

FEATURE
HOME



A LAKE HOME VIEW BOTH

MODERN

AND *Nostalgic*



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Today's quintessential lake home is a sophisticated structure, a place where nostalgic cabin life meets modern lake living. Nestled near the edges of some of Minnesota's most ancient waters, these abodes are at the apex of form and function, doing double duty by preserving memories of lake years past while carving out distinctive, new and improved gathering spaces for the present. Drawing on a host of new products, local experts and a variety of area artisans, lake homes circa 2020 create the ultimate, active family dwelling with the bonus of an endless lake view and a place for everyone.

To accomplish this construction feat, contractors and architects alike have a variety of tools at their disposal. Old cabins, for example, can be retrofitted into bunkhouses that sleep every friend and cousin, and yard spaces can be strategically reclaimed to allow for extended outdoor living areas. In

this world of repurposing, therefore, even an old garage can be revamped into a stunning bar, complete with the sounds of authentic rhythmically whooshing waves, lapping in the background.

Thanks to Minnesota's strong lake culture, these transformations have become regular occurrences as cabins are converted into homes taking advantage of every aspect of the state's special water worlds. But what would you create if you could start from scratch... on a perfectly flat lot? And what if the lot was a blank slate where hills and low areas were not topographical areas that

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KEVIN MOUG // HOMEOWNER

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needed to be integrated into a home's design? That is precisely the question one lake home couple recently explored.

"I grew up on Pelican Lake," notes Kevin Moug. "My family had a small cabin where I grew up swimming, skiing, and fishing. We wanted to create that kind of place for our family."

Turning this vision into reality required several local tradesmen - specialists in the art of lake home construction, engineering, décor and design. The resulting build was an

engineering marvel and lakeshore beauty perfectly situated on the shores of Pelican Lake in northwest Minnesota. Complete with a killer view and lots of entertaining potential, homeowners Kevin and Jeanne Moug had an idea about how they could bring their present and past together for a new build on an old lake with strong family ties.

But everything started with the view! "I grew up on the lake and that was always the best part: the lake," he details.



Charged with bringing their ideas to life was local architect Kelli Wegscheid of Harmonious Architecture, a boutique firm specializing in lake home design based in Perham, Minn. With more than 11 years of experience, Wegscheid is proficient in lake home design. Utilizing sustainable, high-quality materials, she also has a knack for tackling the unique challenges of homes constructed near water, all the while keeping her client's future home uses and needs in mind.

"My favorite part of the Pelican Lake house is the see-through view from the front door to the lake," Wegscheid describes. "The first thing you see is the lake from the front door right through to the great room."

This open design not only allows for striking views of the lake, but wonderful conversation too. "We wanted an open concept, and we also knew we wanted great views of the lake," adds Jeanne Moug.



Much like the Pelican Lake homeowners, today's lake home dwellers, Wegscheid explains, are very cognizant of their needs and home usage. If, for example, a homeowner will be winterizing their home regularly, there are a variety of products and designs to make that easier. If they are intending on year-round living at the lake, there are especially-designed building materials and products — ones made to endure water and sand — for them as well.

Then there is the front and back of the house designation.

"With lake homes, what is considered the front of the house is really the side facing the lake, not the road," starts Wegscheid. This creates a new set of specs to hit, notes the lakes area architect. Ensuring the house is centered on its lakeside view is the first step. Curbside appeal is essential too, but the view is the VIEW, the focus of the build. "Lake homes have different site uses," says



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KELLI WEGSCHEID // HARMONIOUS ARCHITECTURE



Wegscheid. "Front and back are generally mixed up when talking about lakeside versus roadside. You need to really pay attention to site lines," she explains.

For the Pelican Lake build, Wegscheid notes it had a very good flat lot to begin with, which is usually ideal. The challenge with this build, however, was its lack of elevation.

"They had a near perfect, flat beach lot, but it was very low. To deal with the low site and impending high water table issues, we utilized a structural engineer," explains Wegscheid.

"To build, we had the soil tested, utilized a structural engineer and brought in lots of fill to shore up our foundation," describes Kevin.

Heyer Engineering, a structural engineering company with offices in Fargo, Sioux Falls and Corona, Calif., provided a tried-and-true solution: helical piles, a support system uti-

lized since the early 1900s. In the end, the Pelican Lake property would need 37 of them that went down 40-feet, notes Kevin.

But what is a helical pile? In brief, they are kind of like a pylon or deep foundation “anchors” used to stabilize weak, waterfront soil. Simply stated, it is a steel shaft with one or more “helices” (formed plates) welded to it, much like a self-tapping wood screw. Comprised of three parts: the shaft, helices, and pile/structure edge connectors, they are screwed into the foundation of a site to provide solid support.

Once the foundation was stabilized at the Pelican Lake home site, construction began in September of 2020. Keeping up a good pace, it wrapped up in July of 2021.

Joe Foltz Construction, also located in Perham, was selected for the build. In the house building business since 2004, Foltz has been making steady inroads into the distinctive lake home market. Today, with his extensive construction experience, cabinet-making expertise and additional help of kitchen designer wife, Tasha, Joe Foltz Construction is considered a premier builder, fortified with a dedicated, year-round construction crew.

With an extensive portfolio of lake home builds, the local lakes-area construction company also boasts a custom cabinetry shop in downtown Perham, which features Cambria countertops and Dacor appliances by Samsung. They also have a flooring company, Interiors by Winkels, southeast of Perham on East Main Street.



Another addition to the Joe Foltz family of businesses is Meadowview, a new development located behind the Perham Hospital. Comprised of luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom twin homes, Meadowview features upscale finishes and a variety of options to keep each home distinctive.

"We have been expanding to round out our offerings for our customers," says Tasha Foltz. "Our goal is to make Joe Foltz Construction a one-stop shop for all their building needs."

With that said, River's Edge Cabinetry opened its showroom doors in May 2019; Interiors by Winkels in April 2021. Even Tasha herself could be considered an expansion to the company. In 2015, as the business grew, she left her nursing career to help design kitchens for Joe Foltz Construction.



Drawing on their many years of know-how and familiarity with the lakes area, she explains they are ready to make their customer's home goals a reality. "We work with our clients to make sure their vision comes to life. We've been doing this for a while, so we are ready for any challenge that may arise," explains the kitchen designer.

Today's dream lake homes do need to be ready for anything as well. Although the Minnesota climate is spectacularly mild in the summer, it can also be brutally cold in the winter. That means dealing continually with the elements of water and cold, two things not really deemed a home's best friend.

"Shrinkage and expansion are always an issue with water," explains Tasha. "There are great products out there to help lake living easier, though. Today's LVPs or laminated vinyl plank flooring, for example, is easy to maintain and looks like real wood right down to grooves in the planking that make it feel like real wood."

Looking the part, LVPs tolerate weather changes well and provide a better surface for dealing with water. Countertops have also come a long way too, as they offer grout-free solutions to a variety of applications, notes the area cabinet/countertop expert.

"Using countertops," starts Tasha, "as a backsplash in the kitchen or in a shower surround creates a seamless, grout-free area to maintain."

In addition to a great design and quality workmanship, lake home perfection has always been about the finishes. The Pelican home is no exception. Showcasing its soft beach theme front and center, each room is effortlessly tied together via color, texture, and design. From its muted coastal color palette in pale blue, grey and tan, to its many unique wood and metal touches throughout, the Pelican Lake home exudes style and relaxation from the start.

"We were looking to capture that comfortable, 'lake-y' feel," notes Jeanne. "The result is just that," she explains.

Some notable finishes that help accomplish this feat are a beautifully patterned piece of white and blue Cambria quartz positioned atop a massive six-person island in an open and airy kitchen.





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"The Moughs picked out a piece of white quartz with a very distinctive blue veining," details Tasha. "The island countertop is unique and ties together the kitchen's light white cabinets and dark blue cabinets beneath," she continues.

Additionally, a soft coastal color adorns the walls of each room, extending the similar beachy feel through the home. With the addition of rough wood textures and smooth ceramic accents, each room is carefully connected, further uniting the flow and feel of the house from entry-way to great room to kitchen to dining room. Whitewashed flooring and light-colored ceiling beams complete the open and airy look.

To make sure every element worked together - flooring, paint color, cabinet color, lighting and all the furnishings - were coordinated by Linda Birmingham from Designing Women 2 in Fargo.

"We told the designer what we wanted, and she delivered beautifully," notes Jeanne. "She has great expertise and was very, very easy to work with."



A specially designed bar top, complete with the family name etched atop, courtesy of Grain Designs of Fargo, adds yet another level of design, giving the multi-use, open-concept space of the Pelican Lake home's kitchen, dining room and bar area a stylized connection from room to room.

Structured to provide extra space to entertain and capture lakeside views, the Pelican Lake home is a 3,500 square-foot build with 95 percent of its living space on the main floor, which includes three bedrooms and an office. Additionally, a bonus room above the garage provides optimum, bunkhouse style sleeping quarters.

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*"Growing up on the lake was a real treat as a kid.
Being able to share it with our family and friends today
is even better."*

KEVIN MOUG // HOMEOWNER

This home is no retirement home, but a true family space set up to entertain large groups regularly both inside and out. With patio spaces both covered and open, there is a place for everyone outside at the lake too, especially for those that like it hot, or those that like to follow the shade.

"We sit outside a lot," relays Jeanne. "It's a busy lake and people are always stopping by. It is so nice here with the view of the

west sunsets and covered patio to enjoy the outdoors. We can sit around until late in the evening," she adds.

With that said, the house truly does have a place for everyone.

Active water adventurers gravitate to the outdoor spaces with skiing, boating, and fishing. Those that enjoy a slower pace can sit in the covered patio and admire the view.

And those that want to enjoy a beverage or two can head into the unique bar area. With seating for six and situated in the open kitchen/dining area, it is a favorite gathering spot for young and old to cool off at the lake.

"Growing up on the lake was a real treat as a kid," relays Kevin. "Being able to share it with our family and friends today is even better."

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