



# All in Due Time

The MacFarlane Home

❁ on Lake Lida ❁

FEATURE  
HOME



✿ WRITTEN BY *Alicia Underlee Nelson*

PHOTOS BY *Kip Johnson* ✿

Bill and Jasmine MacFarlane knew exactly where they wanted to build their forever home. They just needed a little patience.

"For 15 summers we enjoyed our tiny, 500 square-foot cabin on Lake Lida with a beautiful view of Maplewood State Park," explains Jasmine MacFarlane. "We always knew that when we became empty nesters, we'd sell our house and cabin and build a year-round home on Lake Lida. We knew we'd not only have a gorgeous view of the lake out back, but also a beautiful view of the woods and pond out front."

The Fergus Falls natives looked for the right property for years. When the land they built on went on the market eight years ago, the couple made an offer the very first day it was for sale. Then the waiting game began.



"Bill spent time in the summers mowing the lawn and clearing trees while our daughters finished their schooling," says Jasmine. "It's a beautiful lot on one of the most picturesque lakes in Otter Tail County and we're so happy to be back in Minnesota."

The MacFarlane girls, Ellie and Gracie, graduated and moved out, just as the family had planned. Kelli Wegscheid of Harmonious Architecture in Perham got to work creating the perfect forever home for Jasmine, Bill, their girls (who visit over the summer) and their dogs Frankie and Luna. Builder Eric Haataja, President of Haataja Contracting Inc. in Menahga, signed on as the builder.

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"Bill and I had designed the layout for the main floor and then Kelli turned my sketch into a buildable plan," explains Jasmine. "Together we came up with a layout for the primary bedroom area and the lower level. We had been touring lake homes and gathering inspiration from design books and Pinterest for years, so we had a pretty clear vision by the time we started building."

The couple hadn't built a home before. However, patiently noting the features, furniture, and finishes they wanted (and those they didn't) served them well.

"Our previous home was a beautiful, but inefficient, 114-year-old farmhouse outside of Kindred, ND, with a very different aesthetic than what we were building, so many of those items didn't make the move into the new house," explains Bill MacFarlane. "What our past homes did give us was a clear idea of what a house needs to function comfortably and efficiently for us."

There were a few must-haves on their wish list. The rest was about the way they wanted the house to flow and feel.

*"It's a beautiful lot on one of the most picturesque lakes in Otter Tail County and we're so happy to be back in Minnesota."*

Jasmine MacFarlane | homeowner

"We incorporated high ceilings, raw wood beams, an open staircase, a piano nook, plenty of space-saving pocket doors, a stainless-steel fish cleaning station, a walkout basement with plenty of windows and light, and a deck spanning the back of the house," says Jasmine. "We are both drawn to symmetry and clean lines, and we also wanted lake views everywhere possible, so those two things really directed the overall design."

Unexpectedly, right around the time that construction was due to start, the plan hit a snag. By timing their build to coincide to start after their daughters left home, the MacFarlanes inadvertently moved the biggest building project of their lives into the middle of the pandemic.



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"We built during a tumultuous economy, so we ran into issues with soaring lumber prices and a bottlenecked supply chain," explains Jasmine. "It took over a year to receive our kitchen appliances. Our subcontractors had issues getting basic supplies such as electrical panels and even black dirt!"

"They started construction right when the prices of everything started going through the roof," says Kelli. "We had, as a precaution, put in a few alternatives to their bid package so their budget could stay on track."

They implemented more than a few of those cost-saving alternatives. Making a few hard choices kept the project moving along.

"Prices were soaring before our eyes, so to stay in budget, we made some changes," says Jasmine. "We eliminated 200+ square feet, which also allowed us to have a simpler framing structure. We eliminated a garage stall and some custom built-ins as well. Extra garage space and landscaping remains on our future 'to-do' list."

The resulting home is slightly different than what the Bill and Jasmine originally envisioned, but the wait and the adjustments were well worth it, because the 4-bedroom, 3-bath home is a stunner.

Sleek and modern, it perches atop the sloping lawn, peeking out toward the lake from between the trees. The deep charcoal gray exterior (LP Smart Side siding



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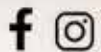
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in Sherwin-Williams Iron Ore) contrasts with the distinctive wooden beams with contrasting hardware.

"Haataja Contracting Inc. installed the exterior beams," says Eric Haataja. "We built the timber frame trusses with native white pine, and black bolted plates at the connection points."

This contrast between light and dark continues through the home's interior as well. It's a hallmark of the MacFarlane's aesthetic, which Jasmine defines as "eclectic and comfortable, with clean lines and lots of light."

"Even though the exterior finish is dark, we wanted the interior to feel very light and bright," explains Jasmine. "An abundance of windows lets in natural light and maximum lake views. We chose to use the same white paint (Benjamin Moore Chantilly Lace) on the walls, ceilings and trim for a monochromatic, clean look. We also used light-toned wood throughout the house. Interior doors and cabinetry are maple, both natural and painted. Beams and accent walls are pine and alder. We chose Mohawk Revwood Plus flooring for the lake and the dogs. It's scratch and water-resistant. Dogs and wet beach towels are welcome. We wanted this house to feel welcoming, comfortable, and to reflect our casual lifestyle."

*"We built the timber frame trusses with native white pine, and black bolted plates at the connection points."*

Eric Haataja | Haataja Contracting Inc.



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The key design elements in the core of the home are the ceiling beams and the modern railing system. Both were designed and installed by Haataja Contracting, Inc.

"The interior beams were made out of rough-sawn pine from A&C Wood Products in Dorset and Haataja Contracting installed the timber framing and timber accents," explains Eric. "Haataja Contracting designed and installed the custom railing system. The posts and top rail were purchased from Bayer Built Woodwork."

The kitchen is the home's main gathering place. Thoughtful extras make it look great and function effortlessly.



wanted this new home to feel open and ready for entertaining. A few subtle design choices differentiated the living spaces.

"With the open floor plan, you need to make the rooms feel distinct, so the ceiling changes," explains Kelli. "When you enter the main level, you're presented with this beautiful great room with the vaulted ceiling and the big timbers. And from the great room, we have the open floor plan with the dining room and the kitchen immediately after that. The main entryway has the exceptionally beautiful railing and the stairwell."

We both love music, books, and dogs, so it's filled with those things we love!"

A judicious mix of sleek, modern finishes, and tactile materials from the natural world (wood, leather, and plenty of green plants) warms up the black and white color scheme and keeps it from feeling too stark. The couple's last cabin was small, so they



"The island houses a second oven, an extra trash and recycling bin, more cabinets, a butcher block prep area, and has plenty of room to sit around," says Jasmine. "We also enjoy having a separate beverage area in the kitchen so people can help themselves without being underfoot. We chose quartz for the countertops. The black quartz has a matte finish and veining that mimics the look of soapstone. We chose traditional subway tile for the backsplash but laid it in a stacked pattern for a more modern look."

The cozy screen porch is another favorite gathering space. Like every room in the MacFarlane home, it contains rich textures, unique touches (like that gorgeous hanging egg chair), and personal touches that are meaningful to the homeowners.



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The couple wanted the lower level to feel welcoming for Gracie and Ellie, who are now 20 and 23. In designing a comfortable, private space for their daughters, they also created a welcoming zone for other guests.

"The walkout basement has two roomy guest bedrooms with lake views and another room has three single beds to provide extra space for their friends and future families," explains Jasmine. "We also equipped the basement bathroom with a large double-sink vanity, and a stackable washer and dryer, which has been great for bedding and beach towels. The shower and toilet area are separated by a pocket door, allowing more than one guest to use the space at a time. The lower-level family room has a wet bar area with a full-size fridge, a walkout patio to the lake, and features a long wall to accommodate a future shuffleboard table. That was Bill's 'must have.'"

"It's a great spot to have morning coffee," says Jasmine. "And it's where we have our record player, vintage vinyl, and my grandma's fun, retro, curved sofa. The pine walls are skip planed, which preserves the character markings in the wood."

The couple emphasized texture, natural materials, and working with artisans whenever possible. The striking sculptural dining room light fixture and the leather-wrapped sconces on the staircase were made by a maker in Atlanta. Bill selected the fuzzy Pottery Barn blanket in the great room because it looked so much like Luna, the dog; she practically disappeared right into it. Jasmine chose accent tables to complement the rough-hewn table Bill made from an old stump at their first cabin. The MacFarlane home is full of these eye-catching, deeply personal details.

"It's those little interesting details that can keep new construction from feeling too generic," Jasmine says. "The wood ceiling beams and the little handcrafted details such as the oversized hand-forged iron barndoor pull, the hand-turned maple pendant light, and the braided leather cabinet pulls a Minnesota artist made for our bathroom cabinets. We got the idea to use raw steel panels on the fireplace from a brewery we visited in Duluth. It adds texture to the space. The details are where you can really customize a home."



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Now that they've settled in, Bill and Jasmine are adding the final touches to the space. Like the other elements in the home, the mix is uniquely "them."

"Instead of heirlooms and fine china, you'll find our shelves and walls adorned with shell and rock collections from vacations, books, concert tickets, song lyrics, literary quotes, and local artwork," says Jasmine. "The rocks inside our fireplace are from Bill's childhood rock collection. Walking through our house you'll catch a glimpse of Tom Petty, The Beatles, J.D. Salinger, Dolly Parton. We like a bit of whimsy, pop-culture, and humor in our house."

It might have taken a little longer than planned, but the MacFarlane house on Lake Lida is finally complete. It's a powerful reminder that a neutral backdrop and artful details let the homeowners' personalities and priorities shine. **L&H**



These features make it easy for everyone to enjoy the property, both indoors and out. This piece of land has delivered everything the family hoped for when they first spotted it eight years ago.

"The 2.5 acre lot is pie-shaped, with the longest edge being the lakeshore," explains Bill. "This gives us ample room for lakeside fun and also allows for privacy and space between neighboring homes. In the summer we love to be out on the water. I love to fish, so I'm thrilled to have easy, year-round access to get out in the boat or in the fish house now."





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