



A Peninsula and

You Can't Escape the View

BY MERRIE SUE HOLTAN

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"We live at the end of a cul-de-sac, but it doesn't seem isolated. We still have close neighbors, and the water is quite therapeutic. Living on the point, we are able to enjoy both sunrises and sunsets, and every season brings its own beauty."

Jody Trites

Outdoor/indoor living is evident everywhere in this home, including the panoramic view from the home's comfortable and cozy living room. The room's large windows and nature-inspired color palette encourage visitors to sit and enjoy.

Panorama

It's easy to see that heart and soul went into the 2014 build of this family's new home, which sits on 317 feet of Long Lake shoreline and 2.5 acres near Vergas and Frazee, Minn. The four-bedroom, three-bath home was featured in the first Holiday Tour of Homes benefiting the Perham 549 (Education) Foundation. As touring guests came through the door, many commented on how warm and



Windows along the back side of the home offer lake views from every room. Dormers and changes in the roof line add more interest to this elevation.

inviting the home seemed, especially when washed in natural light.

The owners both grew up in the area, and while they enjoyed living in the Twin Cities for several years, they knew they eventually wanted to return to the lakes area. Upon returning, they lived down the road from their current home for almost seven years. When the property came up for auction, owner Jodie Trites says they jumped at the chance to buy it.

Crucial Decisions

The home sits on former resort land, and the owners went back and forth about using an existing cabin, which still sits on the property today. The couple had ideas and a layout in mind when they approached a family friend, Perham architect and owner of Harmonious Architecture, Kelli Wegscheid, to work on the design. Darin Trites, who works for AWS (Advanced Wall Systems) in Perham, functioned as the general contractor on the project. When they met with Kelli, they combined ideas creating a practical family-friendly layout made for easy entertaining and taking full advantage of the lake view.

"We tried to salvage and incorporate an original resort building, but it became a problem for the rest of the home layout," Kelli says. "In hindsight it became a blessing because the newly designed sunroom has the most magnificent view and is so connected to the rest of the home in a way that never would have worked with the older structure."

"I loved working with a family I have known for years," Kelli says. "Knowing how their family interacts, relaxes and hosts extended family creates a very clear vision for the design goals of the home. The property is magnificent –a slight peninsula of flat green lawn with the panoramic views of the whole length of the lake."

The original house still sits on top of the steep back hill with a three-car garage making for a potential man cave, studio or private getaway.

"Both the hill behind the home and the lake setback provided a long narrow building area to the lake but limited depth," Kelli says. "That allowed almost all rooms to have a lake view, which is unusual with lake properties these days."



The bright and colorful dining area offers additional lake views. Positioned so that sunlight pours into the room, it offers a great place to start the day with a cup of coffee.



The tall stack stone fireplace features a beautiful natural wood mantel. The color tones of the stone bring together the flooring, mantel and the fantastic wood-planked ceiling.





The master bath features double sinks, a ton of storage, a unique tiled shower and a graceful tub made for soaking (and soaking in the view). The laundry room doubles as pantry offering a storage galore and a view of its own.



Features

Jessie Grover of Central Lakes Construction in Ottertail, Minn., framed, shingled, and installed windows in the home that capture the natural light that the home receives.

“The house has close to forty double-hung windows,” Jessie says. “It has different rooflines, four dormers, and spectacular views of the lake from various angles. The 19-foot great room ceiling is a definite highlight.”

Darin used pre-fabricated wood framed walls from AWS for the structure and points

out that this wall concept has taken off in new home builds.

“The pre-fab walls are much more efficient, saving building time and reducing waste,” he says.

“We just love quiet and country living,” Jodie says. “We live at the end of a cul-de-sac, but it doesn’t seem isolated. We still have close neighbors, and the water is quite therapeutic. Living on the point, we are able to enjoy both sunrises and sunsets, and every season brings its own beauty.”

A Really Great Room

The star of the home is the 18-foot tall stone faced wood burning fireplace. The stacked stone, which is glued to the surface, came from the Lumber Depot in New York Mills. The fireplace combined with in-floor slab-on-grade heating, along with two propane forced air furnaces heat the home. The heating system has three zones allowing for more flexibility. Spray foam insulation throughout the house keeps heating and cooling costs minimal.

Vinyl planking covers most floors on the main level, which has proven to be



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The open plan kitchen offers plenty of seating and an abundance of workspace. With two islands, there could be no such thing as too many cooks in this kitchen. The two-toned cabinetry and varying heights of the wall cabinets add additional interest to the space.





“Having one color throughout the house has created a nice flow with the open floor layout,” she says. “The color has been great to work with, and I love the way it pulls out different shades of gray, brown or greens depending on the room.”

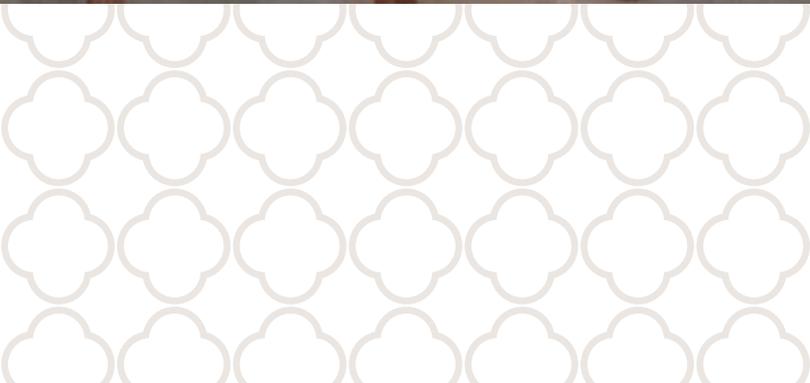
Jody Trites

durable, easy to clean and virtually kid and pet proof. To make choices easy for a busy mom, Jodie picked Sherwin Williams’ Intellectual Gray as the paint color for most rooms.

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In the kitchen area, The Lumber Depot created a cabinetry layout capturing both beauty and function. The layout includes two islands providing great workspace plus allowing everyone to gather. The perimeter cabinets are rustic alder with a dark stain, and both islands contrast this with maple cabinets which have been painted white and antiqued with a glaze. Quartz countertops throughout bring it all together.

“Everyone gravitates to this kitchen as the heart of the home,” Kelli says. “From here you have a 180 degree view of the lake through the sun room, dining room and great room windows.”





The front entry offers a peek into the home's color palette. Dark and light woods, the hand-hewn stair rail, neutral gray walls paired with pops of greyish-blues, greens and plums are found throughout the home.

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Architect Kelli Wegscheid

Repurposing

Darin has been the "creative finder" in locating repurposed wood. The reclaimed wood stair railings and fireplace mantel came from the old St. Paul Armory. The sunroom has a repurposed ceiling from a local barn, and the sliding barn door in the kid's bathroom came from leftover ceiling wood.

The sunroom, daughter Maggie's favorite room, is where she practices her violin and piano on an antique piano. The

whole family enjoys the "bonus" room upstairs above the garage, which can function for play, TV, exercise or a guest room.

The house also has a main level laundry room with stackable appliances, conveniently located off the garage and near the kitchen to double as a butler's pantry during large family gatherings. There are many smaller spaces to hide away, yet still be included; an office near the home's entry, and several bump out

nooks and crannies for reading. The wood plank ceramic tiles in the kid's bathroom and master bathroom give the walk-in showers a "sauna look" and warm feeling.

"This home is easy to live in," Kelli concludes. "It functions well for today's busy families, and is so open, connected and inviting. Each room creates a different feeling – grand and spacious or cozy and warm."

~L&H