park. With a capacity of up to 415 gallons and unsurpassed vacuum performance, the new Cyclone Rake devours tons of leaves and lawn debris with sitting-down ease.

It hitches to almost any riding mower and gives you the power of a 5-man work crew. Better yet, it folds up flat for storage, just 8 inches thick. You can even hang it right on the wall.

Act now to take advantage of Special Fall Savings and 6-month risk-free trial.

Call for **FREE** video
and information kit

TOLL-FREE

1-866-250-7741

Woodland Power Products, Inc., Dept. YK1006, 72 Acton St., West Haven, CT 06516 www.CycloneRake.com

Like Solving a Giant Jigsaw Puzzle

Fifty tons of fieldstone were used in the foundation of this beautiful lake house. Jim Starkey and his apprentice, James Turner, built the columns, arches, and walls during the winter of 2002. Jim learned the trade from his father, Russell O. Starkey, a lifelong mason. "This house was an unforgettable project," Jim says. "James lugged every stone in a wheelbarrow down a steep hill to the site. We rethawed stones each morning using propane and kerosene heaters, and we covered the finished work with thermal blankets to keep it from freezing at night."

"The architect wanted this house to look like it had always been here. We achieved that by using natural fieldstone, which is common to the New England landscape." Jim and James used stones from an old retaining wall that a landowner in Keene was going to bulldoze and bury (it is against New Hampshire state law to

use fieldstones that mark boundary walls without the consent of both owners, or without the consent of town officials in the case of a roadside wall, but it's acceptable to use interior walls, such as old foundations). Though the masons work with brick and quarried stone, too, it is fieldstone that presents the greatest challenge. "I don't want to use a chisel or hammer," Jim explains, "because I will lose the smooth face of the fieldstone." Together, the

men found just the right keystones for supporting each graceful arch. "This kind of masonry is like solving a giant jigsaw puzzle," says Jim.

This past summer, Jim built a fieldstone fireplace across the lake, testament to the fact that the best advertising is a word-of-mouth recommendation.

For more information, contact James A. Starkey Masonry, LLC, Keene, NH. 603-352-2919.

—Polly Bannister



For more atHOME ideas,
visit: YankeeMagazine.com

This lakeside home earned a gold medal for overall excellence from the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of New Hampshire.

To keep the home warm and camp-like, John introduced Douglas fir, maple, and heart pine throughout. "This mix creates a hierarchy of wood, so it feels like the house is breathing—like it's alive," John says. He installed recycled heart pine (from discarded 19th-century mill beams) in the kitchen cabinetry. Knots were left in the doors, and some of the cabinets have old bolt holes, adding an interesting level of detail to the space.

The lower, lake level of the home is built of stone, with a series of arches forming what the owner calls "the grotto" beneath the screened porch above. The grotto functions as a second porch; between it, the basement game room, and the new boathouse, there is plenty of space for people to be by themselves—a detail important to Steve.

The boathouse protects a 100-year-

Resources

Architect: John Battle, Battle Associates, Inc., Boston, MA. 617-367-5975. battlearchitects.com

Contractor: David Wright, Wright Associates Builders, Keene, NH. 603-357-1435.

Cabinetmaker: Kenyon Woodworking, Jamaica Plain, MA. 617-524-6883. kenyonwoodworking.com

old Adirondack guide boat and several canoes. "If you grow up on a lake, a boathouse is part of it," Steve says. "It has its own special smell of musty life preservers and boat varnish."

One of the family's favorite times is early morning, when the only sounds echoing across the lake are waves lapping at the shore and the stirring cry of loons. Even now, with winter on the horizon, this house creates a magic true to the past and anchored in the present. ★

Yankee BARN HOMES®

FAMILY HOME...

VACATION HOME...



RETIREMENT HOME!



PLANNING AND BUILDING POST
AND BEAM HOMES NATIONWIDE
SINCE 1969

www.yankeebarnehomes.com • 1-800-258-9786 • www.barnmakers.com